



Thinking about hosting an event? at the Silver Spring Civic Building at Veterans Plaza?

Think: **Community Access Program (FY23 CAP)**



The region's premier gathering place for government, culture, commerce, and community!

Over the course of the past nine years the **Community Access Program (CAP)** has facilitated the use of the **Civic Building at Veterans Plaza**. Specifically, CAP funding supported more than 500 community groups with access to the facility. Those groups provided more than 1,000 programs to the Montgomery County community.

Introduced in FY 13, as a one-year Pilot Program, the CAP had potential. It started out slow, but after some tweaks the community embraced the program and it's been renewed every year since. **If we were to explain the program in one sentence, that sentence would read: The Community Access Program (CAP), provides funds that help to offset the cost of permitting the facility (Silver Spring Civic Building at Veterans Plaza).** This opportunity, a reduction in the cost to permit the facility, allows community groups to spend money elsewhere – such as funding their community programs and activities which will positively impact the greater Montgomery County community.

It's no secret, CAP has unleashed amazing possibilities which go beyond awarding CAP money to help offset the cost of a permit. For community groups providing programming, CAP has created an environment that brings together the community to celebrate this public space and allow for a sense of community to build throughout the County. In the same way, the CAP process has helped to establish relationships and make connections between the County Government and the public at large. This program was recognized by Harvard University for its innovation in government.

The program is managed by:

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The program provides financial assistance by increasing opportunities to permit the building for organizations that meet the eligibility criteria. Financial need will be given priority consideration under this program and all applicants approved under this program will share a portion of costs related to benefits to the community. The CAP Review Committee evaluates applications for this program. **Various community groups are eligible and include** youth, faith based, art, cultural, clubs, sorority/fraternity, civic groups, homeowners'/neighborhood/tenant/senior citizen associations, etc. that are working to improve and/or positively impact others in Montgomery County, Maryland.

