

Community Action Awarded \$25,000 From Legacy Prog.

Gov. Larry Hogan on Tuesday announced the award of more than \$11 million to local jurisdictions, including one in Garrett County, through three of the state's job creation and neighborhood revitalization programs – Community Legacy, the Strategic Demolition fund, and the Baltimore Regional Neighborhoods Initiative.

The Community Legacy awardees include the Garrett County Community Action Committee Inc., which was awarded \$25,000. The agency will use \$20,000 to install a new "Welcome to Oakland" sign at the north end of town. The rest of the funding will go to the Oakland Façade Program to spruce up a downtown property.

"My administration is committed to revitalizing Maryland's older communities," Hogan said. "These grants will help local communities make necessary improvements, while paving the way for additional public and private investments in their neighborhoods and along their streets."

The Community Legacy program provides local governments and community development organizations with resources for essential projects aimed at strengthening communities through such activities as business retention and attraction, encouraging homeownership and commercial revitalization.

Fifty-five projects in 19 counties and Baltimore City received a total of \$6 million in Community Legacy grants in fiscal year 2016.

"The Hogan administra-

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tion is committed to providing restoration and operational capital to those older communities across Maryland whose infrastructure requires immediate attention and repair," said Secretary Kenneth C. Holt, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. "We will rely on community leaders and organizations to indicate their most pressing needs, and we will respond with quick and effective support."

The Strategic Demolition fund is aimed at providing

a catalyst to projects that accelerate economic development and job production in Maryland's sustainable communities. Funding provides assistance for critical predevelopment activities such as demolition and land assembly in order to attract needed public and private investment to revitalization projects.

The administration is awarding \$2.075 million to nine projects.

The Baltimore Regional

Neighborhoods Initiative is aimed at bringing back the vitality and increasing the ability of older neighborhoods to attract new homeowners and businesses. The awards will advance the comprehensive revitalization plans and strategic partnerships put in place by local neighborhood leaders and stakeholders.

The awards of over \$3 million for fiscal year 2016 will leverage an estimated \$49 million in public, private and philanthropic investments.