The mission of **Montgomery County Alcohol Beverage Services** is to provide efficient and quality wholesale and retail sales of beverage alcohol products while promoting moderation and responsible behavior in all phases of distribution and consumption. As a control jurisdiction, ABS facilitates the wholesale distribution of beer, wine and spirits to over 1,000 licensed establishments in the county. Along with the sale and distribution of a controlled substance comes a responsibility to educate and support the establishments served to ensure the safety of Montgomery County residents and the vitality of licensed businesses.

**AGENCY**

**WET and DRY COUNTIES**

Montgomery County is a wet county.

**Population 21 and over (Estimate 2017-18)**

829,302

**NET REVENUE**

Montgomery County distributes its net revenue into one category:

- General Fund (100%)

**HISTORY**

On December 5, 1933, the Liquor Control Board for Montgomery County was established by law. For the next 18 years, the Liquor Control Board controlled the sale and distribution of beverage alcohol in Montgomery County. On July 1, 1951, the Department of Liquor Control was created by Section 159 of Article 2B of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and the Board of License Commissioners became a separate entity. The Office of the Board of License Commissioners was integrated into the Division of Licensure Regulation and Education of DLC in 2006. In 2016 the department underwent a reorganization and in early 2017 Bob Dorfman was appointed as the director.

On July 1, 2019, with the enactment of an amendment in state law, the department officially changed its name to Alcohol Beverage Services (ABS) with the tagline, A Business of Montgomery County Government. The change was part of a comprehensive rebranding effort that followed the implementation of steadily applied operational advancements and a newly formed marketing department.

**ENFORCEMENT**

Alcohol Inspectors and Police work in partnership to conduct compliance checks, delivering both an administrative violation against the liquor licensee and a criminal citation to the individual seller/server for failed compliance.

A compliance check involves youth under the age of 21 who attempt to purchase alcohol at a licensed establishment with their own vertical ID.

**$30,029,824**

FY 2018 Net Profit

From 2003 through 2018, Montgomery County Alcohol Beverage Services contributed about $347 million to the County General Fund.
Montgomery County operates a central 240,000 square foot climate controlled warehouse. The warehouse typically contains over 390,000 cases of wine, beer and distilled spirits. The warehouse normally stocks over 6,500 products and sells and delivers over 200,000 cases of special order products. The warehouse delivers five days per week to about 1,100 privately owned licensees via a fleet of 41 trucks owned by Montgomery County. On an average week, the warehouse delivers 72,000 cases of beer, 30,000 cases of wine and spirits and 1,500 kegs of beer.