



The Maryland Agricultural Education & Rural Development Assistance Fund

FY 2008 Annual Report



MAERDAF is administered by
the Rural Maryland Council
50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Phone: 410-841-5772
www.rural.state.md.us

A Word from Our Grantees

It is impossible to separate the success of the LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc. from the support of MAERDAF. . . . I will always be grateful to the timely and desperately needed support MAERDAF provided LEAD to achieve our mission and to ultimately succeed in developing leadership for Maryland's agriculture, natural resources, and rural communities.

– Susan Harrison, Founding Executive Director,
Lead Maryland Foundation, Inc.

It is trite to say, but Chesapeake Fields Institute would not be where it is today without this organization's support. CFI joins the many rural-serving organizations that have created and operate ventures offering a significant and positive impact on communities in the rural areas of Maryland because of the support of MAERDAF.

– John Hall, President, Chesapeake Fields
Institute, Chestertown, MD

The Upper Shore Regional Council is extremely grateful for the benefits provided through MAERDAF. Through continuing efforts supported by MAERDAF, the USRC is able to assist farmers in marketing products, expanding markets, and incorporating value added programs to serve our rural community. –

John A. Dillman III, Executive Director,
Upper Shore Regional Council

Without this grant, I am sure that the center would have suffered financial crisis. Mountain Laurel Medical Center is a much needed facility in Western Maryland, providing quality health care to all, targeting those with no health insurance. Our patient volume continues to increase and with your generous grant we see success going forward in 2008. Thank you from all the staff at Mountain Laurel Medical Center and its patients.

– Joyce McAndrew, Chief Financial Officer
Mountain Laurel Medical Center

“Perhaps the very best thing that has happened is that I now have hope of becoming and remaining a vitally alive and functional person. Thank you Rural Maryland for giving me my life back again.”
– Barbara, a participant in the MAERDAF-funded Managing Chronic Pain for Seniors, a community based program provided by MAC (the Lower Shore's designated Area Agency on Aging).

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Overview

Rural-serving nonprofit organizations and community colleges often lack access to the public and private sector philanthropic opportunities they need to obtain important programmatic and special projects funding. Moreover, local governments, especially those in economically distressed rural regions, do not have the financial wherewithal to fully address these important developmental needs. Consequently, a serious resource deficit exists where the need has often been the greatest.

The **Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF)** was established in 2000 to offer financial support to rural-serving nonprofit organizations that promote statewide and regional planning, economic and community development, and agricultural and forestry education. In addition, MAERDAF offers financial assistance to community colleges that support small and agricultural businesses with enhanced training and technical assistance.

The **Rural Maryland Council (RMC)** administers this grant program in partnership with the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED), Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), and Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). A Grants Review Board, made up of one representative from each agency, makes

binding grant decisions.

Since 1994, the RMC, an independent state agency that functions as the State Rural Development Council under the USDA's National Rural Development Partnership Program, has brought together citizens, community-based organizations, federal, state, county and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to craft solutions to the challenges facing rural Maryland communities. As a collaborative partnership, the RMC operates under the guidance of a 40-member Executive Board, in a nonpartisan and nondiscriminatory manner.

For more information, contact: The Rural Maryland Council, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401. Phone: 410.841.5772. Email: rmc@mda.state.md.us

The FY 2008 MAERDAF Grants Review Board

- * **David Jenkins**, Executive Director, Rural Maryland Council.
- * **Rebecca Love**, Program Director, State Office of Rural Health, Office of Policy and Planning, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.
- * **Glenda Odom**, Program Manager, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development.
- * **Jane Storrs**, National Marketing Director, Maryland Department of Agriculture.
- * **Brenda Townsend-Milton**, Regional Development, Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development.
- * **Emily Wilson**, Director of Government Relations, Maryland Department of Natural Resources.
- * **Staff support** to the Review Board is provided by Vanessa Orlando and Sandra Fleischer of the Rural Maryland Council.

History of MAERDAF Program Funding



The MAERDAF Program has helped many rural-serving organizations establish or continue programs and projects that have had a significant and positive impact on Rural Maryland. In addition, the modest state investment in the MAERDAF program has helped the nonprofit sector leverage a substantial amount of private and federal financial support. (The MAERDAF Board is required to give preference to organizations that leverage non-state matching funds.) Moreover, MAERDAF has helped many of these nonprofit service providers develop institutional capacity, improve grant-writing skills, and enhance the internal development of volunteer boards and staff.

Between FY 2001 and FY 2008, the MAERDAF program awarded **\$1,987,334 in grants to 43 organizations**, as follows:

- ◇ **14 organizations** have received a total of \$844,435 for agribusiness development or agricultural and forestry education.
- ◇ **16 organizations** have received a total of \$703,346 for rural health and community development.
- ◇ **13 organizations** have received a total of \$439,553 for rural economic development.

The average MAERDAF grant over the life of the program has been **\$17,849**. There was no funding for MAERDAF during FY 2006. For a historical review of all grants, see the Appendix.

The MAERDAF Program in FY 2008



In 2008, all MAERDAF grants were administered as fiscal year grants rather than calendar year grants in order to make the program's reporting requirements easier to mesh with the state's fiscal year. Grant recipients were announced in late summer, with the first of two equal grant payments made in September 2007. The second and final payments were made after grant managers accepted interim reports, which were due from grantees by February 27, 2008.

During FY 2008, the MAERDAF Grants Review Board received 29 applications requesting \$764,073; however, due to limited funding, only \$288,739 in grants were awarded to 18 rural-serving nonprofit organizations. The average grant was \$16,041.

Of the \$288,739 distributed funds:

- ◇ \$121,474 was awarded to organizations serving the Eastern Shore (42 percent);
- ◇ \$113,265 was awarded to organizations serving a statewide constituency (39 percent);
- ◇ \$54,000 was awarded to organizations serving Western Maryland (19 percent).

Three state agencies administered MAERDAF grants:

- ◇ DHCD administered \$118,984 of the grant funds (41 percent);
- ◇ DBED administered \$88,625 of the grant funds (31 percent);
- ◇ MDA administered \$81,130 of the grant funds (28 percent).

MAERDAF Funding

MAERDAF grant funds come from two state sources. During FY 2008, a total of \$289,713 was available, including \$142,000 in General Funds and \$130,000 in Special Funds. In addition, three organizations which received a MAERDAF Grant during FY 2007 returned a total of \$17,713. The MAERDAF Board voted to re-grant \$17,000 of it during FY 2008. Remaining funds will be carried over for future grants. The organizations which returned funds are:

◇ The Chesapeake Fields Institute was awarded a \$12,000 grant to purchase certain equipment. CFI returned \$825 which was not needed.

◇ The Lower Shore Child Care Resource Center at Salisbury University received a \$17,500 grant to operate its very successful CASH Campaign, which helped low income families file tax returns and claim the Earned Income Tax Credit. Because the program took the organization away from its primary mission, it handed the program off to another nonprofit after the 2007 tax year. A total of \$8,138 was returned.

◇ The Chester Bridge Foundation received a \$17,000 grant for training at its Chesapeake Entrepreneurship Center; however, the organization closed down the program after its first training session and moved it to Baltimore city. A total of \$8,750 of this grant was never distributed.

FY 2008 MAERDAF Grantees



	Request	Award
Agribusiness, Agriculture/Forestry Educ.		
Future Harvest	\$ 6,434	\$2,330
Lead Maryland #1	\$25,000	\$25,000
Lead Maryland #2	\$24,000	\$7,000
Maryland Assn of Soil Conservation Dist	\$20,130	\$9,800
Maryland FFA Foundation Inc.	\$8,000	\$8,000
Maryland Forest Assn. Inc.	\$5,000	\$5,000
MidShore Regional Council	\$24,000	\$24,000
Sub-Total	\$112,564	\$81,130
Community Development		
Delmarva Education Foundation	\$23,500	\$12,869
Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay	\$20,000	\$5,000
Habitat for Humanity of Talbot Co.	\$21,500	\$21,500
MAC Inc.	\$25,000	\$13,105
Maryland Rural Development Corp.	\$25,000	\$22,510
Mountain Laurel Medical Center	\$50,000	\$44,000
Sub-Total	\$185,000	\$118,984
Economic Development		
Friends of the Grape	\$25,000	\$20,000
Lower Shore Broadband Cooperative	\$50,000	\$20,000
Maryland Capital Enterprises	\$30,330	\$21,625
Microenterprise Council of MD	\$25,500	\$12,000
Tri-County Council Western MD	\$50,000	\$10,000
Upper Shore Regional Council	\$25,000	\$5,000
Sub-Total	\$205,830	\$88,625
GRAND TOTAL	\$503,394	\$288,739

Rural Nonprofits Improving the Quality of Rural Life

Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay Council -- Amount Awarded: \$5,000.

Summary: The Girl Scouts work to build girls of courage, confidence and charter who make the world a better place. Each year, the organization serves about 23,000 girls, ages 5 to 17, representing a diversity of backgrounds.

Program Funds: Grant funds were used to help pay salaries and benefit for staff members helping to build the skills of girls participating in Outreach Troops, which involve 1,212 at-risk girls, ages 5-17, living of Maryland's Eastern Shore, especially those challenged by rural isolation, poverty and language barriers.

Delmarva Education Foundation (DEF) -- Amount Awarded: \$12,869.

Summary: DEF's mission is to improve educational opportunities for residents of the lower Delmarva Peninsula using a regional approach to facilitate accessibility, quality and effectiveness of education for all ages.

Program Funds: The grant was awarded to help pay the salaries of key personnel who operate DEF's College/ Career Access Program in Wicomico and Somerset counties. The program encourages and prepares at-risk high school students for higher education.

Friends of the Grape, Inc. -- Amount Awarded: \$20,000.

Summary: The Chesapeake Culinary Center provides a commercial kitchen for those interested in starting their own business and an outlet for entrepreneurs to sell their products. The program also helps mentally handicapped students develop job skills and find employment.

Program Funds: The grant was given to the center's nonprofit arm to help the commercial kitchen start two new businesses in the first year and to construct a gift shop that will sell 25 locally made products.

Future Harvest: Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture -- Amount Awarded: \$2,330.

Summary: Future Harvest-CASA aims to improve farm profitability and environmental stewardship through the use of sustainable farming practices;

Since it was created, MAERDAF has helped more than 40 rural-serving organizations establish or continue programs and projects that have had a significant and positive impact on Rural Maryland. In addition, the modest state investment in the MAERDAF program has helped the nonprofit sector leverage a substantial amount of private and federal financial support.

to improve the regional economy and encourage the use of these practices by connecting producers with consumers and new markets; and to promote public policies that support farmer sustainability and profitability.

Program Funds: This grant was awarded to pay for costs associated with developing the "mastering marketing" tract for the 9th Annual Farming for Profit and Stewardship Conference, which attracts 250 farmers and agricultural professionals and is the largest education meeting of its type in Maryland.

Habitat for Humanity of Talbot & Dorchester Counties -- Amount Awarded: \$21,500.

Summary: Habitat for Humanity works to eliminate substandard housing for families whose income falls between 40-50 percent of the median household income for the county, as determined by HUD, and who are unable to obtain a mortgage from conventional bank sources due to their income level and/or credit history.

Program Funds: The grant was used to pay the salary and/or fringe benefits of a full-time construction supervisor for a second year. The construction supervisor is responsible for coordinating construction volunteers, subcontractors and materials.

LEAD Maryland -- Amount Awarded: \$32,000.

Summary: LEAD Maryland provides a network of skilled leaders who take leadership responsibilities in policy decision-making roles and organizational service roles in Maryland's agricultural, natural resources, and rural communities.

Program Funds 1 -- Grant funds of \$25,000 were used to help pay the salary of an assistant director for a second year.

Program Funds 2 -- Grant funds of \$7,000 were used to help defray expenses

associated with implementing a series of four three-day seminars.

Lower Shore Broadband Cooperative -- Amount Awarded: \$20,000.

Summary: The Cooperative works to provide high speed internet service to underserved residents and businesses on the Lower Shore. Its members are individuals, households and small businesses who are unable to obtain high speed service from larger providers

Program Funds: Grant funds were used to construct two wireless sites, each of which covers a two to three mile radius and serves 150 to 350 residents and businesses in small communities and farms.

Mac, Inc. -- Amount Awarded: \$13,105.

Summary: MAC is the designated agency on aging for Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties, dedicated to offering older persons lives of independence, dignity, and choice.

Program Funds: The grant was used to help administer the Managing Chronic Pain for Arthritis Program, a health promotion program that uses an innovative approach to pain management.

Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts -- Amount Awarded: \$9,880.

Summary: The Association promotes practical and effective soil, water and related natural resources programs through individual conservation districts on a voluntary basis through leadership, education, cooperation and local direction.

Program Funds: This grant was awarded to help the Association conduct the 2007 Maryland Envirothon, a statewide high school environmental education competition using the expertise of soil conservation districts and other natural

resource professionals to teach students about natural resources.

Maryland Capital Enterprises (MCE) -- Amount Awarded: \$21,625.

Summary: The MCE provides education, loans, and technical assistance to entrepreneurs in eight economically distressed communities on the Eastern Shore. Its target audience is the potential microentrepreneur from traditionally underserved minority and low income populations.

Program Funds: The grant was used to pay the salary and benefits for an additional staff position who helped MCE cultivate additional partnerships and solidify existing ones.

Maryland FFA Foundation -- Amount Awarded: \$8,000.

Summary: The Future Farmers of America Foundation partners with business, industry and individuals to develop and support a strong statewide FFA program that contributes to the professional and personal development of Maryland youth. The Foundation provides financial support for 1,400 members and 5,000 agricultural education students.

Program Funds: The grant was awarded to help the FFA meet expenses associated with conducting a state convention and career development event for 300 high school students.

Maryland Forests Association (MFA) -- Amount Awarded: \$5,000.

Summary: The MFA promotes the maintenance of a healthy and productive forest in order to enhance the economic, environmental and social well being of Marylanders.

Program Funds: The grant was awarded to pay for expenses associated with the MFA's annual meeting which draws about 200 people from around the state.

Maryland Rural Development Corporation -- Amount Awarded: \$22,510.

Summary: The Maryland Rural Development Corporation, the community action agency serving Cecil, Kent and Caroline counties, provides resources that promote self-sufficiency in low income families and builds strong, sustainable communities throughout rural Maryland.

Program Funds: The grant was awarded to help MRDC continue its Emergency Preparedness Taskforce Initiative, a demonstration project to develop best practices, eliminate barriers and increase

Year	Agribusiness Ag/Forestry Ed	Economic Development	Community Development
FY 2001	\$191,000	\$7,000	\$149,000
FY 2002	\$193,320	\$24,320	\$128,500
FY 2003	\$128,680	\$150,000	\$127,000
FY 2004	\$54,000	\$30,000	\$38,192
FY 2005	\$66,350	\$64,100	\$17,208
FY 2007	\$95,955	\$75,508	\$124,462
FY 2008	\$81,130	\$88,625	\$118,984
Total	\$844,435	\$439,553	\$703,346

local emergency preparedness in at-risk, low income and venerable communities.

Microenterprise Council of Maryland (MCM) -- Amount Awarded: \$12,000.

Summary: The MCM promotes small business development by fostering and promoting enterprise activity through capacity building, education, training, technical assistance and resource development.

Program Funds: Grant funds were awarded to help MCM develop a one-stop web-based information clearinghouse where a host of service providers can be accessed in one place, providing 24/7 access to rural Maryland's entrepreneurship provider network.

Mid-Shore Regional Council -- Amount Awarded: \$24,000.

Summary: The Mid-Shore Regional Council serves the businesses and residents of Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot counties by initiating and coordinating plans and projects for the development of human and economic resources.

Program Funds: Grant funds were provided to continue funding an agricultural economic development specialist, who is responsible for planning, marketing and managing economic development strategies to attain, retain and grow ag businesses in the region. The ag specialist also develops and implements ag polices and programs that lead to long-term economic viability of the industry in the region.

Mountain Laurel Medical Center -- Amount Awarded: \$44,000.

Summary: Mountain Laurel is a new federally qualified health center serving low income and uninsured residents

in medically underserved area of Western Maryland. Its goal is to provide quality, safe, accessible primary health care, wellness promotion, and education regardless of a patient's ability to pay.

Program Funds: As a start-up which had myriad challenges during its initial 18 months, Mountain Laurel had identified sustainable funding for 2008 but needed assistance meeting its payroll for the remainder of 2007. All grant funds were used to pay the salary of key personnel through the end of 2007.

Tri-County Council of Western Maryland -- Amount Awarded: \$10,000.

Summary: The Tri-County Council of Western Maryland works with local governments, businesses and education institutions to provide the programs and services needed in the region.

Program Funds: Grant funds were used to help pay the salary and benefits of the Business Technical Assistance Coordinator. The Business Technical Assistance Program promotes small business and entrepreneurial growth in western Maryland by working directly with existing business owners and start-up companies to develop and maintain a business plan.

Upper Shore Regional Council -- Amount Awarded: \$5,000.

Summary: The Upper Shore Regional Council fosters the physical, economic and social development of Cecil, Kent and Queen Anne's Counties.

Program Funds: Grant funds were used to help develop training programs for farmers interested in obtaining ISO 65 certification. The USRC is developing alternative markets for grains grown on the Eastern Shore, including markets in the European Union and China.

Appendix

MAERDAF Grantees, FY 2001 to FY 2008

Note: There was no MAERDAF appropriation in FY 2006

Grantee Organization	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2007	FY2008	Total
Allegany College					\$15,000			\$15,000
Carroll Community College (AATC)	\$15,875	\$7,220						\$23,095
Cecil Community College					\$14,950			\$14,950
Center for Children						\$13,100		\$13,100
Chesapeake Bay Region Technical Center of Excellence			\$15,000					\$15,000
Chesapeake Fields Insitute	\$15,000	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$10,000		\$11,300		\$111,300
Chester Bridge Foundation, Inc.					\$7,000	\$8,750		\$15,750
College of Southern MD			\$25,000	\$10,000	\$10,000			\$45,000
Delmarva Advisory Council	\$20,000							\$20,000
Delmarva Education Foundation						\$15,000	\$12,869	\$27,869
Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship						\$9,800		\$9,800
Friend of the Grape							\$20,000	\$20,000
Future Harvest, Inc.	\$20,000	\$18,500	\$20,000	\$5,000			\$2,330	\$65,830
Garrett Community College (AAATC)	\$20,000	\$22,000	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$9,500			\$81,500
Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay Region						\$10,000	\$5,000	\$15,000
Habitat for Humanity of Talbot County						\$32,000	\$21,500	\$53,500
LEAD Maryland	\$23,500	\$30,000	\$29,180	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$35,000	\$32,000	\$177,680
Lower Shore Broadband Cooperative						\$12,958	\$20,000	\$32,958
Lower Shore Child Care Resource Center						\$9,362		\$9,362
MAC, Inc.							\$13,105	\$13,105
MD Agricultural Education Fund	\$20,000	\$28,400	\$28,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$32,660		\$119,060
MD Association of Soil Conservation Districts (Environthon)	\$20,000	\$17,200	\$6,500	\$10,000	\$7,900	\$10,495	\$9,800	\$81,895
MD Capital Enterprises						\$19,000	\$21,625	\$40,625
MD Center for Community Development (Rural Training)	\$20,000	\$20,000						\$40,000
MD Eastern Shore Resource Conservation & Development Council	\$6,000							\$6,000
MD FFA Foundation, Inc.						\$6,500	\$8,000	\$14,500
MD Forests Association	\$20,000	\$20,000					\$5,000	\$45,000
MD Organic Food & Farming Association	\$16,625							\$16,625
MD Rural Development Corporation	\$50,000	\$47,500	\$47,000	\$10,400	\$13,208	\$25,000	\$22,510	\$215,618
MD Rural Health Association	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$35,000	\$10,000	\$4,000	\$5,000		\$134,000
MD Rural Water Association	\$21,000							\$21,000
Medbank of MD						\$15,000		\$15,000
Microenterprise Council of MD			\$30,000	\$10,000	\$29,600	\$5,000	\$12,000	\$86,600
Mid-Shore Regional Council				\$10,000		\$24,000	\$24,000	\$58,000
Mountain Laurel Medical Center							\$44,000	\$44,000
Salisbury Univeristy - BEACON		\$24,320						\$24,320
Southern MD Resource Conservation and Development Council	\$6,000	\$21,000	\$15,000					\$42,000
Tri-County Council for Southern MD			\$30,000					\$30,000
Tri-County Council of Western MD	\$7,000				\$500	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$27,500
Tri-State Community Health Center			\$30,000	\$17,792				\$47,792
UMES - Rural Development Center (Distressed Community Econ Dev)			\$50,000		\$12,000			\$62,000
Upper Shore Regional Council				\$10,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$30,000
Western MD Resource Conservation and Development Council	\$6,000							\$6,000
Total Grants	\$347,000	\$346,140	\$405,680	\$132,192	\$147,658	\$319,925	\$288,739	\$1,987,334
Average Grant Amounts to Organization	\$19,278	\$26,626	\$27,045	\$10,169	\$10,547	\$15,235	\$16,041	\$17,849

For more information about the MAERDAF Program, Visit: www.rural.state.md.us/News/MAERDAF.html