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Checkers cooks up plan for new Baltimore-area locations

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Checkers is looking to open new stores across the Baltimore area.

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Checkers Drive-In Restaurants, the Tampa, Fla.-based burger chain, is cooking up plans to open 46 new restaurants in Baltimore by 2018 through new franchises.

Currently, the fast-food chain has 19 locations in Baltimore. The new restaurants will create 1,380 new jobs, Checkers projects.

New restaurant design options and menu items paired with sales growth in the Baltimore market is driving the company's local growth, Checkers said.

Checkers franchisees have a variety of options when it comes to the design of new locations, including single and double drive-throughs, end-cap spaces, restaurants in-line with shopping centers, converting existing buildings and non-traditional layouts, such as food court eateries.

Previously, the chain only offered a double drive-through design, but having new design options has allowed the chain to expand.

The initial investment for each restaurant ranges from $240,000 to $1.24 million, the cost of a traditional double drive-through style restaurant. Franchisees must also pay a $30,000 franchise fee per restaurant.

Qualified franchisees must have $750,000 in net worth with $250,000 in liquid assets.

Franchisees receive 4 percent of net sales, and 5 percent of the net sales must go toward advertising. The average net volume at each restaurant is $941,240.