



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Town of Poolesville’s Fair Access Committee Celebrates Preliminary Approval of Funding for New Community Recreation Center in Western Montgomery County and for County Support for WUMCO Health Care Services

Poolesville - [The Town of Poolesville’s Fair Access Committee](#) (FAC) praised the Montgomery County Council for preliminarily approving funding for a new Community Recreation Center in Western Montgomery County, Maryland. The Center is expected to begin construction in 2028.

FAC also applauded the County’s approval of a new line item in the budget to support medical and dental clinics that the area’s charitable services organization, WUMCO, began operating a few years ago. This ongoing funding will help ensure these vital programs providing needed health care services will continue in the future.

The new community recreation center will be unique in Montgomery County because it will not only provide space for seniors, families and teens to exercise, socialize and access recreational and educational programs, it will include space for a clinic to serve the unmet health care needs of many Western County residents. Work done by the local charitable services organization [WUMCO](#) and supported by the community and the Fair Access Committee has shown that many in the Western Montgomery County are too far from needed health care services. A new study from the county’s department of Health and Human Services shows that the large, rural Dickerson zip code came in last in health care outcomes out of 36 zip codes studied in Montgomery County. WUMCO’s ongoing efforts to provide mobile dental and health care services for the many in need will be boosted by the clinic included in the new community center.

“For decades, Western Montgomery County residents suffered from a lack of county services, facilities and programs that other parts of the populated areas in the county have due to closer proximity,” said [Jim Brown](#), President of the Commissioners for the Town of Poolesville. “We



look forward to seeing the new programs and services the new community recreation center will bring to residents. This funding comes as a result of FAC's tireless efforts in educating and working with county leaders to invest in Western Montgomery County."

In 2022, the FAC identified the community center as a priority and began working with the County Executive and County Councilmembers to educate them about the critical need. The goal of this public affairs effort was to gain support for including funding for the community center in the county's fiscal year 2025–2030 budget planning cycle.

"We started Fair Access to call attention to real inequities in county policies and programs affecting the Western Montgomery County area and its citizens," said [Link Hoewing](#), Fair Access Committee's Chairman. "We are proud through our community's efforts, we have made progress in addressing key inequities over the years. We applaud County Executive Marc Elrich for including the community recreation center in his budget proposal and acknowledging the inequities facing Western County residents. We are also grateful for the leadership of our former district Council Member Andrew Friedson, and the tireless advocacy of our District 2 Councilmember Marilyn Balcombe in championing this project. Her guidance and unwavering commitment to the Western County made the difference.

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About Fair Access

The Fair Access Committee represents the interests of many of the stakeholders who live, work, attend school and run organizations in Western Montgomery County, Maryland. This includes students, parents, senior citizens, farmers, and non-profit organizations. Fair Access serves to engage Montgomery County and state officials to promote fair access to facilities and services. For more information, visit www.poolesvillemd.gov/fairaccess