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## University of Maryland Eastern Shore Capability Statement

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## 1.) Institutional Overview

### At a Glance

- **Name:** University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- **Location:** Princess Anne, Maryland
- **Founded:** 1886
- **Enrollment:** 3,300
- **Classification:** Comprehensive, Public HBCU
- **Graduate Programs:** 31

### Primary IAA Program Contact

- **Name:** LaKeisha L. Harris, Ph.D.
- **Title:** Dean, School of Graduate Studies
- **Email:** [lharris@umes.edu](mailto:lharris@umes.edu)
- **Phone:** 410.651.7966

### Strategic Alignment with State Priorities

- The University of Maryland Eastern Shore is committed to advancing Maryland's priorities in inclusion, social mobility, innovation, economic development, and community impact. Through its faculty, research centers, exceptional capabilities and talented student body and alumni, The University of Maryland Eastern Shore is well-positioned to support State agencies with high-quality services delivered under Interagency Agreements (IAAs).

## 2.) Core Capability Domains

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore offers contract-ready services across the following:

- Data, Evaluation & Analytics
  - Program evaluation, performance measurement, survey design and analysis, outcomes research
- Technology, Cybersecurity & AI
  - AI readiness/use case advising, automation strategy
- Training, Professional Development & Capacity Building
  - Custom training for State staff, workshops, curriculum development, leadership development
- Communications, Outreach & Community Engagement
  - Public information campaigns, stakeholder engagement, community meeting facilitation, survey outreach
- Specialty Domains

- Marine Biology & Coastal Resilience; Agricultural & Environmental Science; Health Disparities & Community Health, etc.

### **3.) Representative Services and Offerings**

Under these domains, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore can provide services such as:

- Program impact assessments and evaluation reports
- Survey and data collection design, implementation, and analysis
- Cybersecurity and IT readiness assessments
- Design and delivery of customized training for State employees
- Public outreach materials, stakeholder and community engagement support
- Environmental, marine, toxicology, food technology, or agricultural sciences
- Technical assistance for community- or business-focused programs
- Health professional services in medication therapy management, medical cannabis, opiate and drug abuse
- Business, management, marketing, and accounting
- Drug design & discovery, drug delivery and clinical pharmacology
- Veterinary Medicine

### **4.) Representative Past Performance and Experience**

- **Maryland Statewide Technical Assistance Project on Organization-Wide Positive Behavior Support – Developmental Disabilities Administration/University of Minnesota**
  - **Scope:** Provides training support for the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Association’s implementation of Positive Behavior Support (PBS)
  - **Role:** evaluation, research, training, consulting, etc.
  - **Outcomes:** Curriculum development, evaluation, training of providers
- **Building Local Communities of Care for DJS-Involved Youth – Department of Juvenile Services/University of Maryland School of Social Work**
  - **Scope:** The project seeks to broaden and enhance the understanding of community-based services already available to DJS-involved youth across the State of Maryland.
  - **Role:** Interviewing DJS-involved youth and caregivers
  - **Outcomes:** Evaluation and reporting

## 5.) Research Centers, Labs, and Institutional Assets

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore brings specialized research and operational capacity through:

- **1890 Center of Excellence for Global Food Security and Defense – Food Security**
  - The 1890 Center of Excellence for Global Food Security and Defense boosts U.S. agricultural trade, improving economic growth and prosperity of rural communities through increased agricultural exports and expansion of rural employment, and safeguarding the U.S. against pests and diseases while fulfilling the nation’s needs for a globally competent workforce.
- **Center for Obesity Prevention – Health and Prevention**
  - The Center for Obesity Prevention develops and implements socio-ecologically-based and holistic obesity prevention programs. It implements innovation knowledge transfer and public outreach.
- **Relevant Schools/Departments**
  - School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences, School of Education, Social Sciences, and the Arts, School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, School of Business, Engineering, Applied Sciences, Technology, and Tourism Management, School of Veterinary Medicine, and School of Graduate Studies.

These assets enable the University of Maryland Eastern Shore to deliver high-quality, research-based services under Interagency Agreements.

## 6.) Innovation and Future Focus

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore is actively investing in the capabilities Maryland agencies will need over the next 10-20 years.

- **Current Innovation Priorities**
  - Expanding capacity in data science, AI, and advanced analytics to support evidence-based policymaking
  - Strengthening interdisciplinary work at the intersection of climate resilience, public health, and community development.
  - Building deeper integration between academic programs and real-world State projects through applied research and practicum models.
- **Emerging and Planned Specialized Capabilities (10-20 Year Horizon)**
  - Develop or expand new centers and labs focused on cybersecurity policy, coastal and marine resilience, and technical assistance to health-related programs.

- Increase faculty and graduate research capacity in climate action, improving health outcomes, and preparation of trained workers to supply Maryland’s workforce needs.
- Enhance applied learning pipelines (internships, fellowships, project-based learning) that directly support State agency projects.
- Strengthen partnerships with industry, government, and community organizations to co-create solutions in economic development, equity in service delivery, and climate adaptation.
- **Future Value to State Agencies**
  - More complex, multi-disciplinary engagements that combine research, data, policy, technology, and community engagement.
  - Long-term research and advisory relationships that support strategic planning, innovation pilots, and policy design.
  - A sustained talent pipeline of graduates trained in the skills Maryland needs for its future workforce.

## 7.) Geographic and Community Outreach

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore has deep ties to communities across Maryland, including:

- **Primary Service Region(s):** Eastern Shore
- **Community Partners:** Somerset County Local Management Board, Town of Princess Anne, Delmarva Council, Boy Scouts of America
- **Focus:** Advancing equity, supporting small businesses, improving health outcomes, strengthening coastal communities

The community footprint provides State agencies with a partner that understands local context and can engage stakeholders effectively.

## 8.) IAA Engagement Readiness

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore is prepared to perform work under Interagency Agreements (IAAs) for:

- Research, evaluation, and data analytics
- Consulting and advisory services
- Training and professional development
- Technical assistance for programs and initiatives
- Environmental, marine, agricultural, or specialty projects

## 9.) Primary Contacts

- **Programmatic Contact (for Scoping Opportunities)**
  - Name: LaKeisha L. Harris, Ph.D.

- Title: Dean, School of Graduate Studies
- Email: [lharris@umes.edu](mailto:lharris@umes.edu)
- Phone: 410.651.7966
- **Contract/IAA Contact (for Agreement Structure):**
  - Name: Joseph S. Pitula, Ph.D.
  - Title: Director of Research
  - Email: [jspitula@umes.edu](mailto:jspitula@umes.edu)
  - Phone: 410.621.2980

## **10.) Key Personnel (Abbreviated)**

- Dr. Kingsley Ejiogu – Professor & Director, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
  - Expertise: research, evaluation, data analysis
- Dr. Jonathan Cumming – Chair, Department of Natural Sciences
  - Expertise: Marine science, coastal resilience, ecosystem health