

**More than 1.6 million people live in Maryland's 18 rural counties.**



They're mom-and-pop shopkeepers, small businesses, artists, farmers, watermen, musicians, food producers, parents, educators and more.

But they face tough economies, health care issues, fewer higher education options, crumbling roads, dwindling markets and other problems. Natural and cultural resources must be preserved, and civic and business entrepreneurship encouraged.

The Rural Maryland Council works to identify their challenges and create solutions that work.

## **AN INDEPENDENT STATE AGENCY**

An Executive Board, comprised of public and private stakeholders, governs the nonpartisan Council, and all meetings are open to the public.

If you would like to identify challenges and develop solutions to the unique challenges in Maryland's rural counties, you are invited to attend our Rural Roundtables and become a member of a Working Committee. Visit [rural.maryland.gov](http://rural.maryland.gov) for information about upcoming events.

### **FOR RMC UPDATES AND NEWSLETTERS:**

To receive our quarterly newsletter and email blasts, go to [rural.maryland.gov](http://rural.maryland.gov) and click on the link there.



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## TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE **RURAL MARYLAND COUNCIL**



*Improving quality of life  
while preserving  
the cultural heritage  
in Maryland's  
rural communities*

# COMING TOGETHER IN A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION

*RMC brings together citizens, community-based organizations and federal, state, county and municipal government*

*We provide a venue for agriculture and natural resource-based industries, health care facilities, schools, and for-profits and nonprofits to cross boundaries, share info, and collectively address needs and opportunities in Maryland's rural communities.*

## OUR GOALS

- **Enable** citizens in rural communities to achieve success in employment and have quality, affordable health care, and other services.
- **Preserve** agriculture and other natural resource-based industry as an integral part of Maryland's rural economy and culture.
- **Advocate** for a manageable regulatory process and reasonable and effective compliance.
- **Address** the impact of changing conditions on the environment, heritage and economic well-being of rural Maryland.



## THE COUNCIL AT WORK

### Rural Roundtables

Held throughout the year with various partners, Roundtables engage rural leaders in tightly focused discussions around a specific issue, such as health care or affordable housing.

### Working Committees

These provide policymakers with information, analysis, research, and suggested positions on issues that impact Rural Maryland, such as our Health Care Working Committee.

### The Maryland Agricultural & Resource Based Industry Development Corporation

RMC supports the mission of MARBIDCO, which provides economic development assistance to agriculture, aquaculture, forestry, and seafood industries. (For information, visit [www.marbidco.org](http://www.marbidco.org))

### The Maryland Agricultural Education & Rural Development Assistance Fund

MAERDAF awards grants for statewide and regional planning, economic and community development, and agricultural and forestry education projects. Community colleges that support small and agricultural businesses are also eligible.

### Sustainable Growth

RMC provides a rural perspective for the State's sustainable initiatives and serves as a member of the Sustainable Growth Commission. The Commission was established during the 2010 legislative session as an outgrowth of the Task Force on the Future for Growth and Development.

### RuralStat

RMC helped develop this interactive tool to track health and show disparities in rural counties and regions in Maryland, using various quality-of-life indicators.

### Rural Prosperity Investment Fund

Created in 2006, this Maryland fund builds capacity for both non-profits and government entities in small rural areas. RMC helps raise awareness and supports the fund, and will eventually serve as its administrator, which will deliver training, business incubators, access to health care, mentorship, economic development activities and more.

*The RMC is a resource for individuals, organizations, elected and appointed officials. Find out how we help improve our rural communities at [rural.maryland.gov](http://rural.maryland.gov).*