



FREDERICK COUNTY MD

MAKERSPACE FEASIBILITY

Market Assessment of the Opportunity to Expand
Frederick County's Makerspace Industry

APRIL 2025



FREDERICK COUNTY MD
Office of
Economic
Development

JS&A

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Frederick County Office of Economic Development is exploring opportunities to strengthen its makerspace ecosystem. The county engaged Jon Stover & Associates (JS&A) to conduct a feasibility assessment of the county to establish a new makerspace facility or support existing or planned facilities in the county. The study, supported through TEDCO's Maryland Makerspace Initiative, assesses the current supply and demand of makerspaces in the county and greater region and identifies opportunities for the County to play a role in strengthening this ecosystem in alignment with ongoing efforts throughout the area.



FREDERICK COUNTY OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (FCOED)

The Frederick County Office of Economic Development's mission is to sustain, diversify, and grow Frederick County's vibrant economy by providing leadership and resources for businesses to start, locate, and expand.



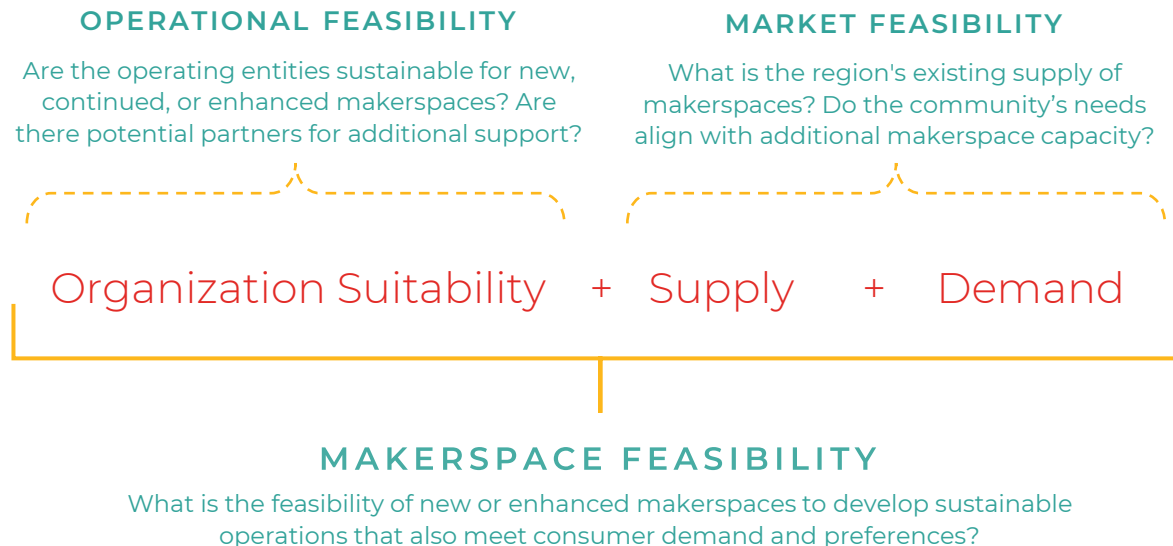
JON STOVER & ASSOCIATES (JS&A)

JS&A is an economic development consulting firm based in the District of Columbia. The firm specializes in local economic development strategy, makerspace analysis, real estate market analysis, development feasibility analysis, and fiscal and economic impact analyses around the country, including directly for city, county, and state agencies; real estate developers; and nonprofit and quasi-public organizations. For more information about JS&A, please visit www.stoverandassociates.com.

PROJECT APPROACH + METHODOLOGY

Determining the feasibility of a makerspace requires more than a traditional market analysis that explores supply and demand trends. In reality, a makerspace's success is contingent on both the market feasibility as well as the operational feasibility of the organizational models championing and operating the makerspace. This project leverages this feasibility framework to understand the opportunities in Frederick County to expand its makerspace ecosystem and assess the viability of incorporating new makerspaces in the county. This report provides recommendations for FCEOD to consider when determining the optimal role for FCOED moving forward.

METHODOLOGY FRAMEWORK



BEST PRACTICE

Since the rise of community-oriented makerspaces in the 2010s, many privately operated makerspaces have ceased operations. Makerspaces with proven successful operating models rely on a balanced share between earned and contributed revenue. This fundamental balance led to JS&A's development of this makerspace feasibility methodology framework.

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

OPERATIONAL FEASIBILITY

MARKET FEASIBILITY

Organization Suitability

+

Supply

+

Demand



KEY FINDINGS

- Sustainable and successful makerspace operations rely on strong partnerships, support, and customer base.
- Frederick County has a strong network of institutions and nonprofits to operate makerspaces and bolster the ecosystem.

- Frederick County is home to an existing makerspace and business incubation ecosystem. The planned Frederick Makerspace is expected to fill a gap in the local makerspace infrastructure. Frederick Community College's existing Monroe Center makerspace is currently underutilized and can serve as a more substantial part of the maker network.

- Frederick County is located in a heavily populated draw area that is expected to support a broader range of makerspace typologies than the current supply.
- There is an opportunity for additional skills training to meet county workforce needs and align with key county objectives.



NEXT STEP

FEASIBILITY: COUNTY IMPLICATIONS AND OPPORTUNITY

There is a strong opportunity for Frederick County to support the existing and planned network of makerspace operators.

As such, it is not recommended at this time to create its own makerspace but rather help support and equip existing makerspace operators such as FCC and Frederick Makerspace. This support could mean a range of involvement, from convening regional stakeholders and building stronger partnership networks to financial assistance and more direct interventions. As a result of these findings, it is encouraged that Frederick County's makerspaces continue to develop with additional resources and support to ensure that the county's makerspace ecosystem remains a place for innovation, workforce development opportunities, community connection and learning, and entrepreneurial and business growth support.

FCOED'S ROLE IN SUPPORTING AND SCALING MAKERSPACES IN FREDERICK COUNTY

Makerspaces are important in the county as innovation hubs, workforce training sites, community anchors, and social learning facilities. There are a variety of roles FCOED can play in ensuring the sustainability of the county's evolving makerspace ecosystem. The articulated roles below offer distinct investment levels FCOED can adapt over time based on partnership capacity and opportunities, industry and community needs, and available resources.

Summary of Role	SUPPORTER	AMPLIFIER	PROACTIVE LEADER
What Implementation May Look Like	<p>FCOED continues to be a supportive partner with institutions and groups creating and operating makerspaces in Frederick County, allowing makerspaces to evolve without direct intervention beyond FCOED's typical support for businesses in the county.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support both existing and prospective makerspaces in Frederick County while encouraging independent growth by reducing barriers such as permitting and site selection. Connect makerspaces with FCOED's business development resources. Cross-promote makerspace programming and events to prospective users. Support eligible makerspaces in grant applications to TEDCO as part of the Maryland Makerspace Initiative Program. 	<p>FCOED works to fill gaps in the county's makerspace ecosystem and helps ensure the success of existing and future makerspaces in Frederick County. Through investment and intervention, FCOED leverages partnerships and collaboration to bring additional resources to makerspaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate roundtable and partnership discussions among Frederick County makerspaces, bringing different entities together to build a stronger makerspace ecosystem. Targeted partnership efforts may include tapping into Frederick County Public Schools, other community resources, and workforce development initiatives. Offer resources for existing makerspaces to grow and expand their facilities and programming. 	<p>FCOED takes an active and substantial role in advancing the makerspace ecosystem in Frederick County, championing new initiatives and linking makerspaces with furthering countywide economic development efforts through strategic leadership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for additional resources for county-based makerspaces. Expand Made in Frederick efforts to include makerspaces, small-batch production, and maker entrepreneurs as manufacturing pathways. Offer new resources to catalyze new makerspace efforts in Frederick County. Develop a countywide makerspace growth strategy aligned with FCOED's goals.



MAKERSPACE FEASIBILITY

MARKET FEASIBILITY

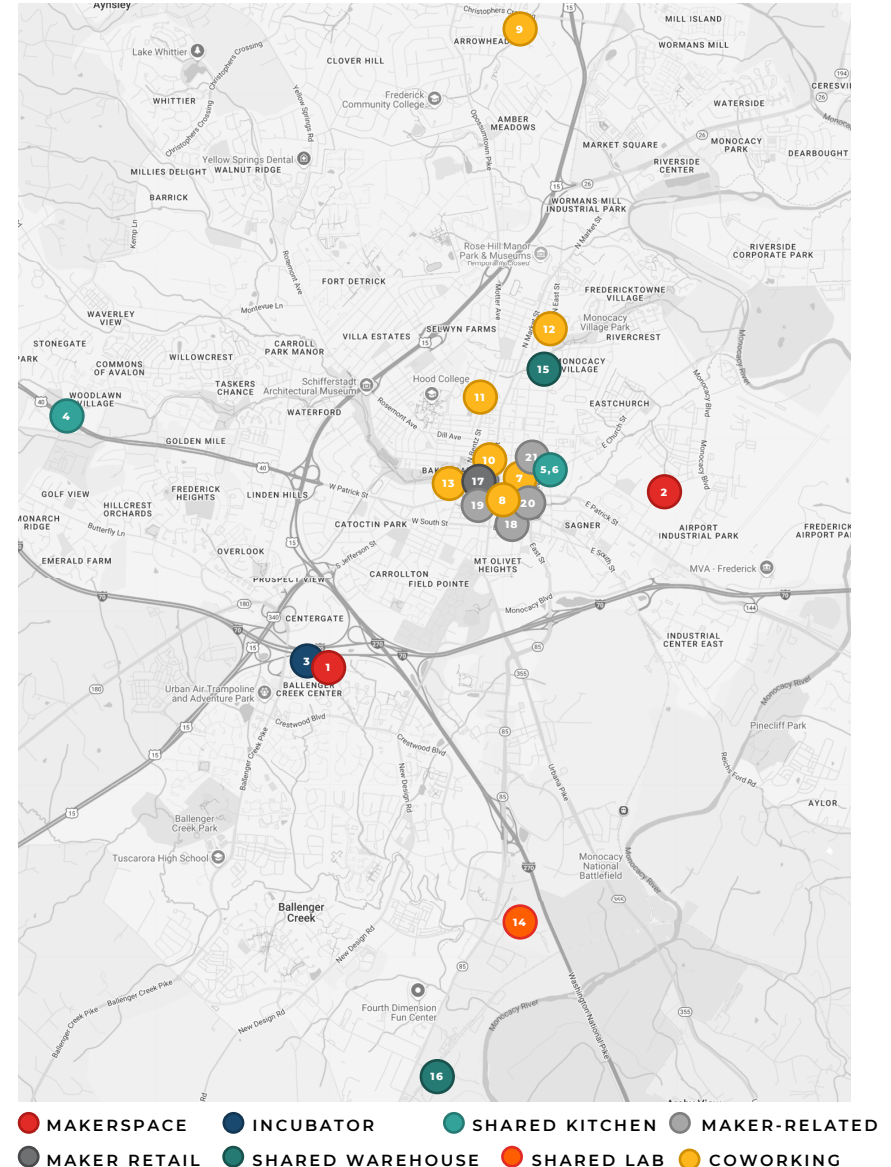
MARKET FEASIBILITY

MAKER-RELATED SPACES IN FREDERICK COUNTY

Existing Supply of Makerspaces, Shared Economy Spaces, and Incubators in Frederick County

The Frederick region currently features one traditional makerspace. That space, Frederick Community College's Monroe Center Makerspace, currently lacks consistent community utilization or programming. The area features an established business incubator, FITCI's EDGE Accelerator space, which supports the growth of early-stage start-ups across a range of industries.

While the local supply of makerspaces is relatively limited, Frederick does feature various spaces that support the shared economy and local small-scale production. Downtown Frederick is home to several businesses and organizations that promote or feature locally made goods, such as the Potters' Guild of Frederick and Frederick Book Arts Center. Importantly, the region also hosts several festivals and events showcasing locally made goods – providing local makers with easy pathways to the local market and contributing to the overall makerspace ecosystem.



MARKET FEASIBILITY

	Name	Typology	Address	City	Zip
1	EDGE at 321 Accelerator	Makerspace/Shared Lab	321 Ballenger Center Dr.	Frederick	21703
2	FCC Monroe Center Makerspace	Makerspace	200 Monroe Ave.	Frederick	21701
3	Frederick Innovative Technology Center, Inc.	Incubator	321 Ballenger Center Dr.	Frederick	21703
4	Maryland Bakes! LLC	Shared Kitchen	1450 W Patrick St.	Frederick	21702
5	The Cutting Board	Shared Kitchen	300 East 2nd St.	Frederick	21701
6	The Cook's Kitchen	Shared Kitchen	319 East Church St.	Frederick	21701
7	Co-Work Frederick	Coworking	122 E Patrick St.	Frederick	21701
8	A Corner Office	Coworking	47 East All Saints St.	Frederick	21701
9	Squadstyle Work 'n Wellness	Coworking	11 Byte Ct.	Frederick	21702
10	Firehouse Shared Suites	Coworking	12 West Church St.	Frederick	21701
11	The Offices at Bentz	Coworking	605 North Bentz St.	Frederick	21701
12	SHIFT Work + Play	Coworking	1209 N East St.	Frederick	21701
13	TherapyHive Frederick	Coworking	237 West Patrick St.	Frederick	21701
14	I-270 Innovation Labs	Shared Lab	5107 Pegasus Ct.	Frederick	21704
15	East Street Trading Center	Shared Warehouse	801 N East St.	Frederick	21701
16	DMH, LLC Warehouse	Shared Warehouse	4451 Georgia Pacific Blvd.	Frederick	21704
17	Frederick MADE	Maker Retail	31 W. Patrick St.	Frederick	21701
18	Frederick Book Arts Center	Maker-Related Space	127 South Carroll St.	Frederick	21701
19	Potters' Guild of Frederick	Maker-Related Space	14 S Market St.	Frederick	21701
20	The Delaplaine	Maker-Related Space	40 S Carroll St.	Frederick	21701
21	Frederick Clay Studio	Maker-Related Space	119 North East St.	Frederick	21701

MARKET FEASIBILITY

KEY MAKER-RELATED SPACES IN FREDERICK COUNTY



EDGE AT 321 ACCELERATOR

Orientation: Tech-Oriented Business Incubator, Coworking, and Shared Lab Space

Managing Entity: FITCI

Address: 321 Ballenger Center Drive

Year Built: 2024

Size: 26,000 SF

Technical Support/Programming: Advisory boards, entrepreneurial programming

Amenities: Private lab space, fully furnished office spaces, BaseCamp community collaboration space, conference spaces, educational lab, receptionist support



FCC MONROE CENTER MAKERSPACE

Orientation: Traditional Makerspace

Managing Entity: Frederick Community College

Address: 200 Monroe Avenue

Year Built: 2018

Size: 1,600 SF

Technical Support/Programming: Limited classes or workshops in recent years

Amenities: 3D printers, scanners, laser cutter, hardware supplies, high-end computer stations, 3D mechanical design software



I-270 INNOVATION LABS

Orientation: Rentable Life Science & Tech Lab Space

Managing Entity: I-270 Innovation Labs

Address: 5107 Pegasus Court

Year Built: 2021

Size: 22,000 SF

Technical Support/Programming: Lab logistics services

Amenities: Bio-health lab equipment, wet lab space, dry lab space, 24/7 coworking space, conference room space,

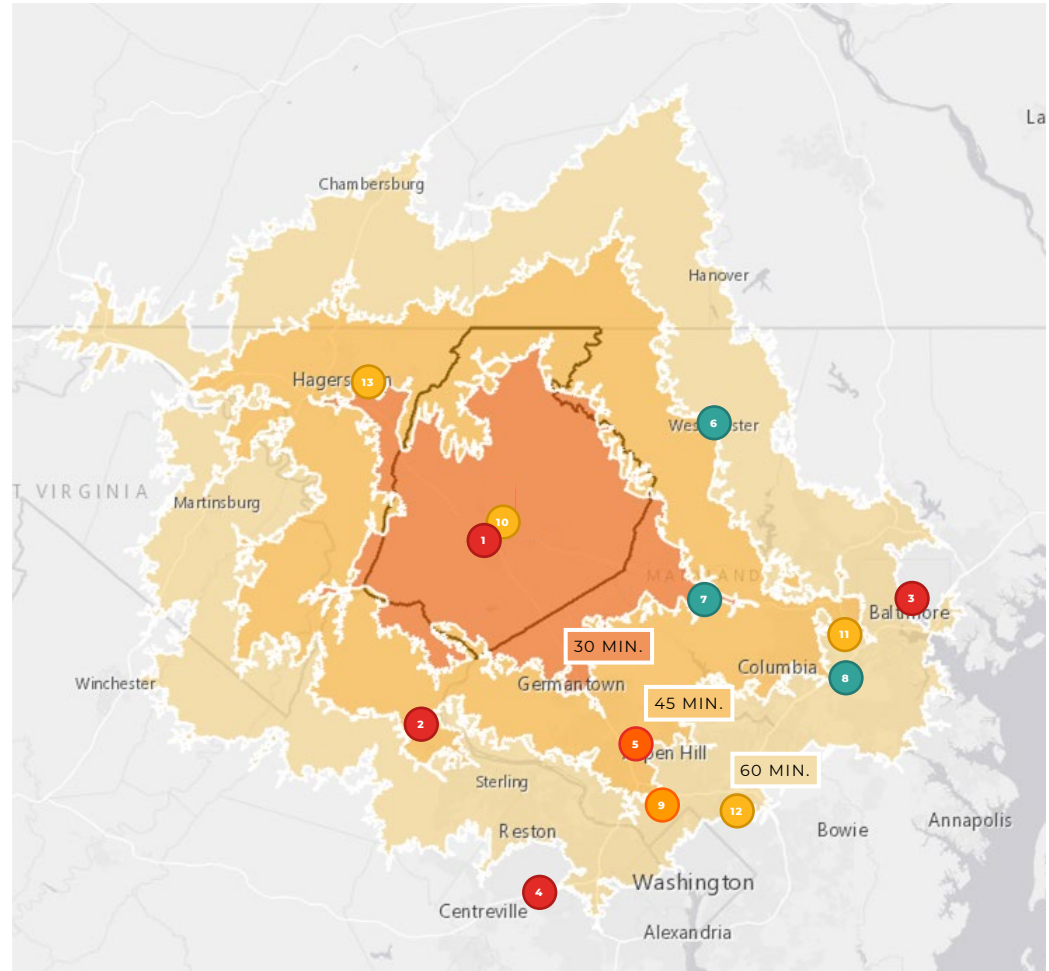
MARKET FEASIBILITY

REGIONAL MAKERSPACES

Inventory of Makerspaces in the Frederick County Region

There is a healthy regional inventory of makerspaces around Frederick County. Many of the makerspaces in the surrounding region are oriented toward specific makerspace types or maker typologies, such as a youth-oriented space (KID Museum), a science-oriented space (the Rockville Science Center), and student-oriented spaces on college campuses.

Within a 60-minute drive, only three traditional, large-scale (over 10,000 SF) makerspaces (Open Works, Nova Labs, and Exploration Commons) exist. The closest of these makerspaces to Frederick, Exploration Commons, is approximately 45 minutes away, limiting easy access for most Frederick County residents.



MARKET FEASIBILITY

	Name	Typology	Address	City	Zip	Distance	Opened
1	EDGE at 321 Accelerator	Makerspace/Shared Lab	321 Ballenger Center Dr.	Frederick	21703	3 Miles	2024
2	Makersmiths Inc.	Makerspace	106 Royal St. SW	Leesburg	20175	25 Miles	2018
3	Open Works	Makerspace	1400 Greenmount Ave.	Baltimore	21202	47 Miles	2016
4	Nova Labs	Makerspace	3850 Jermantown Rd.	Fairfax	22030	51 Miles	2011
5	Rockville Science Center Makerspace	STEM Makerspace	33F Maryland Ave.	Rockville	20850	29 Miles	2016
6	Exploration Commons	Library Makerspace	50 E Main St.	Westminster	21157	33 Miles	2021
7	HCLS Makerspace at Glenwood	Library Makerspace	2350 MD-97	Cooksville	21723	25 Miles	2021
8	HCLS Elkridge Branch DIY Education Center	Library Makerspace	6540 Washington Blvd.	Elkridge	21075	45 Miles	2018
9	KID Museum	Youth Makerspace	3 Bethesda Metro Center	Bethesda	20814	37 Miles	2014, 22
10	FCC Monroe Center Makerspace	Student Makerspace	200 Monroe Ave.	Frederick	21701	2 Miles	2017
11	Fab Lab Baltimore at Community College of Baltimore County	Student Makerspace	800 S Rolling Rd.	Catonsville	21228	44 Miles	2011
12	UMD John and Stella Graves Makerspace	Student Makerspace	7649 Library Lane	College Park	20742	47 Miles	2014
13	Hagerstown Community College - Industrial Commons Makerspace	Student Makerspace	11400 Robinwood Dr.	Hagerstown	21742	27 Miles	2015

*Note: Inventory includes makerspaces within 60-minute drive from the center of Frederick.
Approximate distance measured from the center of Frederick.*

KEY MAKER-RELATED SPACES IN THE SURROUNDING REGION



OPEN WORKS

Orientation: Traditional Makerspace

Managing Entity: Open Works (501c3)

Address: 1400 Greenmount Ave., Baltimore, MD

Year Built: 2016

Size: 34,000 SF

Program Offerings: Skills training, adult education classes, senior classes, safety and certification courses

Physical Amenities: On-site café, private micro studios, conference and classroom space, computer lab wide range of machines and equipment (woodworking, 3D printing, digital fabrication, metal, textiles, digital media)



NOVA LABS

Orientation: Traditional Makerspace with focus on community and youth offerings

Managing Entity: Nova Labs Inc. (501c3)

Address: 3850 Jermentown Rd., Fairfax, VA

Year Built: 2011

Size: 40,000 SF

Program Offerings: K-12 maker classes, youth robotics competition, various skills courses, community events

Physical Amenities: Wide range of machines and equipment (woodworking, 3D printing, laser cutting, robotics, metal, CAD shop, mixed media)



EXPLORATION COMMONS

Orientation: Traditional makerspace with commercial teaching kitchen

Managing Entity: Carroll County Library System

Address: 50 E Main St., Westminster, MD

Year Built: 2021

Size: 14,000 SF

Program Offerings: Culinary, jewelry making, game design, laser cutting, fashion, CAD, filmmaking, graphic design, 3D printing, podcasting, and more.

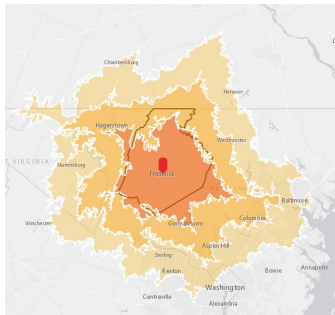
Physical Amenities: Fabrication lab, AV lab, augmented reality lab, meeting spaces, commercial teaching kitchen

MARKET FEASIBILITY

FREDERICK COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS

Compared with the State of Maryland's Demographics

Frederick's makerspaces have a large population to draw from, with over 428,000 people living within a half-hour drive and 1.6 million people living within a 45-minute drive. While the overall workforce and educational profiles of these surrounding draw areas are consistent, Frederick's makerspaces this projected user base will come from diverse regions, ranging from southern Pennsylvania and western Maryland to the suburbs of DC and Baltimore.



*Note: Population within a 60-minute drive time from the center of Frederick as shown on the map on page 9 of this report.
Source: US Census, ESRI Community Analyst (2025)*

POPULATION	COUNTY	30-MIN DRIVE	45-MIN DRIVE	60-MIN DRIVE	STATE
Population	293,957	428,284	1,606,795	4,523,302	6,253,119
Median Household Income	\$114,805	\$117,269	\$115,400	\$110,273	\$100,479
% w. Bachelor's Degree+	46%	49%	52%	53%	45%
Unemployment Rate	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%
EMPLOYMENT 16+ BY OCCUPATION					
Agriculture/Mining	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.4%	0.5%
Construction	8.9%	8.1%	6.6%	6.0%	7.0%
Manufacturing	6.1%	5.5%	5.4%	5.0%	4.8%
Wholesale Trade	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%
Retail Trade	8.6%	8.2%	7.8%	7.6%	8.0%
Transportation/Utilities	3.7%	3.8%	4.1%	4.5%	5.3%
Information	2.0%	2.0%	2.2%	2.3%	1.8%
Finance/Insur./Real Estate	5.8%	5.9%	5.7%	6.0%	5.3%
Services	52.8%	54.0%	55.7%	56.2%	54.0%
Public Administration	10.2%	10.6%	10.8%	10.8%	12.0%
2024 EMPLOYED POPULATION 16+ BY OCCUPATION					
White Collar	69%	71%	73%	73%	68%
Services	15%	14%	14%	14%	16%
Blue Collar	16%	14%	13%	14%	16%

MAKER INDUSTRY TRENDS

Projected Job Growth in Maker-Related Industries

Nearly all local industries aligned with Frederick County's makerspace ecosystem are projected for positive job growth through 2032, with projected job growth generally varying between 4% and 12%, depending on the sub-industry.

Biotech and life sciences jobs are projected to have particularly strong growth over the next decade, with an anticipated increase of around 12%. Craft and textile production and other miscellaneous manufacturing jobs are projected for more modest growth, slightly behind the countywide average growth rate.

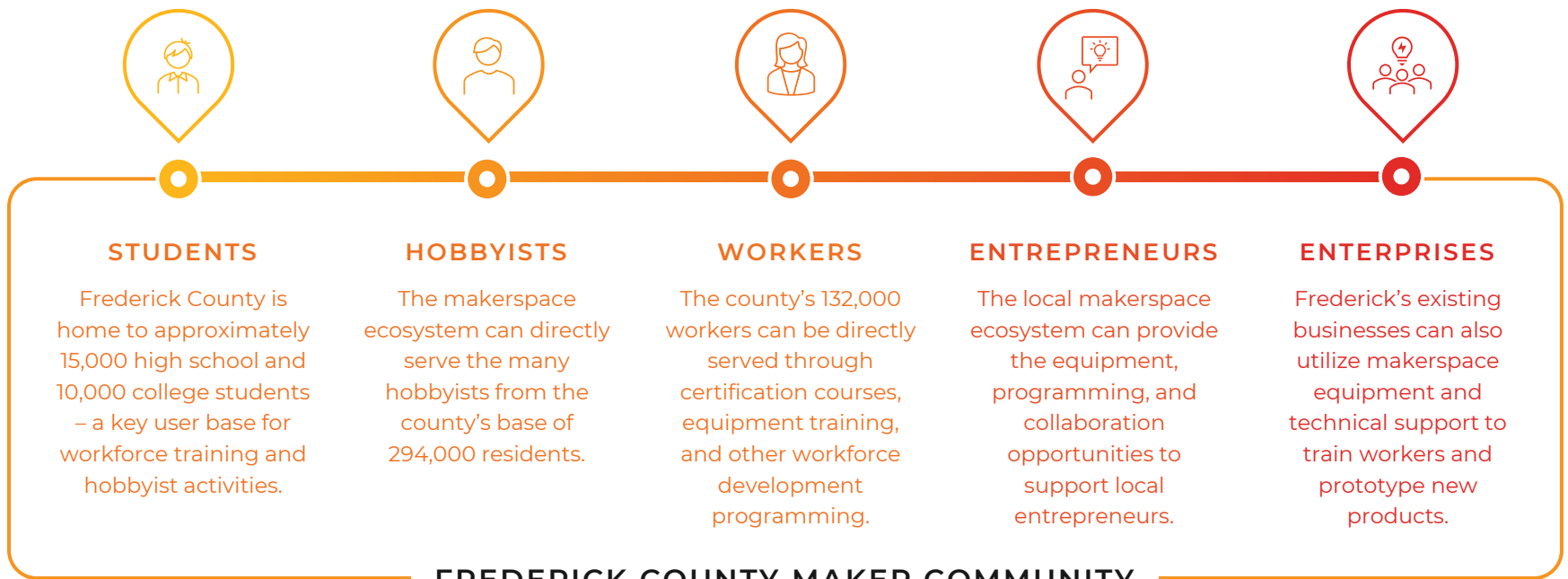
PROJECTED EMPLOYMENT GROWTH IN FREDERICK COUNTY IN RELATED OCCUPATIONS (2022-2032)

	PROJECTED JOB GROWTH	CURRENT TOTAL # OF JOBS
CRAFT/TEXTILE PRODUCTION		
Art and Design Workers	7.4%	432
Textile, Apparel, and Furnishings Workers	3.6%	338
BIOTECH & LIFE SCIENCES		
Biological Technicians	11.6%	198
Life, Physical, and Social Science Technicians	12.7%	276
OTHER PRODUCTION & MANUFACTURING		
Assemblers and Fabricators	5.7%	563
Metal Workers and Plastic Workers	7.7%	389
Other Production Occupations	7%	1,038
Vehicle and Mobile Equipment Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	9.4%	1,402
ALL OCCUPATIONS	9.8%	113,460

Source: Maryland Department of Labor, Maryland Occupational Projections - 2022-2032 - Workforce Information and Performance (2022)

FREDERICK COUNTY MAKER COMMUNITY

The makerspace ecosystem in Frederick County should have the spaces and programming to support each of these five distinct user bases to adequately meet community needs.



FREDERICK COUNTY MAKER COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY NEEDS AND ESTABLISHED VISION

The Livable Frederick Master Plan identifies makerspaces as part of the community's vision for Frederick County and a vital part of Frederick County's broader economic ecosystem. Supporting and enhancing the makerspace ecosystem directly implements identified strategic action steps.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES RECOMMENDED IN THE LIVABLE FREDERICK MASTER PLAN

Makerspaces are a critical site for localized investment in small businesses and start-ups.

PRO-BUSINESS CLIMATE

CULTURE OF INNOVATION

"Develop a diversified approach to **support small businesses, start-ups, entrepreneurship, and where appropriate, home-based businesses**, through the continuation of direct investment to protect and sustain the county's cultural, environmental, and historic amenities, business culture, and other critical assets that support and attract diverse business opportunities."

Participation in a makerspace community facilitates the sharing of knowledge and fosters connections among makers, as well as with local and government partners.

PARTNERSHIPS

"Provide technical assistance and guidance that is supportive of business startups, commercialization enterprises, incubator programs, and accelerators... and work to expand those opportunities and resources in other areas of Frederick County."

Makerspaces are a valuable resource to new businesses across each of these areas: physical space, business services, and knowledge sharing.


KNOWLEDGE-BASED INDUSTRY

EMERGING INDUSTRIES

"Work to find space and encourage **the development of additional business incubators and accelerators, which provide assistance to start-up companies and entrepreneurs by offering office and lab space, business services, and other strategic support** and contribute toward the success of knowledge-based industries."

"Provide additional maker-space opportunities in Frederick County, in addition to the space at the Monroe Center, to cultivate developing ideas and talents."

Source: The Livable Frederick Master Plan adopted by Frederick County in 2019, with the following action framework: https://www3.frederickcountymd.gov/lfmp/actionframework_search.html



MAKERSPACE FEASIBILITY

OPERATIONAL FEASIBILITY

KEY COUNTY PLAYERS

Key Organizations and Partners in Frederick County Aligned with the Maker Industry Ecosystem

Frederick has several entities that play a key role in serving the wide spectrum of maker industry participants, from hobbyists to start-up businesses. Continued partnership with and among these entities can help ensure future investments and initiatives in the makerspace ecosystem are complementary and avoid inefficiencies and redundancies in efforts.

KEY PLAYERS



FCOED's mission is to sustain, diversify, and grow the county's economy by providing leadership and resources for businesses to start, locate, and expand. FCOED facilitates collaboration and partnerships and connects entities with applicable state and federal resources.



FCC provides affordable, flexible access to lifelong education, responding to the needs of diverse learners and the community. Its Monroe Center is the home to FCC's workforce training programs, offering interactive classrooms and programs for training certificates and Dual Enrollment courses for FCPS students.



FITCI is a business incubator and accelerator with a mission to encourage technological innovation and accelerate the development of commercially viable businesses in Frederick. It's the largest incubator in Maryland, and 93% of start-ups become successful businesses, with a particular focus on science and technology industries.



Frederick Makerspace is in the development phase of creating a new makerspace to serve the Frederick County community and beyond. The space is intended to be a community-driven hub for ideas, skills, and connections. The makerspace is committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive space for everyone to explore creativity and innovation.



FCPL facilitates the public's freedom to explore, invent, and transform by connecting people to ideas and each other for both individual and community growth. FCPL's current strategic plan works to expand access by creating more expansive opportunities for the community to use its resources, build bridges across the community, and spark excitement.



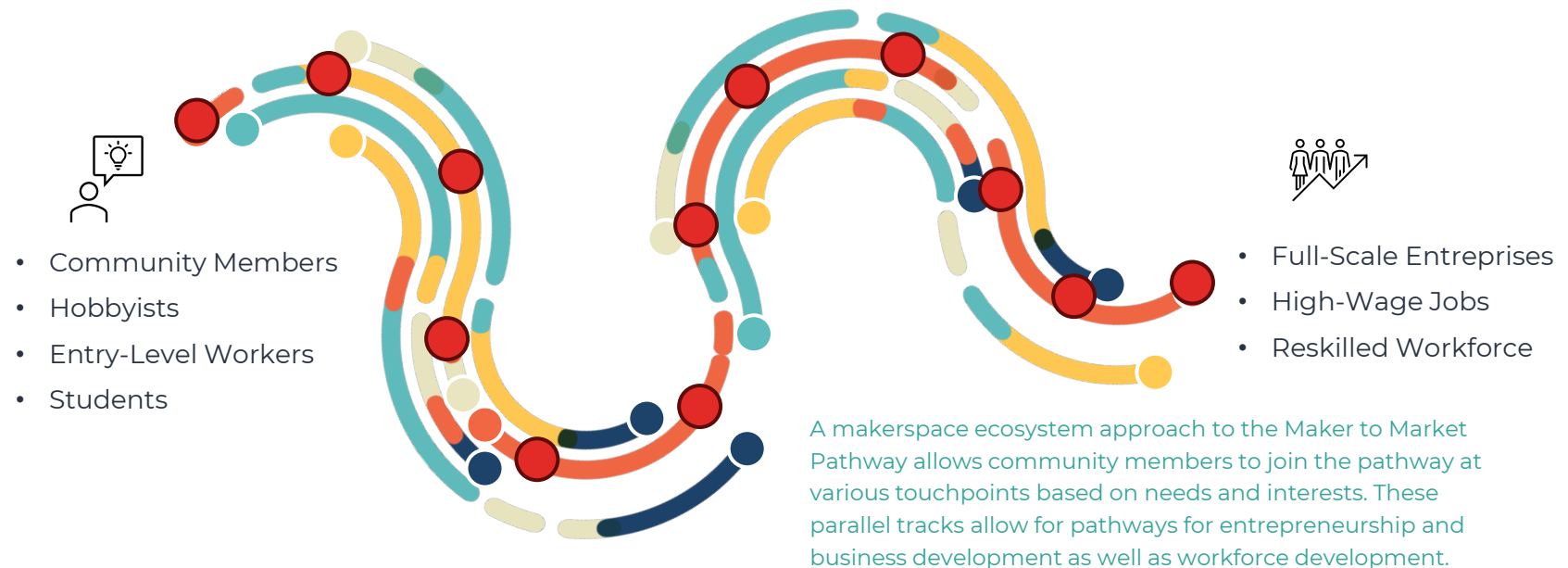
FAC is the county's umbrella arts organization, resource, and advocate for local artists, creatives, and culturally minded community members. In addition to FAC's grants for artists and organizations, FAC provides programming and serves as a liaison for the arts with all levels of government.

Note: Text associated with the key players above taken directly from corresponding websites and mission statements.

MAKER TO MARKET PATHWAY

Makerspaces not only create environments to use tools, create projects, and learn new skills, but also provide the resources and guidance to advance skill development for the workforce and grow businesses, key priorities for economic development. Makerspaces facilitate the Maker to Market Pathway, where individuals can approach makerspaces with interest in learning to make something, learn the skills and steps, and are often inspired into entrepreneurship. Through shared resources and collaboration, entrepreneurs can transition into small-batch production with these spaces.

MAKER TO MARKET PATHWAY



Note: This Maker to Market Pathway Framework was developed by JS&A in the Innovation Space and Marketplace Report: Developed a Makerspace in the District. JS&A continues to leverage this framework to assess opportunity gaps in makerspace feasibility studies.

PATHWAY ASSESSMENT

The planned Frederick Makerspace will enhance the county's Maker to Market Pathway by providing additional resources to the community, hobbyists, and students interested in making. It is important to note that while there is a current gap in the infrastructure, the county has a robust network of artists and creative support entities that fill some needs that are aligned with artisanal production. There continues to be an opportunity to further enhance the mid-range of the Maker to Market Pathway with skill, production development, and entrepreneurship.

MAKER TO MARKET PATHWAY



EXPANSION OPPORTUNITIES

Summary of Opportunities to Support County Makerspaces in Expanding Uses and Services

Frederick County has the opportunity to strengthen the county's makerspace ecosystem by optimizing existing and planned resources rather than investing in new infrastructure. Both The Edge and Monroe Center Makerspace are operated by reputable institutions, and Frederick Makerspace is championed by two community members committed to its development.

There is potential to expand and support the Monroe Center Makerspace, which is currently underutilized, to better serve FCC, students, and the community and optimize resources. Additionally, Frederick Makerspace, still underway, offers an opportunity to establish a strong foundation for future contributions to the makerspace ecosystem.



BEST PRACTICE

Makerspaces can be challenging operating models. Sustaining operations often requires substantial partnerships and ongoing capital support. Makerspaces that rely solely on membership and class fees are rarely sustainable. On the other hand, makerspaces operating in larger institutions, such as higher education or libraries, or makerspaces operating as 501(c)3 nonprofits can receive contributed revenue in addition to earned revenue, a model that has proven to be more successful over time. Importantly, in addition to these financial models, makerspaces with dedicated staff to champion the spaces and a strong commitment to advancing maker resources are fundamental criteria for the ongoing success of the space. Makerspaces must also be flexible to meet changing consumer demand and industry needs.



OPPORTUNITY

THE EDGE

With The Edge's recent opening and successful track record of FITCI, the county should continue to be a supporting partner and monitor ongoing FITCI needs.

MONROE CENTER MAKERSPACE

This makerspace is currently underutilized and lacks a dedicated makerspace manager to develop curriculum, programming, and marketing. There may be interest or opportunities to expand the user base beyond FCC-enrolled students.

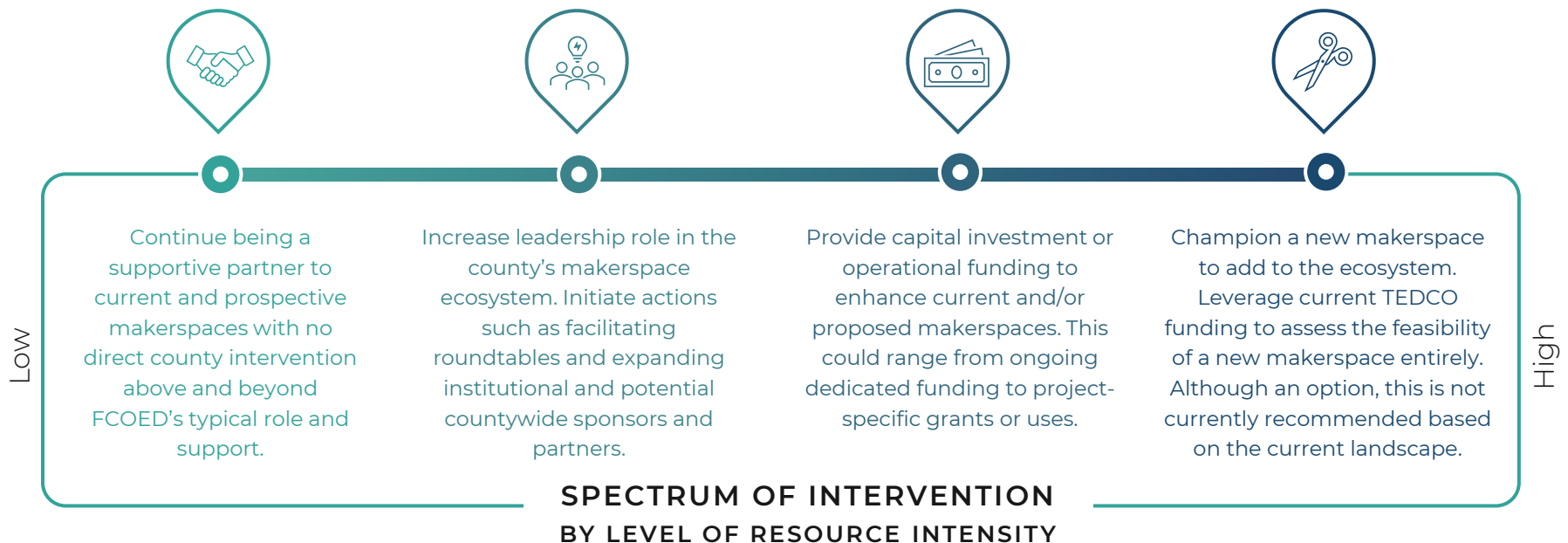
FREDERICK MAKERSPACE

This space, as currently planned, will serve as a major anchor for the local maker network with a targeted emphasis on student programming and community facilities. The county can help with strategic partnership development and other support to ensure successful first years of operation.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE COUNTY TO SUPPORT ITS MAKERSPACE ECOSYSTEM

Range of Intervention Opportunities Across Resource Levels

Frederick County has several opportunities to support and strengthen the makerspace ecosystem, ranging from maintaining the status quo to significantly investing in expanding resources for county makers. The spectrum of intervention below was developed based on core opportunities with existing spaces and insights gained from makerspace operators. Importantly, these interventions do not represent siloed options but can evolve over time to reflect operator and user needs and county priorities.



RECOMMENDED ROLES FOR FCOED

How FCOED Can Invest and Partner to Support Frederick County's Makerspace Ecosystem

Makerspaces are important in the county as innovation hubs, workforce training sites, community anchors, and social learning facilities. To continue meeting countywide goals and help ensure the sustainability of the county's making and the shared economy, it will be beneficial for FCOED to consider its role in the evolving makerspace ecosystem. The three roles articulated below are distinct levels of investment that FCOED can adapt over time based on partnership capacity and opportunities, industry and community needs, and available resources.



SUPPORTER

FCOED continues to be a supportive partner with institutions and groups creating and operating makerspaces. FCOED allows makerspaces to evolve naturally based on their operating entities and partners without interventions beyond FCOED's typical support for businesses in Frederick County.



AMPLIFIER

FCOED works to fill the current opportunity gap in the county's makerspace ecosystem, helping to ensure the success of FCC's Monroe Center Makerspace and Frederick Makerspace. FCOED works to align these resources and form collaborative rather than competitive relationships across makerspace partners.






PROACTIVE LEADER

FCOED takes an active and substantial role in advancing the makerspace ecosystem in Frederick County. FCOED champions new initiatives to provide additional support for current and prospective makerspaces and works with its partners to link makerspaces and the shared economy to further countywide economic development efforts.

IMPLEMENTING ROLES INTO ACTION

Opportunities for FCOED to Support and Scale Makerspaces in Frederick County Based on Potential Roles

Each of the potential roles for FCOED to expand into to support the county's makerspace ecosystem offers tangible implementation actions across scales of resources and capacity. The following implementation opportunities help illustrate each of these roles in action to provide guidance on how FCOED may move forward over time to support Frederick County's makerspaces.

What Implementation May Look Like	 SUPPORTER	 AMPLIFIER	 PROACTIVE LEADER
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support both existing and prospective makerspaces in Frederick County while encouraging independent growth by reducing barriers such as permitting and site selection. Connect makerspaces with FCOED's business development resources. Cross-promote makerspace programming and events to prospective users. Support eligible makerspaces in grant applications to TEDCO as part of the Maryland Makerspace Initiative Program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate roundtable and partnership discussions among Frederick County makerspaces, bringing different entities together to build a stronger makerspace ecosystem. Targeted partnership efforts may include tapping into Frederick County Public Schools, other community resources, and workforce development initiatives. Offer resources for existing makerspaces to grow and expand their facilities and programming. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for additional resources for county-based makerspaces. Expand Made in Frederick efforts to include makerspaces, small-batch production, and maker entrepreneurs as manufacturing pathways. Offer new resources to catalyze new makerspace efforts in Frederick County. Develop a countywide makerspace growth strategy aligned with FCOED's goals.

FREDERICK COUNTY MD

WHERE PASSION DRIVES PROGRESS



FREDERICK COUNTY MD

**Office of
Economic
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