



2021 Forever Maryland Conference

Leveraging Government Funds



Megan D'Arcy
rural.maryland.gov



OUR MISSION is to bring together citizens, community-based organizations, federal, state, county and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to collectively address the needs of rural Maryland.

OUR VISION is a future where all of Rural Maryland is prosperous with thriving resources, vibrant economies, and healthy connected communities

OUR GOALS

- Encourage healthy, connected communities throughout Rural Maryland through convening of stakeholders, education, public relations and advocacy
- Support the development and growth of vibrant economies in Rural Maryland
- Foster stewardship of Maryland's natural resources
- Maximize RMC outreach, resources and mission through financial and organizational development.



Background

- In 1994, the Rural Maryland Council was initiated by the Governor as the Maryland Rural Development Council (Executive Order 01.01.1994.14) and codified by statute in 1995 (Economic Development Article, Sec. 13-401)
 - Independent State Agency housed under the Maryland Department of Agriculture.
 - Funded under the State's Operating Budget
 - Council (Operating) funded at \$500,000
 - Grant programs funded at approximately \$6,000,000
 - Operates under the direction of a 40-member Executive Board in a nonpartisan and nondiscriminatory manner.
 - The Council serves as the State's federally designated rural development council and functions as the voice of rural Maryland.
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Why We Work

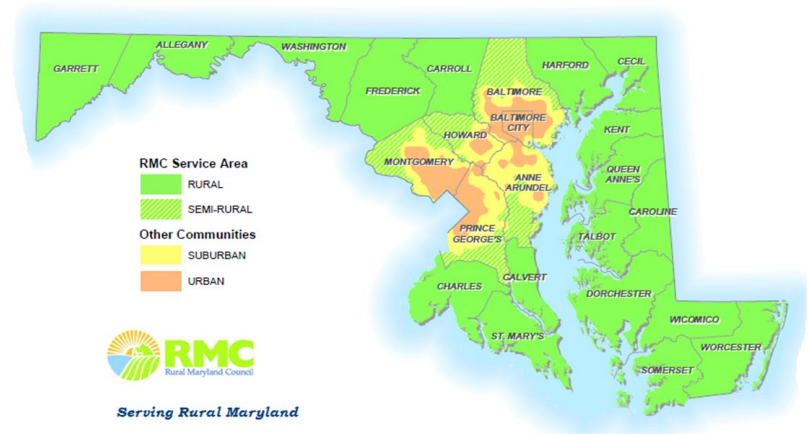
Challenges in Rural Maryland:

- Highest unemployment rates in the State
- Highest rates of poverty in the State
- Lack of access to transportation
- Lack of access to health care
- Pressure on the agriculture economy
- Lack of internet and broadband

Where We Work

Service Territory

State statute designates the following 18 counties as rural, Allegany, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, St. Mary's, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico, and Worcester.



How We Work

Education

- Neutral Convener-Issue Focused (Rural Summit, Roundtables, Forums)
-

Legislation

- Advocate & Educate-policy development, community engagement-connecting people to their government.
-

Grant Programs

- Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF)
- Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF)

Legislative Highlights

EVENTS HELD

Virtual Legislative Lunch, 1/29
Virtual Rural Maryland Day 2/11
In-person *Grab and Go* lunch for Maryland Day, 3/25

RURAL CAUCUS MEETINGS

The Rural Caucus met on February 11th and March 11th to discuss issues facing Maryland's Rural Communities and Residents

LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS

The Legislative Committee met this session to discuss bills, testimonies and other legislative matters throughout the session

POSITION STATEMENTS

Position statements submitted to the legislators in support of bills

BILLS MONITORED

Total bills monitored throughout the legislative session



MAERDAF Grant Program: Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund

- Created in 2000 to provide financial assistance to rural-serving nonprofit organizations that promote statewide and regional planning, economic and community development and agricultural and forestry education efforts.

- Between 2000 and 2020, MAERDAF awarded over \$10 million in grants rural-serving nonprofit organizations.

- For Fiscal Year 2021, the RMC received 108 MAERDAF applications requesting a total of \$3,937,065 in funding. A total of \$859,543 was awarded to 39 organizations.

• MAERDAF Priority Areas

Agriculture & Forestry	Energy	Rural Broadband	Youth Engagement	Community & Economic Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Education • Regional Food System Development • Forest Industry Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined Heat Power • Energy Efficiency • Biomass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including Rural Municipal Broadband Expansion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development • Workforce Development

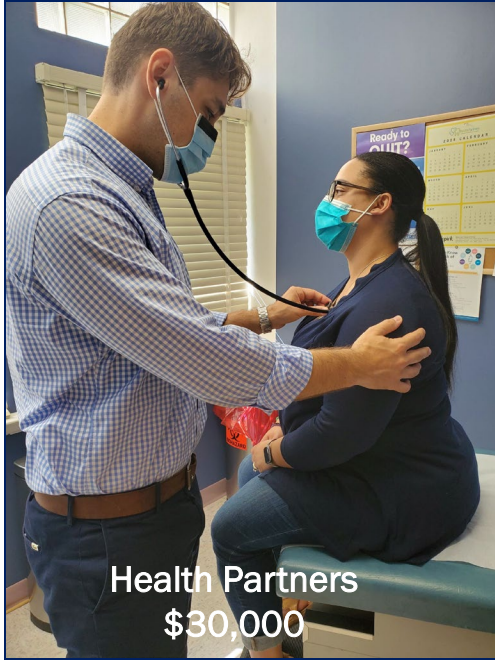
MAERDAF Grant Program: Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund

Purpose: to increase the overall capacity of rural-serving nonprofit organizations and community colleges to meet a multitude of rural development challenges and to help them establish new public/private partnerships for leveraging non-state sources of funding

Eligible Applicants: 501(c)3 Nonprofit Organizations, Regional Councils and Community Colleges

- **Must serve 2 or more rural counties or statewide**
- **When:** Projects must be completed between August 1st– June 30th
- **Preference:** Projects that have an equal or greater match.
- **Project must be completed in 1 year.**
- **Maximum Grant Amount:** \$40,000.
- **FY2022 Allotted Funds:** \$618,145

MAERDAF Grant Projects



Health Partners
\$30,000



Chesapeake Culinary Center
\$20,000



Neighbor helping Neighbor
Phone: (301) 372-1491, Brandywine, MD

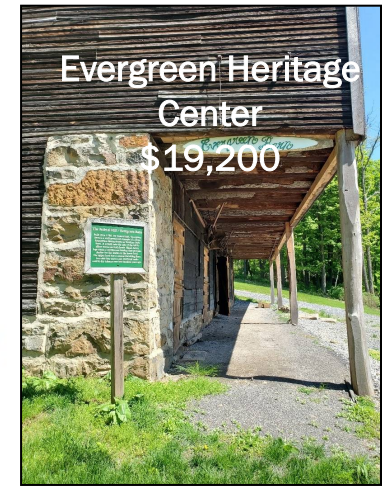
Community Support Systems
\$8,500



\$11,397



\$13,300



Evergreen Heritage Center
\$19,200



Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center
\$40,000

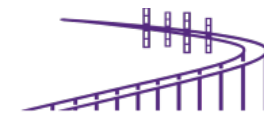


Sassafra Environmental Education Center

\$8,500



Cecil County Farm Museum
\$20,000



COMMUNITY MEDIATION MARYLAND

your conflict, your solutions

\$50,000

RMPIF Grant Program-Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund

- Authorized by the Maryland General Assembly in 2006.
- Thanks to Governor Hogan, the RMPIF grant program received funding for the first time in FY2017 for \$2 million.
- **Primary goal** is to provide targeted investments to various regional, nonprofit and educational entities to bring Rural Maryland's standards of living up to statewide averages.
- Priority Areas: Regional Councils, Entrepreneurship Development, Infrastructure and Health Care.
- For Fiscal Year 2021, the RMC received 70 RMPIF applications requesting a total of \$9,986,620 in funding. A total of \$4,526,705 was awarded to 33 organizations.
- **FY2022 Allotted Funds:** \$6,000,000



RMPIF Grant Projects



YMCA of the
Chesapeake
Live Strong
Program
\$47,324



Charles Regional
Medical Center
Foundation –
Wheels to Wellness
\$26,000



College of Southern Maryland,
Velocity Center \$274,000



Asian American
Center of Frederick
Enhance. Empower. Enrich

Achieving Collaboration for Health Equity
in Rural Maryland - \$274,000



End Hunger Warehouse
Food Distribution Program -
\$250,000



Maryland Small Business Development
Center, Northern Region - \$225,000



Sudlersville
Volunteer Fire
Company - \$48,655
for construction of
public laundromat
facility.



Howard County Economic Development Authority - \$35,137
for their *National Automated Food Traceability and Safety*
project.

Grant Process

- Online grant portal opens in April
- Two Stage Process: Phase 1 due June/Phase 2 due in July
- Final grant award determinations are made in August for both programs by the independent MAERDAF Grant Review Board set by law and consisting of the Secretaries (or their designee) from the Department of Agriculture; Commerce; Department of Health; Department of Housing and Community Development ; Department of Natural Resources; and, Rural Maryland Council Chair (or a designee).
- Grant Agreements executed in September
- Checks to Grantees by October
- Two reporting requirements: Interim and Final
- Projects completed with in 1 year



Learn More at rural.maryland.gov

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