Chesapeake Bay Program Update

Jeff Lerner

EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office

Branch Chief, Partnerships and Accountability Branch

Overview

- Funding Opportunities for Communities (including Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)

- 2023 Chesapeake Bay Program funding overview

- Green Infrastructure

- Workforce development study update

- Reaching 2025
    - Outcome Attainability
    - Recommendations from the Reaching 2025 report

- Beyond 2025
    - Overview
    - Update from Don Phillips, LGAC representative on Beyond 2025 steering committee
    - Discussion

EPA Chesapeake Bay Funding Opportunities for Communities

Historic funding for the Bay Watershed

- Historic federal and jurisdictional investments in Bay Program
  - BIL, IRA, increase in federal and state budgets
- Historic level of federal grants being awarded
  - $50 Million in EPA CBPO grants in FY 2022
  - $59 Million in EPA CBPO grants in FY 2023

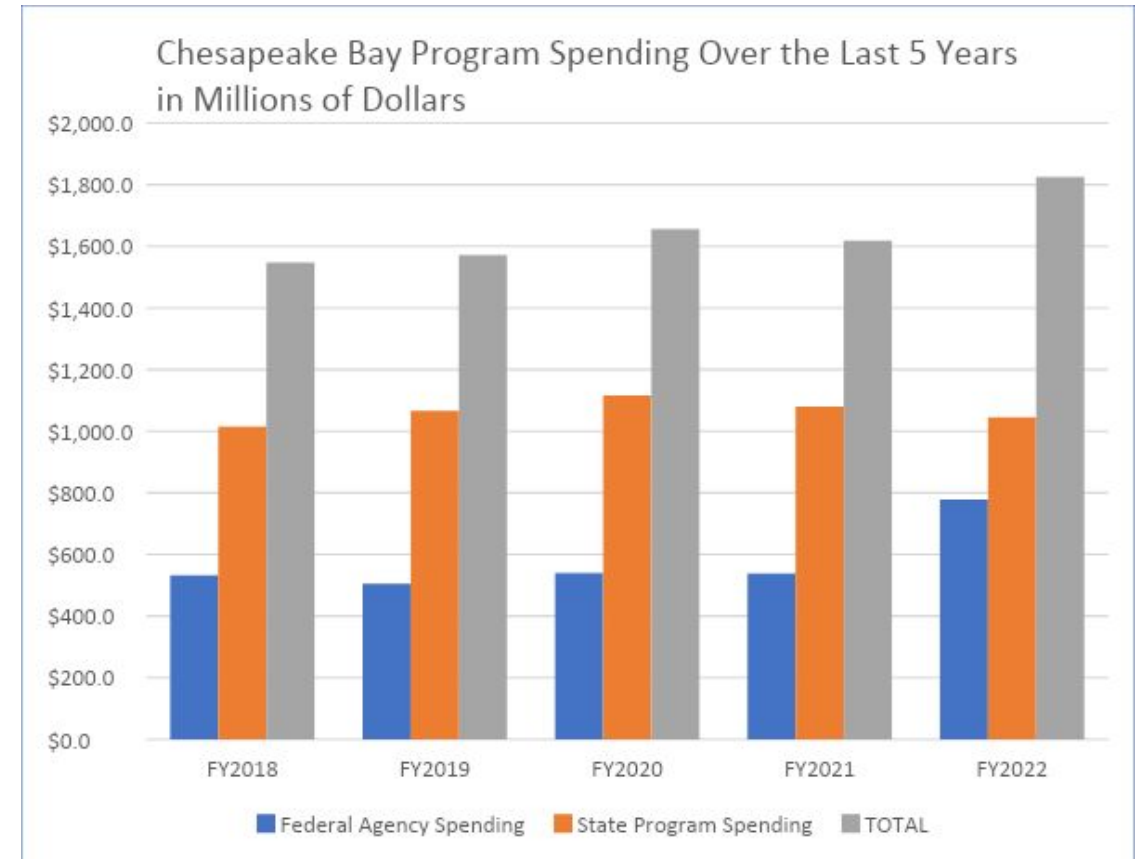## EPA CBPO Opportunities for Communities

- Examples of state and NFWF funds from EPA CBPO your community may be eligible for include:
  - Local Government grants
  - Small Watershed grants
  - Most Effective Basin grants
  - CBIG grants
  - CBRAP grants
  - INSR grants
  - Water Quality monitoring grants

Other EPA Region 3 Funding Opportunities for Communities

- Examples of funds from EPA Region 3 your community may be eligible for include:
- State Revolving Fund (SRF)
- Nonpoint Source Grants
- OSG sewer and stormwater program assistance
- Pollution Control grants

Visualize Our Partnership's Historic Funding

- **Over $1.8 billion** invested in the Chesapeake Bay Program by our state and federal partners in FY 2022-an historic commitment

- BIL significantly increased partnership investments in 2022

- Data from the 2022 CBARA report

- 2023 data will be published on chesapeakeprogress.com this winter

Green Infrastructure
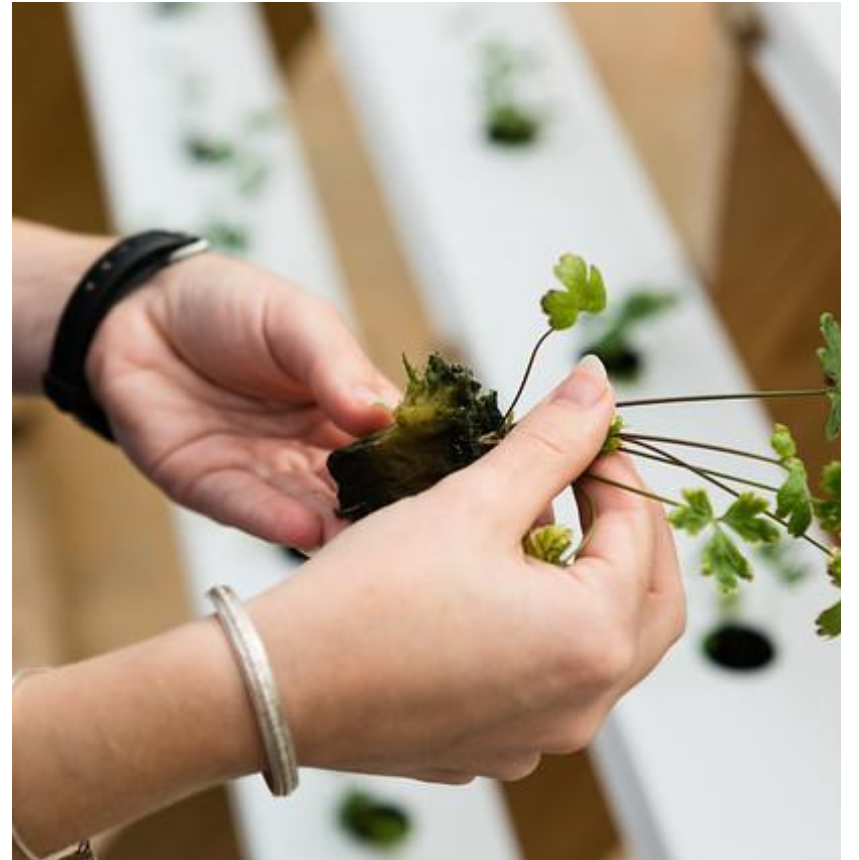
- Case studies in Lancaster, PA and Baltimore, MD:

7 minute video by the Chesapeake Bay Program communications team

Follow-up: Workforce Development Study

- **Landscape Analysis – In progress**

- **Interactive Career Map Workforce Pathways – Summer 2024**

- **Benefits to Local Governments and Individual – Pipeline of skilled professionals**

Reaching 2025: Outcome Attainability

- **Where are we now?**
  - Outcome attainability:
    - 18 on track
    - 2 uncertain
    - 11 off track
  - Chesapeake Progress.com – current status

- **How do we know?**
  - Indicators
  - Updated frequently as data is available
  - In Development
  - Several outcomes releasing new indicators before 2025
    - Ex. TMDL and Wetlands

Reaching 2025: High-Level Recommendations

Accelerate Investments
- Increase speed and scale – IIJA/IRA, state investments
- Target toward lagging outcomes

Integrate Emerging Science and Monitoring
- Geographic Targeting
- Shallow Waters
- Social Science
- Climate and Rising Temps
- Robust monitoring network

Fast-Track Implementation of Action Plans
- Forest Buffers
- Wetlands
- WIPs
- DEIJ
- Climate

Beyond 2025: Overview

EC Charge:

Partnership is to prepare Beyond 2025 recommendations for the 2024 Annual EC meeting

Step 1:

Beyond 2025 Steering Committee Drafts Recommendations:

- Contractor performs assessments on partnerships/outcomes
- Steering committee discuss issues and develop own recommendations
- Consider past reports, and contractor's findings
- Beyond 2025 recommendations obtain MB, PSC, EC approval

Step 2:

Post EC 2024, Partnership executes EC-approved path forward

Beyond 2025: Recent and Upcoming Work

September 2023:

- Steering Committee met to:
  - Define the product(s) of its work over the next year
  - Agree upon an independent programmatic evaluation plan
  - Discuss the Partnership's Vision
  - Prepare for further discussions on priority topics
- Two at-large members added to Steering Committee

October 2023:

- Steering Committee will convene again to:
  - Determine a public engagement framework
  - Determine a strategy to bring together existing expertise across the Partnership

November and December 2023:

- Topical issues- planning and discussing

Discussion

- Don Phillips update
- Open discussion