



Howard County Government News Release

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Two community meetings are scheduled for May 28 and June 3 **Howard County Launches Development of Master Plan for the Aging Population**

ELLICOTT CITY, MD – Howard County Executive Ken Ulman today announced that work has begun to lay out a Howard County Master Plan for the Aging Population, a comprehensive planning initiative to design the types of services, programs and facilities that will be needed to address the future needs of this growing segment of the County's population.

Last year, at the request of Howard County Council Vice Chair Courtney Watson, the facilities study was expanded in scope to include services provided by the county for the aging population. County Executive Ulman and Howard County Council included funds in the Fiscal Year 2014 budget to address the issue.

The Master Plan will examine whether existing older adult services and senior centers will be adequate to support the increased demand for services. Also, due to the growing awareness of how aging is changing, the Master Plan will look at what services tomorrow's older adults may need and want. The number of adults aged 65 and over is projected to more than double by 2025.

"We need Howard County to be the best place to live, work and play for every segment of the population, and that means for older adults," said County Executive Ulman. "Our great quality of life must be available to all residents. We know the trend lines, and we are doing our best to prepare for the changes that are coming."

"We owe it to our parents, grandparents and loved ones to make sure we are doing all we can to accommodate their unique needs," said Howard County Council Vice Chair Courtney Watson. "Older adults deserve the very best services we can provide. We can meet this challenge."

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Howard County Launches Development of Master Plan for the Aging Population *(continued)*

The initiative is being led by the County's Department of Citizen Services, and its Office on Aging. Last month, the County awarded a contract to KGRW & Associates, a Howard County based architectural and planning firm specializing in senior facilities, to provide the needed professional assistance and support to develop a Master Plan. The consulting team also includes the Institute for Alternative Futures, a global leader in the field of futures studies; the Boomer Project, a national market research firm; and experts in strategic planning and older adult programming. The goal is to have the Master Plan completed by this November.

The County will host two meetings to provide the public with more information about the Master Plan project. The first will be held on Wednesday, May 28 at 11:00 a.m. at the Miller Branch Library, 9421 Frederick Road in Ellicott City and the second on Tuesday, June 3 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bain Center, 5470 Ruth Keeton Way in Columbia. Plans are also underway to launch an online survey to offer the community an opportunity to provide input and share their opinions on services and programs they would like to see implemented now and in the future. Survey links and updates about the Master Plan will be posted online at www.howardcountymd.gov/AgingMasterPlan.

For more information about the Master Plan, visit www.howardcountymd.gov/AgingMasterPlan or contact Dayna Brown, Administrator for the Office on Aging, at 410-313-6535 or via e-mail at aging@howardcountymd.gov.

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