



Maryland State House (Photo Credit, Emily Ranson)

Greetings!



RMC Vice - Chair Matthew Tefteau with members of the Maryland Community Action Partnership.

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The Rural Maryland Council was awarded on May 2, 2018 with a Community Partner of the Year Award from the [Maryland Community Action Partnership](#) organization. The council was recognized for outstanding dedication and commitment to Maryland Community Action Agencies. For more

Events

[FY19 MAERDAF and RMPIF Grant Call for](#)

information about the award visit our website [here](#).

The 2018 [Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session](#) was a strong year for rural communities. Highlights for the RMC included FULL FUNDING for the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund in the State's Fiscal Year 2019 Operating Budget. We thank the Governor and the Maryland Legislature for their support of the Rural Maryland Council and rural communities. Other highlights included full funding for Program Open Space, three additional years of funding for the Next Generation Farm Land Acquisition Program, and increased Highway User Fund Revenues for Fiscal Year 2019.

Rural Maryland Day was held on February 8, 2018. We welcomed over one hundred attendees for morning appointments with over 46 elected officials and staff. The RMC was officially recognized during floor sessions in the State House. In partnership with the [Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts](#), we hosted a luncheon with over 250 attendees. Thanks to all those who attended. Due to your efforts, we can acknowledge our success.

Sincerely,



Josh Hastings
Chair

Message from the Executive Director

Task Force on Rural Internet, Broadband, Wireless, and Cellular Service - Study and Extension, was passed this session and extends the work of the broadband study task force. The Task Force will continue to meet and will issue a report of recommendations for expanding broadband access to unserved and underserved communities by November 30, 2018. Our next meeting will be held at Steppingstone Farm Museum at 461 Quaker Bottom Road, Havre De Grace, Maryland on May 21, 2018. View more information on the meeting [here](#).

The Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistant fund (MAERDAF) and the Rural Prosperity Investment fund (RMPIF) are now accepting proposals! For Fiscal Year 2019, the RMC is interested in MAERDAF proposals that address the following: Agriculture, Energy, Rural Broadband, Rural Healthcare, Youth Engagement and Workforce/Economic Development. Matching funds are strongly encouraged. For RMPIF, the RMC is interested in proposals that address the following: Regional Planning and Development Councils, Rural Entrepreneurship Development, Regional Infrastructure Projects, and Rural Health Care Organizations.

Important Dates:

- Friday, May 25, 2018 - Call for Proposal abstracts must be submitted electronically by 11:59pm.
- Monday, June 25, 2018 - Notification of decision on all submissions sent via e-mail; Accepted applicants notified to submit a full application.
- Friday, July 27, 2018 - Full application due to RMC by 11:59pm.
- Monday August 13, 2018 - RMPIF and MAERDAF Grant Recipients

[Proposals Now Open](#)
4/30/18 -5/25/18
All Day

[RMC Executive Committee Conference Call](#)
5/18/18
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

[Taskforce for Rural Broadband Meeting](#)
5/21/2018
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

[Drive Your Business Forward With USDA Tech Transfer Workshop](#)
5/23/18
8:30 am - 1:00 pm

[RMC Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee Conference Call](#)
6/5/2018
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

RMC In The News

[Maryland Rural Health Plan Serves as Roadmap to Create Healthier Rural Communities](#)
February 13, 2018

[The Maryland General Assembly is once again considering an angel investor tax credit](#)
February 20, 2018

[Maryland's rural areas don't have enough doctors, report finds](#)
March 2, 2018

[Southern Maryland Entrepreneurs and Startups Offered Assistance with Small Business Innovation Research \(SBIR\) Grant Proposal](#)

For more information on the grants and to access Applications and Guidelines, visit the web page [here](#).

If the Council can be of any assistance, please contact me at charlotte.davis@maryland.gov, or 410.841.5774.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Davis
Executive Director

[Grant Proposal Writing](#)
March 22, 2018

[Delegates updated on broadband internet rollout](#)
March 28, 2018

[\\$90,000 grant funds infrastructure project for Garrett County broadband installation project](#)
May 1, 2018

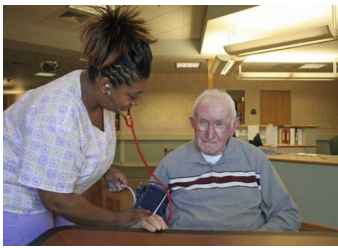
Rural Maryland
Foundation



Rural Maryland
Foundation

The Rural Maryland Foundation is working on a sequel to our Rural Aspirations video. Click to view the first video [here](#).

Committee Updates



RMC Health Care Committee

The RMC Health Care Committee has compiled its Executive Summary of its activities for 2015 - 2016. [Learn more...](#)

The Committee is led by our two Co-Chairs: Lara Wilson, Executive Director, Maryland Rural Health Association, and Rodney Glotfelty, Garrett County Health Department.



RMC Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

The RMC Agriculture and Natural Resources committee will be restarting and hosting its first [conference call](#) on Tuesday, June 5, 2018.

To learn more about the RMC Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, please contact the RMC at rmc.mda@maryland.gov.



RMC Legislative Committee

The RMC Legislative Committee held a very successful 2018 Legislative session. View our Legislative Review [here](#).

To learn more about the RMC Legislative Committee, please contact the RMC at rmc.mda@maryland.gov

Community Links

Check out what's happening in rural Maryland...

Training Opportunities & Conferences

- [2018 Annie's Project](#) - University of Maryland Extension - March - May 2018

- [Rural Small Business Lending Forum](#) - United States Department of Agriculture - May 10, 2018
- [Drive Your Business Forward With USDA Tech Transfer Workshop](#) - May 23, 2018

Awards & Grants

- [Community Connect Grants](#) - United States Department of Agriculture - Applications Due by May 14, 2018
- [Natural Resource Conservation Service Seeks Partners for Easement Restoration](#) - United States Department of Agriculture - Applications Due by May 18, 2018
- [Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grants](#) - United States Department of Agriculture - Applications Due by June 4, 2018
- [Grants for Non-Capital Historic Preservation Projects](#) - Maryland Historical Trust - September 10, 2018

Programs & More

- [USDA Launches Webpage Highlighting Resources to Help Rural Communities Address the Opioid Crisis](#) - United States Department of Agriculture
- [Southern Maryland Broadband Survey](#) - Last Mile Broadband
- [Maryland Rural Health Plan Website - NOW LIVE!](#) - Maryland Rural Health Association
- [New RURAL Nurse Practitioner Program](#) - Maryland Rural Health Association
- [Pop - Up Offices](#) - Preservation Maryland
- [Market Season Article](#) - University of Maryland Extension
- [Food, Feed and Fiber Production Industries Summary](#) - Maryland Agricultural & Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation
- [Maryland Resource Based Industries Summary](#) - Maryland Agricultural & Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation
- [Maryland Resource Based Industries Report](#) - Maryland Agricultural & Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation
- [FY19 MAERDAF/RMPIF Grant Information Webinar Recording](#) - Rural Maryland Council - May 7, 2018

Got a link to share? Send it to us!

Email: rnc.mda@maryland.gov to share links to your events and programs.

MAERDAF Spotlight - MAERDAF grant supports commercial kitchen incubator for the Mid-shore Region



received a \$30,000 grant from the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) grant, which is administered by the Rural Maryland Council (RMC). The MAERDAF grant will help fund staffing and product startup support for a commercial kitchen incubator to serve Maryland's Mid-Shore region.

Beth Brewster, Executive Director of the Chesapeake Culinary Center has hired two staff - one focusing on marketing and sales and the other one focusing on processing and operations. With staff in place, Chesapeake Culinary Center is working on a model to provide direct assistance to farmers and other food-based entrepreneurs to guide them through the often-intimidating process of getting their products to market. Learn more about the organization [here](#).



Holly Foster (left), production manager and community outreach, and Kristi Conti (right), nutrition specialist and project manager, review the food products and other regionally produced items sold at the Shore Gourmet store, which is operated in conjunction with Chesapeake Culinary Center.

Special Feature - Rural Maryland Council welcomed into the Maryland Apprenticeship Program

The Rural Maryland Council hosted its Quarterly Executive Board meeting and Legislative Luncheon on Friday, January 26, 2018 in Annapolis, Maryland. As Maryland's General Assembly began its legislative session for the new year, the Rural Maryland Council (RMC) brought together legislators, rural leaders and government officials to discuss its 2018 legislative priorities.

Our featured speaker was Secretary Kelly Schultz, Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulations (DLLR). Secretary Schultz welcomed the Rural Maryland Council (RMC) to the Maryland Apprenticeship Ambassador Program. RMC will help spread the word about the power of apprenticeship to Maryland's workers and job creators. Learn more about the program [here](#).



RMC Executive Director, Charlotte Davis, Board Chair, Josh Hastings and First Vice Chair, Matthew Teffau were presented with a plaque by Secretary Kelly Schultz.

Rural Maryland Council is an independent state agency and Maryland's federally designated State Rural Development Council under the United States Department of Agriculture's National Rural Development Partnership. Our mission is to bring together federal, state, county, and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to identify challenges unique to rural communities and to develop and implement policy solutions. As a collaborative partnership, the RMC operates under the guidance of a 40-member Executive Board, in a nonpartisan and non-discriminatory manner.

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