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"Building Success" Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report

Category: Communications

Subcategory: Annual Report

**Entry Summary:** A 15-word (max) summary of the program, project, or practice you are entering. "Building Success" is an informative summary of the performance and

accomplishments of the Maryland DHCD.

# HFA: Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

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## Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Building Success - Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report Communications / Annual Report

In "Building Success," its Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report, the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development presents an overview of the agency's recent program performance and accomplishments, highlighting the department's positive impact on Maryland's communities and citizens. The report also stresses the department's fiscal responsibility in deploying its resources to create and preserve affordable housing opportunities and revitalize neighborhoods and the agency's resulting and significant contributions toward Governor Larry Hogan's goals of economic growth, job creation, and community improvement. Through human interest stories, attention-grabbing infographics, and beautiful photography, it provides a summary of the big picture of Maryland DHCD's statewide economic impact, as well as specific examples of success in six main program areas that exemplify the department's expertise, compassion, and dedication to customer service within a stunning, succinct 20 pages. "Building Success" informs the general public of the department's mission and vision, and, perhaps more importantly, the annual report served as one of the agency's keys tools for educating and updating legislators in Maryland's General Assembly on department activities and its prudent use of resources as part of lobbying efforts to ensure that department programs received level or increased funding in the state budget.

After introductory messages from Governor Hogan and department Secretary Kenneth Holt concerning the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's role in serving Marylanders and advancing the governor's goal of "changing Maryland for the better," the "Building Success" annual report immediately presents a brief summary of the agency's overall economic impact, using job creation, tax revenue and other data points. This information shows that this government agency prudently and creatively uses its resources to maximize its effectiveness and emphasizes the important bottom line that every dollar of state funds budgeted to support department programs and initiatives created more than 22 dollars of economic impact statewide - a quick and easily digestible piece of information that demonstrates that the department provides tangible revenue to the state of Maryland. "Building Success" then highlights the recent activity of six different program areas within the department, accompanied by a related story illustrating the importance and benefits to the department's partners and Maryland's communities, working families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. The six program areas presented in the report are:

- Homeownership;
- Affordable rental housing;
- Small business lending;
- Neighborhood revitalization;
- Energy efficiency and home improvement programs, and;
- Local government infrastructure financing.

The annual report also casts a spotlight on an ambitious plan to revitalize the City of Baltimore announced by Governor Hogan in early 2016 - Project C.O.R.E. or Creating Opportunities for Renewal and Enterprise. Project C.O.R.E. is a four year partnership between the State of Maryland and Baltimore City to demolish vacant and derelict properties in Baltimore and replace them with green space to serve as park land or the foundation for redevelopment supported by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's array of proven affordable housing and revitalization programs. While the application process for funding was still ongoing as this annual report was being drafted, Project C.O.R.E. received significant media coverage as one of governor and the department's major, ongoing initiatives and, as such, warranted specific attention in the report to provide up-to-date information to citizens and legislators concerning the goals,

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processes, and importance of this massive redevelopment plan that the department believes could serve as a national model for large-scale urban revitalization.

"Building Success" concludes by presenting a comprehensive overview of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's total investment in Fiscal Year 2016. The agency's \$1.64 billion investment is broken down and presented by program area and is accompanied by graphs detailing growth in both overall program activity and economic impact from Fiscal Year 2015 to Fiscal Year 2016, growth that was achieved without any increases to the department's operating budget during those Fiscal Years.

In a mere 20 pages, "Building Success" presents an engaging snapshot and informative summary of the great performance and accomplishments of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development during Fiscal Year 2016. The annual report highlights the department's incredible, positive impact on Maryland's economy, its communities, and the quality of life of their residents. The report was delivered to legislators in the Maryland General Assembly as the legislative session began in January 2017. While there may be no way to authoritatively attribute these results directly to the influence of "Building Success," it should be noted that, in the Fiscal Year 2018 state budget drafted during the 2017 Maryland General Assembly session, the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development experienced no significant budgetary cuts and received level or increased funding for the majority of its programs, ensuring the agency's ability to continue expanding affordable housing opportunities and revitalizing communities while delivering outstanding support and service to the state and citizens of Maryland.