

\$1.5 Billion: Not Enough to Meet Maryland's Unmet Needs

Until now, discussion among lawmakers and stories in the media have portrayed “\$1.5 billion” as the magic number that solves Maryland’s problems.

But closing the deficit is not the only challenge Maryland needs to overcome.

That’s because \$1.5 billion merely maintains the current, inadequate level of public investment that has led to:

- a rising poverty rate in Maryland, as reported by the U.S. Census;
- increasing numbers of medically uninsured in Maryland;
- ballooning tuition at Maryland’s public universities;
- a Bay whose health continues to languish and remains “dangerously out of balance and has been for over four decades...Clearly, what public officials have done to date is far from enough.” (Chesapeake Bay Foundation).

\$1.5 billion in new revenue is not enough. Lawmakers need to aim higher to ensure more Marylanders have the health care, world-class schools, and cleaner Bay we all want and need.