

Charting a Course to 2025—Critical Path Forward

- **Accelerate investments.**
 - Thanks to the American Rescue Plan Act, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and increased state investments, the Chesapeake Bay Program will accelerate restoration activities over the next 18 months. The speed and scale of this funding will be increased with a particular emphasis on addressing lagging outcomes.
- **Integrate emerging science and monitoring.**
 - Recent scientific reports and findings have provided further understanding of how the Chesapeake Bay and its surrounding watershed are responding to the implementation of best management practices (BMPs), impacts from climate change and a rise in environmental stewardship, to name a few. The Chesapeake Bay Program is already integrating the insights from such recent reports as the [*A Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response, Rising Watershed and Bay Water Temperatures, Enhancing Chesapeake Bay Partnership Activities by Integrating Social Science*](#) and [*Enhancing the Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Networks*](#) (note: this is not an exhaustive list) can begin to be integrated into the partnership's work. These are significant scientific findings and increasing focus on geographic targeting, social science, robust monitoring networks, the environmentally and economically important shallow waters of the Bay and addressing rising water temperature implications will take time and careful planning. The partnership will also use these next 18 months to prepare for how these findings will be used in the next phase of Bay protection and restoration while taking steps to integrate emerging science now.
- **Fast-track action plans.**
 - Over the past few years and in recent months, several action plans have been put into place across the partnership. The Chesapeake Bay Program will lean harder into the implementation of these plans moving toward 2025. These include, but are not limited to, the jurisdictions' Phase III WIPs, [*Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice \(DEIJ\) Strategy, Implementation Plan*](#), [*state riparian buffer action strategies*](#), [*Wetlands Action Plan*](#) and [*Climate Change Directive—Workplan*](#).