



# **Chesapeake Bay Watershed Tree Canopy Funding and Policy Roundtable**

University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center  
Presentation to CBP Forestry Workgroup  
July 12, 2023



# Chesapeake Bay Tree Canopy Funding and Policy Roundtable



- March 13-14, 2023
- 120+ participants from across the watershed



**GOAL**

Pinpoint funding, policy, and programmatic solution pathways to expand urban tree canopy in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

# Tree canopy funding and policy strategies



# Strategies: IDENTIFY

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CLIMATE



TREE LOSS



EQUITY

**34 → 10**

**34 → 10**

# Strategies: ORGANIZE



Management approach	# of strategies	Roundtable theme area(s)
Bolster Funding and Partnerships	3	 
Strengthen Policy and Ordinances	3	 
Increase Technical Capacity and Knowledge	2	
Expand Community Outreach and Education	2	

## MA 1 - Bolster Funding and Partnerships (1 of 3)

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**1. Amend state and regional tree canopy grant funding programs to achieve more equitable outcomes and to prioritize maintenance.**



REGIONAL / STATE

## MA 1 - Bolster Funding and Partnerships (2 of 3)

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**2. Build state and local funding for tree maintenance on public and private property.**



STATE / LOCAL



## MA 1 - Bolster Funding and Partnerships (3 of 3)

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**3. Invest in target communities through workforce development: hire tree care coordinators and tree maintenance staff from the communities served; provide training, mentorship and support.**



REGIONAL / STATE / LOCAL

## MA 2 - Strengthen Policy and Ordinances (1 of 3)

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**4. Share models and best practices for effective incentive-based and regulatory approaches to protect urban tree canopy.**



REGIONAL / STATE

## MA 2 - Strengthen Policy and Ordinances (2 of 3)

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**5. Strengthen local codes and ordinances to protect trees, especially during development and redevelopment. Where necessary, amend state policy to enable localities to enact ordinance improvements.**



STATE / LOCAL

## MA 2 - Strengthen Policy and Ordinances (3 of 3)

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**6. Integrate trees for climate resilience into comprehensive plans (and other local plans) with specific goals, and include climate resilience strategies in urban forest plans and projects.**



LOCAL

## MA 3 - Increase Technical Capacity & Knowledge (1 of 2)

**7. Improve utilization of data on tree canopy coverage and economic value of trees, including through the provision of technical assistance.**



REGIONAL / STATE

## MA 3 - Increase Technical Capacity & Knowledge (2 of 2)

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**8. Provide communities with technical assistance to apply for and manage funding and financing opportunities, and to implement policy and ordinance changes.**



REGIONAL / STATE

## MA 4 - Expand Community Outreach & Education (1 of 2)

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**9. Develop consistent, customizable multilingual messaging regarding the many benefits of trees, including guidance on how to address competing priorities.**



STATE / LOCAL

## MA 4 - Expand Community Outreach & Education (2 of 2)

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**10. In communities targeted for tree canopy initiatives, proactively identify and meaningfully partner with existing champions and trusted voices (e.g. civic associations, faith-based organizations, businesses, local nonprofits, schools). Let the partner lead; spend time in the community; listen; be clear and honest.**



REGIONAL / STATE / LOCAL



# Thoughts, questions?







# State action plan update



- Met with each state in May
- Shared a menu of strategies, drawn from pre-Roundtable sessions and Roundtable state discussion groups
- Prioritized strategies and (attempted to) map out immediate steps & involved parties

# State action plans

Priority strategies: dot voting		TAKE 3 DOTS
1	Implement development incentives to minimize tree canopy loss, especially of old-growth forests.	
2	Explore new funding opportunities to expand preservation, planting, and maintenance, including establishing a State Tree Preservation Fund.	
3	Ensure tree planting projects are well-maintained; invest in a trained workforce and dedicate adequate funding for maintenance.	
4	Expand partnerships to accelerate tree canopy progress.	
5	Better align state goals for tree canopy and related areas.	

# State action plans



**Priority strategy: Ensure tree planting projects are well-maintained; invest in a trained workforce and dedicate adequate funding for maintenance.**

Action step	Who needs to be involved?
Workforce development for tree care professionals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Investigate programs in other states: Conservation Corps or AmeriCorps</li><li>- Implement program to pay for new skills</li></ul>	DE Department of Labor  Community colleges
Training for residents / volunteers to do maintenance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Delaware Tree Stewards (Forest Service and training opportunity is available right now; we need to expand / extend this)</li></ul>	DFS Tree Stewards
Maintenance training for professional maintenance staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Needs to have fewer barriers to entry than ISA; need <b><u>incentives</u></b> to get skills</li><li>- Can we get a Tree Stewards-like training for grounds maintenance staff and for Facilities Management (city and county parks); ways to keep lawn care maintenance people from harming existing trees.</li></ul>	Facilities Management  County parks managers

## Next steps / deliverables



- State plans
- Roundtable report
- Two-page project summary
- Webinar (public)
- Presentation to CBP leadership