

Citizen Planning Academies

What are Citizen Planning Academies?

A Citizen Planning Academy (CPA) is a community education program that is designed to build a shared understanding between a local government and its citizens. These academies help to **connect local government actions to interested and aware citizens** and are a useful tool to bring together community leaders and promote dialogue, discussion, and action.

Citizen Planning Academies act as a forum for discussing how the area's future can be shaped through planning and can **empower citizens to be active in jurisdictional and neighborhood planning** through a better understanding of the development process.

Maryland Department of Planning & CPAs

Citizens that are informed and engaged on the land use plans, policies, and procedures that help grow and shape their area are assets to a successful community.

The Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) recognizes the value of CPAs and is promoting them as a tool for communities to connect and engage with their residents. MDP wishes to create a one-day training course designed to introduce CPAs and guide local leaders through the development of an academy for their own area.

This course will cover topics including CPA background and implementation strategies at a variety of scales, keeping in mind that jurisdictions vary in size and available resources. Therefore, this course will use CPAs conducted in a various settings to demonstrate how jurisdictions can consider their own unique circumstances to develop a course targeted for their citizens.

Existing CPAs in Maryland

Check these out these examples to see CPAs in action:
[Baltimore Planning Academy](#): Baltimore City
[PlanHoward](#): Howard County



Baltimore City Department of Planning's Fall 2022 Planning Academy Cohort

Photo Credit: Baltimore City Dept. of Planning

Sample Training Outline

MDP's one-day introductory course would include the following topics:

I Do

Citizen Planning Academies 101: Instructors cover the purpose of CPAs and how communities can benefit, as well as logistics to consider when preparing for a CPA.

We Do

The course will outline the types of information presented in a CPA using a real-world example. This takes into consideration what key pieces of information should be presented and how that knowledge is translated into the overall course.

***Planning would like to partner with a Southern MD jurisdiction to aid in the development of the "We Do" portion of the training.*

You Do

Using their own local plans, procedures, and regulations, participants will collaborate with colleagues to develop their own CPA outline and consider resources needed to implement.

What do you want citizens to know about planning in La Plata?



Compatible Use Website & Handbook

now available at:

militarycompatibility.maryland.gov



Maryland's Compatible Use Project

Land use technical assistance and guidance for local planners on compatible use issues

The goal of the project is to raise awareness of the economic impact of the military in Maryland and build community engagement while providing local communities with the tools and resources they need to ensure compatible use with military operations in their community.

Phase 1 - Statewide Joint Land Use Response Implementation Strategy (SJRIS): addressing compatibility at a statewide level

Phase 2 - Implement and educate on compatible use issues and solutions identified in the SJRIS.

Compatible community development initiatives between military installations and local communities serve to protect the critical military defense missions assigned and executed by each installation, as well as the economic growth, infrastructure development, and need to protect property rights that is the responsibility of local governments

The **compatible use website and handbook** provides knowledge, tools, and resources to guide compatible community development in support of military operations throughout the state that are **sustainable, resilient, and operational**.



Learn More

- **Why military and community compatibility is important**
- **Tools to support compatibility**
 - Local ordinance development guidance
 - Strategies for outreach and communication
 - Local governments and military installation resilience
- **Best practices and case studies: compatibility planning practices in action**
- **How to implement Compatible Use Studies and Military Installation Resilience Reviews**
- **State and federal funding opportunities to support compatible use**

The State of Maryland is committed to protecting the \$55.5B (FY16) in annual economic impact from the state's military facilities. Preserving and building upon the strength of the military presence in Maryland requires smart, coordinated planning strategies that balance the needs of our military with the needs of surrounding communities.



For more Information:
Sarah Diehl | Southern MD Regional Planner, MDP
sarah.diehl@maryland.gov

