



GARRETT COUNTY

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT

SCAN FOR MORE REPORT DETAILS!



FY 2026 | July 2025 - June 2026

ABOUT US | WHO WE ARE

One of Garrett County's greatest strengths is its people. Businesses here are built on trust, collaboration, and a shared commitment to the community. Led by Kim Durst, the Department of Business Development works for them. We visit employers to hear what they need, administer incentives, develop and market assets, and support local farms. Are you opening, expanding, or stuck on a problem? Give us a call!

GRANTS & COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Garrett County Business Development offers incentive and reimbursement programs that support business investment, expansion, and marketing. These programs help eligible businesses offset qualifying costs while encouraging continued economic activity and growth in the county.

MEDA

For every dollar spent on economic development in Maryland, there is an \$8.81 economic return on investment.

Source: Maryland Economic Development Assn.

BUSINESS RETENTION & EXPANSION

Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) keeps the Department connected to local employers. Through regular outreach, the Department identifies needs, shares resources, supports problem solving, and encourages continued investment and growth throughout the county.

FY 2026 HIGHLIGHTS

163

BUSINESS VISITS

17

BUSINESS B.E.A.R. PODCAST
EPISODES

34

RIBBON CUTTINGS

237

BUSINESS SOCIAL SPOTLIGHTS

14

MILESTONES CELEBRATED

TOP BUSINESS CONCERNS

- Workforce Staffing
- Housing Shortage
- Inflation/Rising Costs
- State/federal Regulations & Economic Policy

TOP REASONS FOR DOING BUSINESS IN GARRETT CO.

- Better Work/Life Balance
- Safe Environment/Room to Grow
- Robust Recreation Economy
- Regional Proximity to Rural & Urban Markets

WHY BUSINESS VISITS MATTER

Business visits provide firsthand insight into the needs, challenges, and opportunities facing local employers. These conversations help the Department provide responsive support, strengthen relationships, and connect businesses with resources that can help them succeed.

County Business Property Tax Incentive

Available to new and expanding businesses that have at least one (1) employee and whose new improvements increase assessment by \$100,000 or more, as confirmed by the State's Assessment Office.

- 29 businesses enrolled:
Representing over \$14.5 million in improvements

Small Business Marketing Grant

Reimburses 90% of eligible expenses, up to \$1,000, for qualifying marketing activities by eligible for-profit businesses with 25 or fewer employees.

- Awards: 47
- Project costs: \$73,540.14
- Grant funds: \$44,261.08
- Match: 39.8%

Agriculture Marketing Grant

Reimburses 90% of eligible expenses, up to \$1,000, for qualifying marketing activities by eligible agriculture-based businesses.

- Awards: 6
- Project costs: \$10,850.80
- Grant funds: \$5,553.32
- Match: 48.8%

Grant Note: Marketing grants are reimbursement grants. Eligible expenses must meet program requirements and be approved in writing prior to purchasing any marketing materials. Items purchased prior to grant approval are not eligible for reimbursement under the requirements of the grants.

FY
2026

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NUMBER OF NEW BUSINESS LICENSES ISSUED IN FY 2026:

46

FY 2026
MAJOR

PROJECTS, PROSPECTS & BUSINESS EXPANSIONS

Property Purchase – Business Park Development

- County completed purchase of 166.31 acres along U.S. Route 219 North at Keyzers Ridge
- Infrastructure projects expected to begin in FY 2027

Keyzers Ridge Business Park (KRBP)

- 50K-sf spec building construction completed
- KRBP access road construction completed
- On-demand propane lines completed along Ridge Business Drive
- On-demand propane lines for new access road expected in FY 2027

McHenry Business Park (MBP)

- 30K-sf spec building under lease
- Build-out of building interior has commenced
- Expected construction completion FY 2027

CPV Backbone Solar

- 175 MWac utility-scale solar project now online
- Currently the largest utility-scale project in Maryland

Hemlock Grove Housing Project - Grantsville

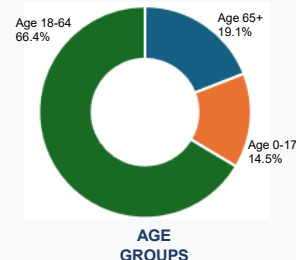
- Infrastructure and construction have commenced
- Phase 1 housing expected FY 2027 completion
- Information and reservations: www.garrettcountyliving.com

Mountain Laurel Medical Center

- Build-out and expansion into new Grantsville facility
- New location includes pharmacy

GARRETT COUNTY DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

Total Population:	28,806
Male:	14,368
Female:	14,438
Age 0-17:	5,143
Age 18+:	23,570
Age 65+:	6,790
Median Age:	48.3
Total Households:	12,578
Average Household Size:	2.2
Median Household Income:	\$67,688
Per Capita Income:	\$43,354



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2024 ACS 5-Year Estimates

TOP 10 MAJOR EMPLOYERS

Garrett Regional Medical Center	512	Goodwill Retirement Community	190
Beitzel Corporation/ Pillar Innovations	338	Garrett College	185
Wisp Resort	200	Garrett County Community Action	168
Walmart	192	Arrowhead, Inc.	156
First United Corporation	192	Dennett Road Manor	150

AGRICULTURE BUSINESS DATA

SEASON IMPACT REPORT

Nourishing Neighbors

- 1,349 produce boxes distributed
- 3,486 individuals served across 1,349 households
- \$26,980 in local produce purchased

Together We Eat

- 150 student families served
- More than 500 lbs of local venison distributed
- More than \$1,000 in community donations

Heart Program

- \$94,663 reinvested locally
- 3,622 patient transactions
- 11 approved local vendor stores

Farmers Markets

- \$585,826 in Mt. Fresh Market sales – up 47% over FY 2025
- 56.6% of reported sales were produce

Appalachian Farm & Food Alliance – Grant

- \$516,146 in active grants across seven projects

According to the 2022 USDA Census of Agriculture, Garrett County has 608 farms encompassing more than 95,000 acres, with agriculture products sold exceeding \$31.9 million. The next Census of Agriculture will be 2027.

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