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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **RURAL MARYLAND COUNCIL ANNOUNCES FY 2017 RURAL MARYLAND PROSPERITY INVESTMENT FUND (RMPHF) GRANT RECIPIENTS**

For the first time since 2006, the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund received \$2 million in funding for targeted investment to promote economic prosperity in Maryland's traditionally disadvantaged and underserved rural communities. By sustaining efforts to promote rural regional cooperation, facilitating entrepreneurial activities and supporting key community colleges and nonprofit providers, the quality of life in rural Maryland can be advanced over the next several years.

During Fiscal Year 2017, a total of 43 applications were submitted with a total of \$3,279,377.47 requested. A total of 18 grants totaling \$833,501.00 were distributed to 18 organizations:

#### **Entrepreneurship**

- Cecil County Government, Office of Economic Development - \$68,522.00
- Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center - \$66,808.00
- Eastern Shore Innovation Center, Dorchester County - \$77,531.00
- Frederick Innovation Technology Center - \$77,528.00
- Frostburg State University - \$6,500.00
- Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation/ Young Entrepreneurs Academy - \$10,000.00
- Maryland Rural Development Corporation - \$18,000.00

#### **Health Care**

- Affiliated Sante Group - \$41,784.00
- Calvert Memorial Hospital - \$61,661.00
- Delmarva Community Services, Inc. - \$58,263.00
- Eastern Shore & Western Shore Area Health Education Centers - \$51,282.00
- Garrett Regional Medical Center - \$25,404.00
- SHORE UP! - \$14,454.00
- West Cecil Health Center, Inc. - \$43,805.00
- Worcester County Health Department/ Lower Eastern Shore Suicide Prevention Coalition - \$28,284.00

#### **Infrastructure**

- Town of Denton - \$48,000.00
- Town of Myersville - \$59,000.00
- Town of Preston - \$76,675.00

The Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund supports the Rural Maryland Council's activities and the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF), which provides capacity-building funds to rural nonprofit service providers. It also supports the states' five regional councils, regional infrastructure projects, rural entrepreneurship development, rural community development, and rural health care organizations.

Founded in 1994, the Rural Maryland Council operates under the direction of a 40-member executive board in a nonpartisan and nondiscriminatory manner. It serves as the state's federally designated rural development council and functions as a voice for rural Maryland, advocating for and helping rural communities and businesses across the state to flourish and to gain equity to its suburban and urban counterparts. The vision for RMC is the ultimate realization that citizens living in rural communities are achieving success in education and employment, have access to affordable, quality health care and other vital public services, and live in an environment where natural and cultural resources are being sustained for future generations.

For more information, visit the RMC website: [www.rural.maryland.gov](http://www.rural.maryland.gov)

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*"A Collective Voice for Rural Maryland"*