

Water, Wastewater & Stormwater Funding and Technical Assistance

Featuring panelists from the UMD Environmental Finance Center and the Maryland Department of the Environment

October 16, 2025



Speaker & Panelist Introductions:

Benjamin Shay

Maryland Technical Assistance Team

benjamin.shay@hagertyconsulting.com

Marc Nicole

Maryland Department of Budget and
Management

marc.nicole@maryland.gov

Adriana Caldarelli

Maryland Department of the Environment

adriana.caldarelli@maryland.gov

Michelle Kokolis

UMD Environmental Finance Center

mkokolis@umd.edu

Agenda

Opening remarks from MTAP and DBM

Maryland Department of the Environment

1. Background

2. Funds and Assistance

3. Reasons for Unsuccessful Projects

UMD Environmental Finance Center

1. Environmental Finance Center and Region 3

2. TA Services, Goals and Process

3. Examples of Service

USDA Rural Development

1. Contact Information & Next Steps

**Maryland Municipal Technical Assistance
Program**

1. How to Engage with MTAP's Services

Closing and Q&A

Opening Remarks

Marc Nicole

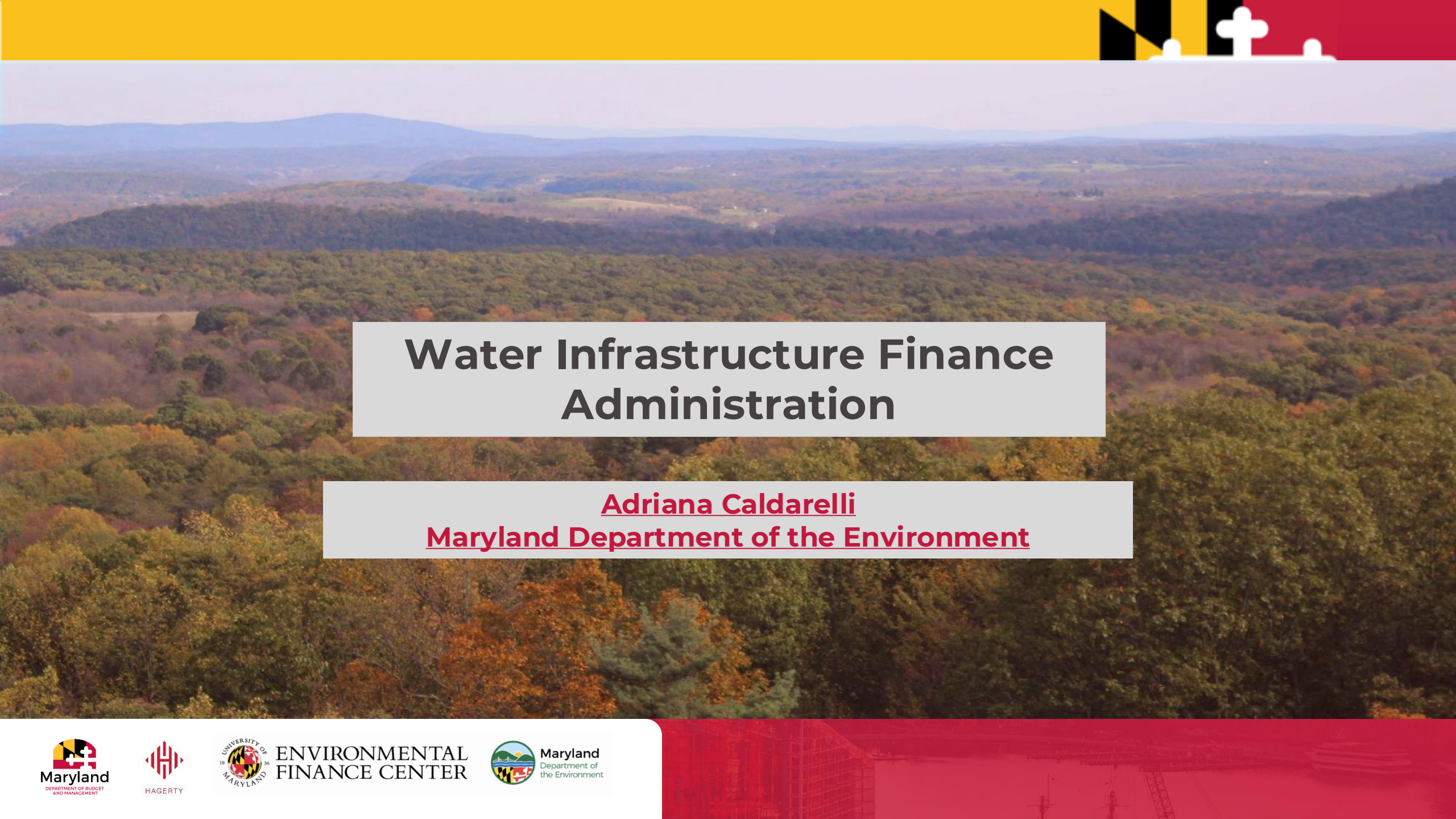
Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Budget and Management



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Maryland
Department of
the Environment



Water Infrastructure Finance Administration

Adriana Caldarelli
Maryland Department of the Environment

Background



- Part of MDE
- Provide low interest loans and grants
- Program works on reimbursement basis
- Applications open every December
- Team available year-round for consultation

Loan Programs

Purpose: encourage capital investment in wastewater and drinking water infrastructure

Combination of federal funding, state match, and recycled funds

Priorities and changes to program open for public comment every July

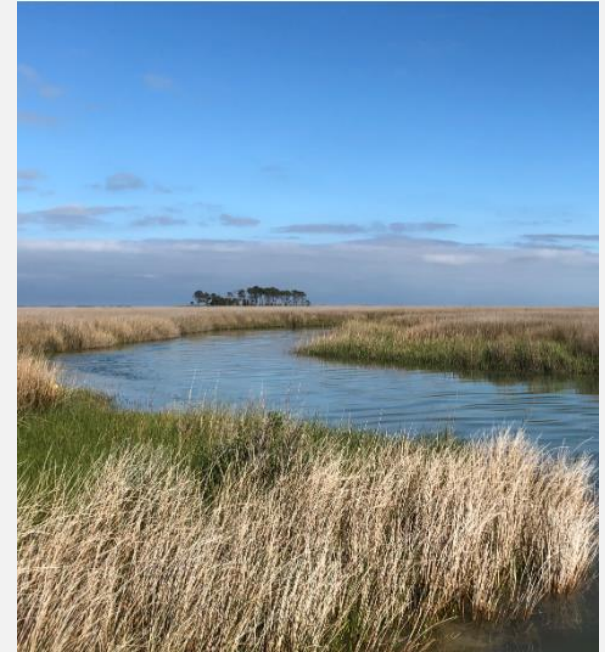
Applications open every December

Funding announcements (IUPs) every October

Principal forgiveness available

Bay Restoration Fund: Wastewater

- Focus on ENR
- All major treatment plants in process
- 35 minor facilities completed or in process
- Annual O&M grant for upgraded facilities– allocation based on design capacity



Bay Restoration: Septic

- Funding for upgrades to BAT or sewer connections
- Managed by county health departments or CVI
- Priority on failing systems in Critical Areas but all septic systems are eligible

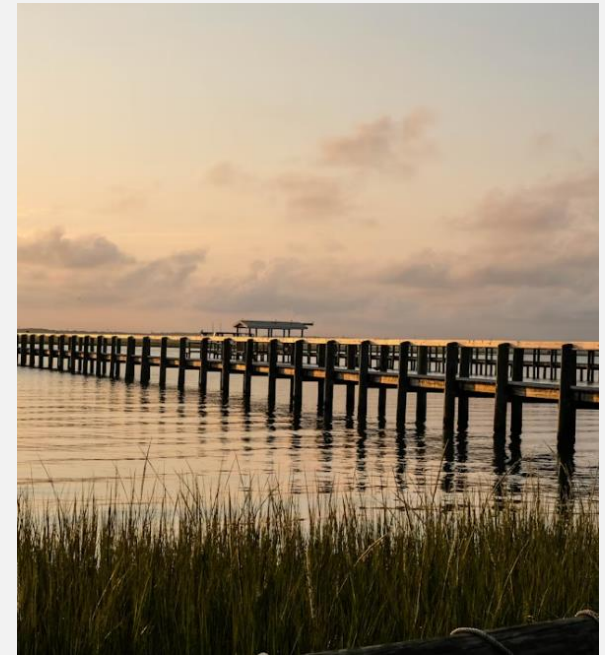


Photo: Sara Cottle on Unsplash

Comprehensive Flood Management Program

- Funds infrastructure repairs, watershed restoration, and emergency protection work
- Work closely with MDEM
- Local match dependent on mix of funding
- With federal funding 12.5%
- Without federal funding 25%



Photo: Todd Marks via Reuters

Water Supply Assistance



Financial assistance publicly-owned facilities



Upgrades to water treatment, well development, storage tanks, distribution, consolidation



\$1.5M/project with 12.5% local match



Must be located in Priority Funding Area and consistent w/ County Water and Sewer Plan

Common Reasons for Unsuccessful Projects

- Threshold criteria:
https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/WQFA/Documents/Prepare%20to%20apply_FY2026.pdf
- Scope not aligned with prioritization
- Technical issue
- Not in county water/sewer plan
- Not in priority funding area:
<https://maryland.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=9cdc2630b7d74785b595b1fe77bc883a>



Technical Assistance for Accessing State and Federal Resources

Michelle Kokolis

University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center



Capacity Building & Training

- Local Government Leadership Training
- On-line and Virtual Workshops
- Municipal Online Stormwater Training (MOST) Center



Policy Analysis & Financial Assessment

- Policy Review
- Financing Strategies
- Budget Analysis
- Program Evaluation



Community Outreach & Facilitation

- Designing outreach campaigns
- Facilitating stakeholder engagement
- Conducting focus groups
- Managing community surveys and interviews

Environmental Finance Centers

- Network of centers across the country
- UMD EFC works throughout the mid-Atlantic
- Provide the information, tools and resources to build community capacity to pay for resource protection and restoration priorities

Technical Assistance – Region 3 Water Infrastructure TA



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Environmental Topics ▾
Laws & Regulations ▾
Report a Violation ▾
About EPA ▾

Water Infrastructure
CONTACT US

Water Technical Assistance (WaterTA)





All communities deserve access to clean, reliable water. Yet, too many communities across America face challenges in providing safe drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services to their residents. The [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) presents an unprecedented opportunity to address water infrastructure needs by providing \$50 billion in new funding – the [largest federal investment in water in the history of our nation](#). New and existing [EPA Water Technical Assistance \(WaterTA\) programs](#) will be utilized to support effective implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

What's New and Key Resources

- [WaterTA Community Fact Sheet](#) (May 2023) – General information for the public on WaterTA.
- [WaterTA Implementation Memo](#) (March 2023) –

EPA Region	EFC
1	University of Maine System
2	Syracuse University
3	University of Maryland
4	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
4	Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project Inc.
5	WSOS Community Action Commission Inc.
5	Delta Institute
6	University of New Mexico
7	Wichita State University
8	National Rural Water Association
9	Rural Community Assistance Corporation
9	Hawaii Community Foundation
10	Rural Community Assistance Corporation

Technical Assistance Services



Planning & Assessment
Community Engagement,
Plan Development and
Coordination, Studies &
Assessments, Asset
Management



Project Development
Preliminary Engineering
Reports, Lead Service Line
Inventories, Project Design,
Environmental Reviews



Partnerships & Engagement
Ongoing Engagement &
Outreach, Decision-Maker &
Board Education, Water System
Partnerships, Capacity Building
& Training



Funding & Financing
Rates & Revenue Analyses,
Financial Planning, Identify
Funding Options,
Application Support



Program Management
Bid Support, Change Order
Review, Project Inspection,
Domestic Preference &
Davis Bacon Assistance

- Assistance can be provided at any stage in the process, supported through:
- The Maryland Team – Michelle Kokolis and Jenny Egan

EFC's Region 3 Water TA Goals

Provide direct TA to communities.

Support communities to take steps toward accessing water infrastructure funding.
(State Revolving Funds)

Coordinate and collaborate to support effective delivery of technical assistance.

If we aren't the right fit, connect communities with the best point of contact.

Prioritize small and rural communities while continuing to offer support to all communities.

Perform 10 "deep dive" and 30-50 "light touch" interactions annually.

Our Partners



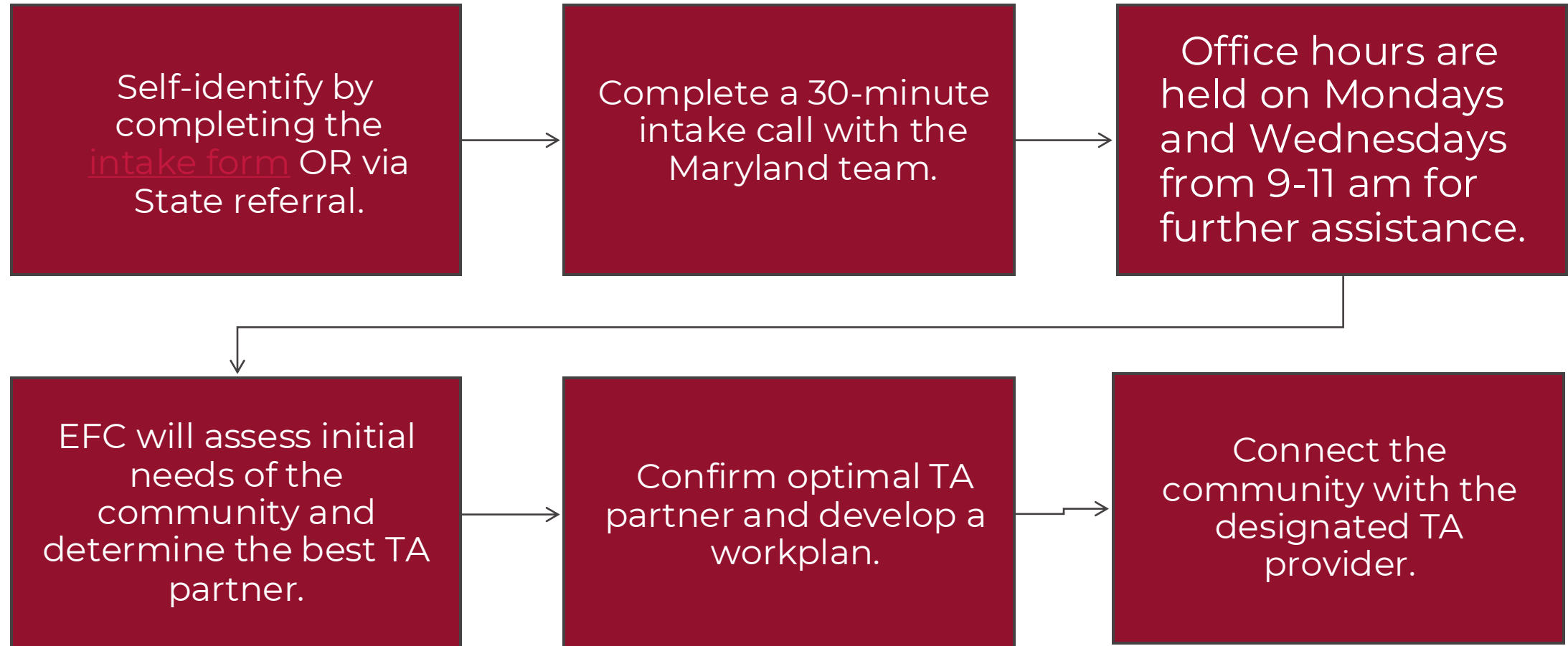
SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH



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Steps in the Technical Assistance Process



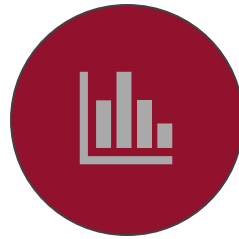
Examples of Services Provided to Date



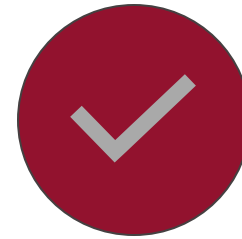
PREPARATION OF SRF
APPLICATIONS AND
ASSISTANCE WITH POST-
AWARD REQUIREMENTS



COMMUNITY EDUCATION &
ENGAGEMENT



RATE ASSESSMENTS



FEASIBILITY STUDIES



ASSISTANCE FINDING
ALTERNATE FUNDING
SOURCES

How to Reach Us



Research Centers & Institutes

- National Center for Smart Growth
- Colvin Institute of Real Estate Development
- Environmental Finance Center**
 - Services and Focus Areas
 - Projects & Publications
 - Sustainable Maryland
 - EFC News
 - Faculty & Team Members
 - Contact EFC

Empowering communities to achieve their vision for a healthy, equitable and sustainable future

The University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center (EFC) advances finance solutions to environmental challenges. With more than 30 years serving the Mid-Atlantic region, we work to strengthen the capacity of local leaders to deliver effective programming, access funding and financing, and catalyze action.

Through direct technical assistance, policy analysis and applied research, EFC equips communities with knowledge and tools to create more sustainable environments, more resilient societies, and more robust economies. We work hand-in-hand with local governments, water utilities, community organizations, state agencies and others to understand their needs and deliver solutions.



Technical assistance, education, and training

Delivering customized, one-on-one technical assistance, online education, and virtual or in-person training to equip leaders with tools and resources to access funding, develop financing strategies, and improve policies and programs.

[Learn more](#)



Applied research, policy analysis, financial assessments

Helping communities evaluate programs and policies, analyze budgets, plan for capital needs, assess utility rates, create financing strategies, and develop greenhouse gas inventories and resilience and climate action plans.

[Learn more](#)



Community outreach and facilitation

Designing community outreach and education campaigns, facilitating focus groups, conducting survey research, and building consensus around community priorities.

[Learn more](#)

Serving Communities | Building Local Capacity | Advancing Finance Solutions

UMD EFC is a founding member of the Environmental Finance Center Network, a coalition of university- and nonprofit-based organizations creating innovative solutions to the how-to-pay issues of environmental protection and environmental infrastructure.

Let's connect!

Contact us at efc@umd.edu. Follow us on [LinkedIn](#).

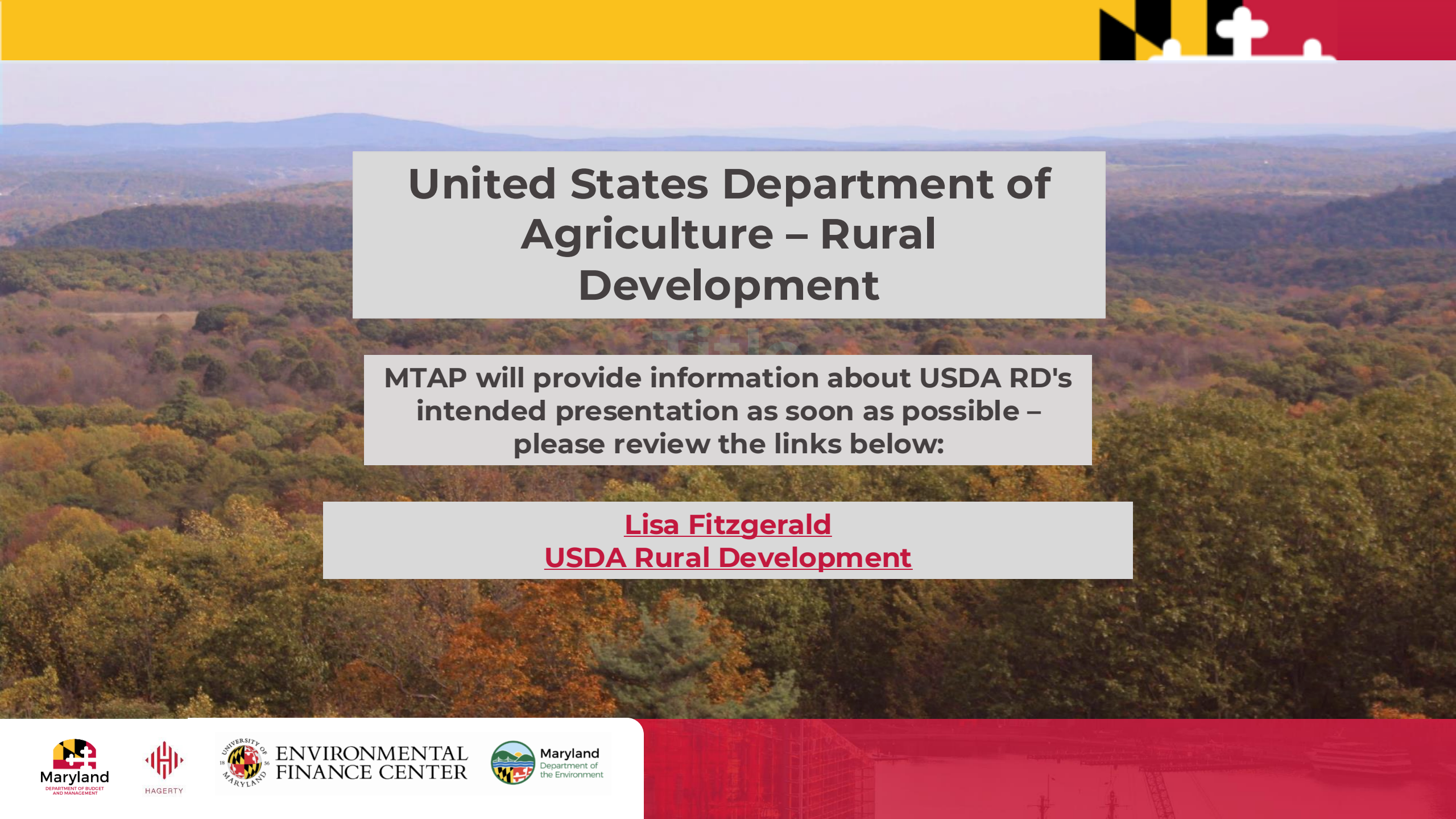
[Sign up for our quarterly newsletter](#)

EPA Intake Form

UMD – EFC Intake Form



<https://arch.umd.edu/research-creative-practice/centers/environmental-finance-center/project-areas/technical-assistance/region-3-waterta-program>



United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development

MTAP will provide information about USDA RD's
intended presentation as soon as possible –
please review the links below:

[Lisa Fitzgerald](#)
[USDA Rural Development](#)

How to Engage with MTAP's Services



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Engage with MTAP

- **Complete a Project Intake Form** - we can assist your municipality in finding IIJA and IRA programs that support your project ideas.
- **Subscribe to our newsletter** and forward it to colleagues.
- **Watch a recording** of MTAP's previous webinars.
- **Attend Office Hours** The next MTAP Office Hours Session will be on Tuesday, November 18th at 10:00am EST.
- **Submit a Question** on ARPA SLFRF or on IIJA and IRA Programs.
- **Visit our new and improved Website.**

Share Feedback with MTAP at arpa.neuadmin@maryland.gov – and let us know how we can help!

Closing and Q&A



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