# A Local Government Guide to the Chesapeake Bay
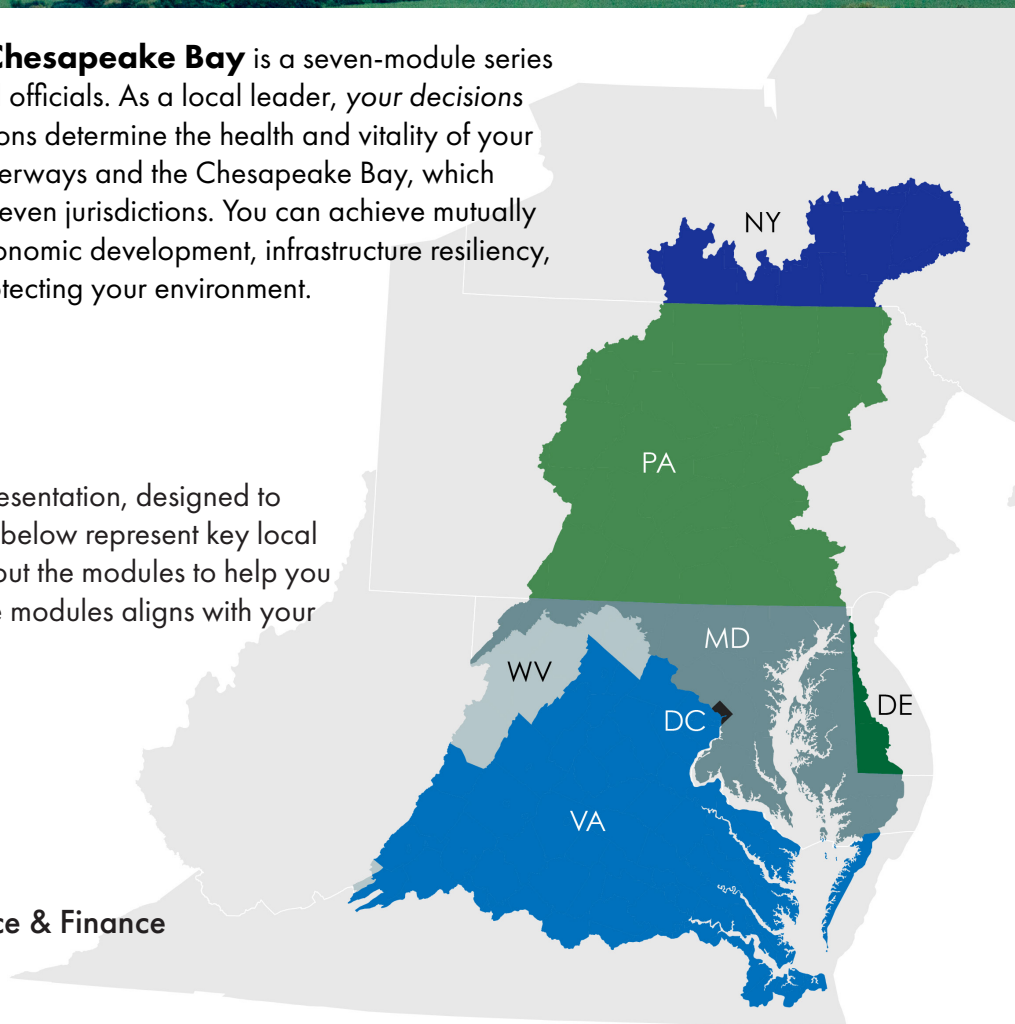# EDUCATIONAL MODULES OVERVIEW

**A Local Government Guide to the Chesapeake Bay** is a seven-module series created to support decision making by local officials. As a local leader, *your decisions set the course for your community.* Your actions determine the health and vitality of your jurisdiction, as well as that of your local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay, which spans more than 64,000 mi$^2$ and includes seven jurisdictions. You can achieve mutually beneficial outcomes by prioritizing local economic development, infrastructure resiliency, public health, and education, while also protecting your environment.

## ABOUT THE MODULES

Each module is a self-guided PowerPoint presentation, designed to be easily customized and shared. The icons below represent key local government priorities and are used throughout the modules to help you better understand how the information in the modules aligns with your specific priorities and interests.

- **$** Economic Development
- **♥** Public Health & Safety
- **⌂** Infrastructure Maintenance & Finance
- **📖** Education

## HOW TO USE THE MODULES

All modules contain the slides listed below to identify learning objectives, local case studies, and resources for local implementation.

- *What You'll Learn* provides learning objectives and questions that will be answered throughout the module.
- *What You Can Do* identifies actionable items to engage your community and where applicable, financial assistance to support local actions.
- *To Learn More* provides additional resources for further learning about each of the module topics.

Each module references a variety of statistics and data to support its learning objectives. **Sources** for any referenced statistics, data, and photos can be found within the notes for each of the individual slides. A **glossary** defining keywords can also be found at the end of each module.

The modules include the following:



### 1.  How Your Watershed Works

*How Your Watershed Works* provides foundational knowledge of the Chesapeake Bay watershed and water cycle and connects the importance of a healthy watershed to the economic development, public health and safety, infrastructure maintenance and finance, and education priorities of local government officials.

### 2.  Foundations of Clean Water

*Foundations of Clean Water* provides an overview of the laws and agreements relevant to protecting and restoring the Chesapeake Bay. These protections are the foundations for healthy local waterways across the region.

### 3.  Clean Water for the Economy

*Clean Water for the Economy* highlights the economic importance of clean water and healthy habitats to lucrative fisheries, like blue crab and oyster, and recreational activities, like hunting, bird watching, and fishing.



### 4.  The Benefits of Trees

*The Benefits of Trees* explains how tree canopy, forest buffers, and forest conservation can provide a broad spectrum of benefits for local communities, from economic development to significant public health and safety benefits.

### 5.  Preserving Local Character and Landscapes

*Preserving Local Character and Landscapes* highlights the economic, ecological, cultural, and recreational value of the conserved landscapes around the Chesapeake Bay watershed to the people and communities of the region. Conserving these landscapes protects water quality, quality of life, and the many community values associated with these lands.

### 6.  Protecting Community Infrastructure Through Stormwater Resiliency

*Protecting Community Infrastructure Through Stormwater Resiliency* provides an overview on how managing stormwater runoff and increasing resiliency can mitigate flooding and flood-related damages to local community infrastructure, while also improving water quality.



### 7.  Building the Workforce of Today and Tomorrow

*Building the Workforce of Today and Tomorrow* highlights the growth in stormwater management and green infrastructure projects and the importance of educating a strong and diverse workforce in operating and maintaining projects.