

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF)

Report to the Maryland General Assembly

Fiscal Year 2017



Town of Denton Courthouse, Caroline County, Photo Courtesy of Town of Denton

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Overview

On March 29, 2016, the Maryland Legislature passed the Fiscal Year 2017 State Operating Budget which included funds to support the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF), a key step forward in addressing disparities in the State's rural areas. The Rural Maryland Council would like to thank Governor Hogan for inclusion of funds to support RMPIF, the Maryland House of Delegates and Maryland Senate for their support and, in particular, the Senate Budget and Taxation and House Appropriations Committees.

For the first time since its authorization in 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.

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.

FY 2017 Program

The Rural Maryland Council (RMC) was pleased to receive \$2,167,000 in a General Fund Appropriation for RMPIF in Fiscal Year 2017.

FY 2017 RMPIF Grant Review Board

- **Mindie Burgoyne**, Regional Development Representative for the Maryland Department of Commerce -Lower Shore
- **Karen Fedor**, Senior Agricultural Marketing Specialist, Maryland Department of Agriculture
- **Temi Oshiyoye**, Director, State Office of Rural Health, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- **Dona Sorce**, Project Manager, Division of Neighborhood Revitalization, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development
- **Angela Spencer**, Correctional Classification Specialist, Frederick County Sheriff's Office
- **Dan Rider**, Maryland DNR Forest Service, Forest Stewardship & Utilization Program Manager

RMPIF Coordinator

- **Charlotte Davis**, Executive Director, Rural Maryland Council

RMPIF Funding

Funds were used to support the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) Fiscal Year 2017 Grant Awards, Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) Fiscal Year 2017 Grant Awards, and to support RMC operating expenses. The majority of the \$2,167,000 in appropriated funds were expended, with the exception of RMC operating expenses of approximately \$265,000.

RMPIF Grant Allocation	
Regional Councils	\$555,667.00
Infrastructure	\$ 277,833.00
Entrepreneurship	\$277,833.00
Health Care	\$277,833.00
MAERDAF	\$388,917.00
RMC Operating Expenses	\$388,917.00
TOTAL	\$2,167,000.00

RMPIF Grant Awards

In FY 2017, the average grant amount was \$46,305.62. **During FY 2017, a total of 43 applications were submitted with a total of \$3,279,377.47 requested.** A total of 23 grants totaling \$1,389,166.00 were distributed to 23 organizations. Grants were focused to four areas: entrepreneurship, health care, infrastructure and regional councils.

FY 2017 RMPIF Entrepreneurship Grantees				
Applicant	Organization	Region	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Cecil County Government, Office of Economic Development	Local Government	Eastern	\$100,000.00	\$68,522 .00
Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center	Nonprofit	Eastern	\$107,750.00	\$66,808.00
Eastern Shore Innovation Center, Dorchester County	Local Government	Eastern	\$119,500.00	\$77,531.00
Frederick Innovation Technology Center	Nonprofit	Western	\$113,917.00	\$77,528.00
Frostburg State University	University/College	Western	\$13,205.20	\$ 6,500.00
Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation/Young Entrepreneurs Academy	Nonprofit	Eastern	\$ 10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Maryland Rural Development Corporation	Nonprofit	Eastern	\$25,000.00	\$18,000.00
TOTAL			\$489,372.20	\$324,889.00

RMPIF Entrepreneurship– Scopes of Work

Cecil County Government, Office of Economic Development

– Award Amount: \$68,522.00

Summary: The mission of the Cecil County's Office of Economic Development (OED) is to stimulate economic growth and job creation through the expansion of the County's existing business and agricultural base, attraction of new business and the development of tourism. The OED is taking the first steps to establish a Cecil County Business Incubation Program, in partnership with Cecil College.

Program Funds: RMPIF funding hired a personnel and furnishings necessary to start the operations to

develop and create a business incubation program in Cecil County, which will serve Harford, Kent and Cecil entrepreneurs.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Photo Courtesy of Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center

Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center
– Award Amount: \$66,808.00

Summary: The principal purpose of the Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center is to stimulate and support entrepreneurship and startups in Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties.

Program Funds: RMPHF funding helped to make entrepreneurs and manufacturers more competitive and sustainable through the introduction of digital designs, virtual rendering, and rapid prototyping on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. Funds were expended to support renovation of spaces for prototyping lab facilities, purchase of materials and supplies, and hiring of a Director of Digital Fabrication for Revolution

Labs. To date, four proposals have been received to design and print 3D prototypes. Two events have been held, including a Revolution Lab Open House with instruction in Solid Works, and a three-day printing meeting event.

Eastern Shore Innovation Center, Dorchester County
– Award Amount: \$77,531

Summary: The Eastern Shore Innovation Center’s mission is to spur sustainable economic vitality in the region through high growth entrepreneurship, innovative practices in the business community, technology commercialization, and business incubation/acceleration.

Program Funds: RMPHF funding provided financial assistance to construct a wet lab as a resource for businesses in the Eastern Shore. The facility greatly expanded the capability of the Eastern Shore Innovation Center to support the regional development of businesses in the biomedical technology world, as well as growth of a technically educated workforce. Examples of this have included a PhD Pharmacy student who has joined the co-working space to develop three lines of businesses which require a wet lab for product testing and developing a productivity tool in the laboratory research field, as well as a new procedure and consulting services to ensure the consistency of beverage production.

Frederick Innovation Technology Center
– Award Amount: \$77,528

Summary: Frederick Innovation Technology Center’s (FITCI) mission is to encourage technological innovation and accelerate the development of commercially viable technology based businesses by providing a nurturing and supportive environment.

Program Funds: RMPHF funding addressed the immediate physical needs of the FITCI facility along with the development of community outreach and marketing. This goal was accomplished by creating a shared biotech lab to accommodate new, promising, and emerging businesses, and revitalizing the facility.

Funds were used to Hire a BIOsafety Lab Technician and replace Autoclave, Centrifuge, PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) machine, and Ice machine with upgraded equipment.

Frostburg State University

– Award Amount: \$6,500

Summary: Frostburg University is a student-centered teaching and learning institution featuring experiential opportunities, and prepares future leaders to meet the challenges of a complex and global society.

Program Funds: RMPHF funds were used to conduct a feasibility study to determine the effectiveness of the University of Kansas Red Tire (Redefine Your Retirement) program and to determine how successful it is and if it can be replicated in Western Maryland. The study evaluated how many businesses would qualify for and what is needed for succession and exit planning in Western Maryland over the next five years, as well as to determine how many graduates would be interested in buying and operating an existing family business.

Maryland Rural Development Corporation

– Award Amount: \$18,000

Summary: The Maryland Rural Development Corporation (MRDC) provides resources that promote self-sufficiency in low-income families and build strong, sustainable communities throughout rural Maryland.

Program Funds: RMPHF funding allowed the Maryland Rural Development Corporation to expand the Circuit Rider Program by hiring an experienced circuit rider with the technical knowledge and connections to begin and develop an economic development program. The Circuit Rider Program has addressed the issues of poverty and town management in rural towns on the Mid-Shore and Western Maryland. This program was expanded to include business development assistance to the Eastern Shore towns of Barclay, Betterton, and Goldsboro.

Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation/ Young Entrepreneurs Academy

– Award Amount: \$10,000

Summary: The Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce is an organization of community focused leaders dedicated to promoting a positive business environment by supporting economic development through networking, teamwork and innovative thinking. The Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) is an intensive entrepreneurship training program guides middle and high school students through the process of starting and running a legitimate business or social movement over the course of six months.

Program Funds: RMPHF funds were expended to hire a Program Manager responsible for the management and coordination of the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) Program and to hire instructors skilled in entrepreneurship and business consulting to teach fundamental skills needed to launch an enterprise. The program served young entrepreneurs in Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset, and Dorchester Counties. To date, a total of 23 students have participated in the program.

FY 2017 RMPHF Health Care Grantees				
Applicant	Organization	Region	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Affiliated Sante Group	Nonprofit	Eastern	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 41,784.00
Calvert Memorial Hospital	Nonprofit	Southern	\$ 62,380.00	\$61,661.00
Delmarva Community Services, Inc.	Nonprofit	Eastern	\$117,942.00	\$58,263.00
Eastern Shore & Western Shore Area Health Education Centers	Nonprofit	Statewide	\$88,661.00	\$ 51,282.00
Garrett Regional Medical Center	Local Government	Western	\$32,270.00	\$25,404.00

SHORE UP!	Nonprofit	Eastern	\$21,554.00	\$14,454.00
West Cecil Health Center, Inc.	Nonprofit	Eastern	\$107,174.00	\$43,805.00
Worcester County Health Department/ Lower Eastern Shore Suicide Prevention Coalition	Local Government	Eastern	\$40,000.00	\$ 28,284.00
TOTAL			\$584,981.00	\$324,937.00

RMPIF Health Care– Scopes of Work

Affiliated Sante Group

– Award Amount: \$41,784

Summary: The Affiliated Sante Group facilitates the wellbeing and safety of individuals at-risk for emotional distress, as well as their communities by development and delivery of tailored, recovery-based health services and innovative crisis intervention and response systems.

Program Funds: RMPIF funding assisted with the expansion of the Eastern Shore Operations Call Center, a 24/7 crisis response service, including recruiting, hiring and training of an Operations Center Phone Counselor, increased number of out-going follow-up calls with clients and appropriate persons/organizations, increased number of incoming calls with clients who are in crisis, and increased client satisfaction surveys completed by the Operations Center.

This increased staffing assisted in the program’s ability to provide intensive follow-up calls during evening hours when clients are typically home. Affiliated Sante achieved an increase of 81% over Fiscal Year 2016 in outgoing phone calls; the total number of outgoing phone calls for November and December 2016 were 632.

Calvert Memorial Hospital

– Award Amount: \$61,661

Summary: Calvert Memorial Hospital is a member of Calvert Health System - a trusted team that provides Southern Maryland residents with safe, high quality health care and promotes wellness for a healthy community.

Program Funds: RMPIF funding supported the expansion of the Calvert CARES (Collaborative Activation of Resources and Empowerment Services) program to other regions of Southern Maryland. Calvert CARES is a discharge care clinic program that helps Calvert Memorial Hospital reduce re-admissions following a visit to the Emergency Department or an inpatient/outpatient/observation stay.

Delmarva Community Services, Inc.

– Award Amount: \$58,263

Summary: Delmarva Community Services, Inc. is a multi-service, nonprofit agency dedicated to helping people who wish to maintain dignity, and an independent lifestyle within their community on the Delmarva Peninsula.

Program Funds: RMPIF funding provided a handicap accessible vehicle to provide transportation for individuals who live in remote areas of the Eastern Shore (Kent, Talbot and Dorchester Counties) to better access healthcare and achieve a more normal lifestyle. Between July and December 2016, 400 door to door transportation services were provided for veterans. Between July and December 2016, 1,073 transportation trips were provided to individuals with mobility management issues to access vital health care appointments.

Eastern Shore & Western Shore Area Health Education Centers

– Award Amount: \$51,282

Summary: Through collaborative partnerships, the Eastern Shore and Western Shore Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) will become a leader in providing educational services and programs to assist rural communities in the retention and recruitment of health care professionals.

Program Funds: RMPHF funds were used to rent and maintain two additional units in Dorchester and Frederick Counties to be utilized to house medical/pharmacy students, and residents and other health profession students, during their community-based clinical training as part of their formal educational programs.

Garrett Regional Medical Center

– Award Amount: \$25,404

Summary: Garrett Regional Medical Center’s mission is to promote the health of their regional community and provide safe, high-quality care and effective health services for patients.

Program Funds: RMPHF funds were used to support the operation of a Stop Smoking Program aimed for pregnant women, their families, and parents of children in the Garrett County Head Start program. To date, four parents have been enrolled in the program.

SHORE UP!

– Award Amount: \$14,454

Summary: SHORE UP! Inc. is dedicated to building communities, changing lives, and empowering individuals and families to maintain long-term independence and achieve economic self-sufficiency, through a comprehensive system of services and resources on the Eastern Shore.

Program Funds: RMPHF funding supported the Shady Pines Adult Medical Day Care, serving Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties, and allowed the program to accept clients who have previously been denied service due to limited mobility and increased need of care.

West Cecil Health Center, Inc.

– Award Amount: \$43,805

Summary: The mission of the West Cecil Health Center, Inc. is to increase access to comprehensive primary and preventive health care and improve the health care status of underserved, underinsured and non-insured members of the community.

Program Funds: RMPHF funds assisted with the capital costs to outfit a new health access point in Elkton to address the need for additional primary care in the community. RMPHF funds were expended to purchase equipment for administrators, providers and exam rooms to furnish the new site in Elkton, Maryland, including exam tables, provider and patient chairs, office desks, and chairs.

Worcester County Health Department/Lower Eastern Shore Suicide Prevention Coalition

– Award Amount: \$28,284

Summary: Worcester County Health Department and the Lower Eastern Shore Suicide Prevention Coalition (LESSPC) will collaborate to provide quality behavioral health care and to maximize their ability to provide behavioral health services to the tri-county area of the Lower Eastern Shore.

Program Funds: RMPHF funding increased and expanded suicide prevention measures among rural youth, ages 10-25, in Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties. RMPHF funds were expended to provide support for the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST), a five day training event.

FY 2017 RMPIF Infrastructure Grantees				
Applicant	Organization	Region	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Town of Denton	Local Government	Eastern	\$ 48,000.00	\$ 48,000.00
Town of Myersville	Local Government	Western	\$ 59,000.00	\$59,000.00
Town of Preston	Local Government	Eastern	\$76,675.00	\$76,675.00
TOTAL			\$183,675.00	\$183,675.00

RMPIF Infrastructure– Scopes of Work

Town of Denton

– Award Amount: \$48,000

Summary: The Town of Denton’s mission is to provide services to property owners to the fullest of abilities and provide any other services required.

Program Funds: RMPIF funds were used to connect the Town Hall currently located at 4 North Second Street, the Denton Police Department at 100 North Third Street, the Crouse Park Visitor and Heritage Center and the Public Works Facility at 504 Choptank to a new fiber network. The grant also was used to tie the phone system and servers between the Public Works Facility and the Town Hall.

Town of Myersville

– Award Amount: \$59,000

Summary: The Town of Myersville is committed to serving its citizens and maintaining a level of community in a small town environment in the Appalachian Mountains.

Program Funds: RMPIF funding assisted in the construction of the Myersville Library. Specifically, the funds were used to ensure internet access to library users by supporting the installation of fiber optic cables for library patrons. RMPIF funds were expended to provide subcontracts for construction to provide for the installation of the fiber optic cables from the Myersville Elementary School to the Myersville Library to successfully provide internet services to the library.



Photo Courtesy of Town of Preston

Town of Preston

– Award Amount: \$76,675

Summary: The Town of Preston’s mission is to preserve and enhance the heritage and environment which are sources of pride to the Town, provide a balanced community in which industry, commerce, recreation and residence blend into a harmonious whole, and preserve and enhance the special aura which is unique to the Town on the Eastern Shore.

Program Funds: RMPIF funding addressed the need to have the Town of Preston's Waste Water Treatment Plant upgraded to be brought into compliance with basic Maryland Department of the Environment requirements, as well as to provide the

highest quality effluent possible based on the limits of technology. RMPIF funds were expended to provide for consultation services for final engineering and design of the waste water treatment plant to meet Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR) standards.

FY 2017 RMPIF Regional Council Grantees				
Applicant	Organization	Region	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Mid-Shore Regional Council	Regional Council	Eastern	\$111,133.00	\$111,133.00
Tri-County County of the Lower Eastern Shore	Regional Council	Eastern	\$111,133.00	\$111,133.00
Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland	Regional Council	Southern	\$111,133.00	\$111,133.00
Tri-County Council of Western Maryland	Regional Council	Western	\$111,133.00	\$111,133.00
Upper Shore Regional Council	Regional Council	Eastern	\$111,133.00	\$111,133.00
TOTAL			\$555,655.00	\$555,655.00

RMPIF Regional Councils– Scopes of Work

Mid-Shore Regional Council
– Award Amount: \$111,133

Summary: The Mid-Shore Regional Council operates as a cooperative regional planning and development agency for Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties to foster physical, economic, and social development.

Program Funds: RMPIF funds were used to initiate five projects including: 1). Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC): ESEC will work with the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland (TCCLES) to financially assist the operations of ESEC in its delivery of technical and financial assistance to the startup and entrepreneur ecosystem; 2). Shore Gourmet/Chesapeake Culinary: to support the hiring of a Development and Education Director; 3). Agricultural GIS Extension: Work with TCCLES and Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) to create a Geographic Information System for family farms to develop mapping and spatial analysis projects; 4). Health Data Dashboard: Work with TCCLES and the ESRGC to create a tool that various parties working to support the health industry can have easily accessible data; and, 5). Education Data Dashboard: Work with ESRGC to create a tool to aid various parties to more easily examine, track, compare educational investment within their own and across jurisdictions.

To date, 30 entrepreneurs were mentored and coached during interim period, five start-ups developed business model canvases, and three start-ups participated in improved pitches and investor deck programs as part of the ESEC project. The Shore Gourmet Denton market officially opened for business on October 13, 2016. The Agricultural GIS Extension was presented to 30 attendees at the Small Farms Conference.

Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore
– Award Amount: \$111,133

Summary: The Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore provides an array of services to meet significant regional needs as directed by local officials for Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset Counties.

Program Funds: RMPIF funding was used to support six projects, including: 1). Agriculture Dashboard: Support local farmers with mapping and data analysis, and build support capacity for local farmers by partnering with

regional extension services; 2). Health Data Dashboard: Build a functioning, robust health data dashboard; 3). Eastern Shore Entrepreneurial Center: Plan, organize and execute a number of events and activities that elevate skills and understanding for startup entrepreneurs; 4). Project Opportunity: Develop marketing materials and upgrade website; 5). Free Rides for Veterans: Increase Veteran ridership of Shore Transit; and, 6). Summer Youth Employment: Supplement existing regional summer youth employment programs.

The Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore successfully provided, to date, an increase in 650 free transportation rides for veterans. In addition, the Council provided a stipend placement for 19 youth in Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties for youth employment.

Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland

– Award Amount: \$111,133

Summary: The mission of the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland is to serve as a forum for the discussion and resolution of issues affecting the Southern Maryland region.

Program Funds: RMPHF funding was used to support four projects including, 1). Project Open Doors: Provides self-employment training, one-on-one counseling and business planning support to eligible participants; 2). 6th Annual Nine Innings of Networking Regional Hiring Event: A job fair for relieving conditions of unemployment and underemployment; 3). Southern Maryland JobSource Website: Provides a workforce service platform for jobseekers in Southern Maryland; and, 4). Healthcare Transportation Design Thinking Project: Guides community stakeholders through the Design Thinking process to develop and test innovative solutions aimed at improving access to healthcare while overcoming provider coordination barriers and leveraging existing transportation resources.

To date, the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland hosted a successful “Catch of the Day” Regional Hiring Event, formerly known as the Annual Nine Innings of Networking, in spring 2017.

Tri-County Council for Western Maryland

– Award Amount: \$111,133

Summary: The mission of the Tri-County Council for Western Maryland is to provide a forum for local governments and citizens throughout Western Maryland to identify the issues and opportunities that are facing the region.

Program Funds: RMPHF funding were used in conjunction with funding from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development/Appalachian Regional Commission’s Appalachian Economic Development Initiative to enhance the operation of the Tri-County Council of Western Maryland loan fund program, Summit Financing Solutions, to better serve the needs of the business and entrepreneurial community, and provide technical assistance for companies to acquire professional services that will enhance their business and their opportunity for securing required financing.

To date, the Tri-County Council of Western Maryland has received 32 inquiries for loans, and nine loan applications. As of the time of the interim report, two loans were approved and four remained in process.

Upper Shore Regional Council

– Award Amount: \$111,133

Summary: The mission of the Upper Shore Regional Council (USRC) is to foster regional planning and development for Cecil, Kent and Queen Anne’s counties; to afford federal, state, county and local governments a regional forum to identify issues and opportunities; and, to provide leadership in planning and implementing programs to improve the quality of life in the Upper Shore Region of Maryland.

Program Funds: Funding will be used to increase current and create new opportunities to enhance business development and retention in the Upper Shore Region.

RMPHF funding was used to support 1). The Eastern Shore Harvest Directory: a six-county business marketing and support project; 2). Expand the METS Guild youth project: a youth workforce development training project

specializing in three training areas, GIS, Web Design and Development, and Virtualization/Gaming, in partnership with Washington College; and, 3). Further developing and expanding the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) to include planning and strategizing for a business incubator with regional access.

To date, the METS Guild has 46 student participants, an increase from 24 students in 2015. As of the time of the interim report, the Upper Shore Regional Council has mass distributed the Harvest Directory brochure, and conducted planning meetings for CEDs.

FY 2017 RMPIF Grantees By Region			
	# Grantees	Total Awarded	% of grant funds awarded
Eastern Shore (9 Counties)	14	\$867,525.00	62%
Southern Maryland (3 Counties)	2	\$172,794.00	12%
Western Maryland (5 Counties)	5	\$279,565.00	21%
Statewide	2	\$ 69,282.00	5%
Total	23	\$1,389,166.00	100%

FY 2017 RMPIF Total Applicants By Region			
	# Applicants	Total Requested	% of requested funds
Eastern Shore (9 Counties)	29	\$2,360,643.71	72%
Southern Maryland (3 Counties)	3	\$218,565.00	6.7%
Western Maryland (5 Counties)	7	\$426,478.20	13%
Central Maryland (2 Counties)	1	\$45,029.56	1.4%
Statewide	3	\$ 228,661.00	7%
Total	43	\$3,279,377.47	100%

FY 2017 RMPIF Grantees by Category			
	# Grantees	Total Awarded	% of grant funds awarded
Entrepreneurship	7	\$324,889.00	23%
Infrastructure	3	\$183,675.00	13%
Health Care	8	\$324,937.00	23%
Regional Council	5	\$555,665.00	40%
Total	23	\$1,389,166.00	100%

FY 2017 RMPIF Grantees by Organization Type			
	# Grantees	Total Awarded	% of grant funds awarded
Local Government	7	\$383,416.00	28%
Institution of Higher Education	1	\$6,500.00	.46%
Nonprofit	10	\$443,585.00	32%
Regional Council	5	\$555,665.00	40%
Total	23	\$1,389,166.00	100%

MAERDAF Grant Awards

MAERDAF grants supports small and agricultural businesses with enhanced training and technical assistance, and rural nonprofit organizations that promote statewide and regional planning, economic and community development, and agricultural and forestry education. In FY 2017, the average grant amount awarded was \$13,236.12. **During FY 2017, a total of 95 applications were submitted with a total of \$2,026,212.28 requested.** A total of 42 grants totaling \$555,917.00 were distributed to 42 organizations. Of the total awarded grants, 27 were supported by RMPIF funds. The remainder of the grant awards were funded from FY17 MAERDAF funds appropriated through a separate line-item in the State’s Operating Budget.

FY 2017 MAERDAF Grantees (RMPIF Funded)				
Applicant	Category	Region	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Allegany College of Maryland	Community College	Western	\$9,000.00	\$7,185.00
Allegany Health Right	Health	Western	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 9,580.00
Asian American Center of Frederick	Health	Western	\$13,880.00	\$13,297.00
Bay Area Center for Independent Living	Economic/Community Development	Eastern	\$15,100.00	\$6,227.00
Chesterwye Center, Inc./Benedictine School	Health	Eastern	\$26,500.00	\$15,807.00
Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust	Ag/Forestry	Southern	\$29,020.00	\$22,513.00
Crossroads Community, Inc.	Health	Eastern	\$5,330.00	\$3,682.70
Delmarva Community Services, Inc.	Health	Eastern	\$30,000.00	\$14,370.00
Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center	Health	Eastern	\$30,000.00	\$21,555.00

Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation	Ag/Forestry	Western	\$30,000.00	\$11,304.40
Farming 4 Hunger	Economic/Community Development	Southern	\$30,000.00	\$14,370.00
For All Seasons, Inc.	Health	Eastern	\$30,000.00	\$21,788.75
Frederick CTC/FFA Alumni	Ag/Forestry	Western	\$30,000.00	\$14,370.00
Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology	Ag/Forestry	Eastern	\$15,000.00	\$8,143.00
Heart of the Civil War Heritage Center	Econ/Community Dev	Western	\$13,355.00	\$12,794.09
LEAD Maryland Foundation	Ag/Forestry	Statewide	\$30,000.00	\$19,160.00
MAC, Inc.	Health	Eastern	\$15,040.00	\$5,786.32
Maryland Business Incubation Association	Economic/Community Development	Statewide	\$17,800.00	\$11,496.00
Maryland Farmers Market Association	Economic/Community Development	Statewide	\$17,675.00	\$16,932.65
Maryland Forest Association	Ag/Forestry	Statewide	\$5,700.00	\$5,460.60
MedStar St. Mary's Hospital	Health	Southern	\$30,000.00	\$23,950.00
Preservation Maryland	Economic/Community Development	Statewide	\$30,000.00	\$19,160.00
SHORE UP!	Economic/Community Development	Eastern	\$16,313.80	\$15,628.62
Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Board, Inc.	Ag/Forestry	Southern	\$30,000.00	\$22,034.00
Spring Dell Center, Inc.	Economic/Community Development	Southern	\$30,000.00	\$14,370.00
Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art	Economic/Community Development	Eastern	\$30,000.00	\$14,370.00
Western Maryland Resource Conservation and Development, Inc.	Ag/Forestry	Western	\$20,000.00	\$19,160.00
TOTAL			\$589,713.80	\$384,495.17

MAERDAF Grant Awards– Scopes of Work

Allegany College of Maryland

– Award Amount: \$7,185

Summary: Allegany College of Maryland is a lifelong learning community dedicated to excellence in education and responsive to the changing needs of the communities served.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding provided matching funds for a Volunteer Maryland Coordinator position to assist with the founding efforts of a two-county Volunteer Center that will serve citizens in Allegany & Garrett Counties. The Volunteer Maryland Coordinator has built a volunteer website platform that will be used to train

organizations on how to support their missions in their communities.

In addition, the Volunteer Maryland Coordinator has collected 118 pounds of food for the Western Maryland Food Bank, which has been distributed to 20-25 families. The Volunteer Maryland Coordinator has also organized and recruited 20 community volunteers to clean-up a local city park (five acres) that included an abandoned cemetery.

Allegany Health Right

– Award Amount: \$9,580

Summary: Allegany Health Right's mission is to increase access to health care services for low-income adults in Allegany and Garrett Counties.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding has supported the Dental Access Program serving Allegany and Garrett Counties. The Dental Access Program provides urgent dental treatment for adults in the target population, delivers oral health education through presentations and appointments, and provides follow up with project participants via meetings, phone and email.

106 individuals have agreed to participate in one on one oral health improvement follow-ups with a Community Health Worker. The Community Health Worker has also conducted ten community presentations, reaching 191 vulnerable adults and their caregivers. The Community Health Worker also participated in larger outreach events, such as a Senior Fair. In a four month time, 1,955 people were reached out to through these larger events. Allegany Health Right provided urgent dental care to over 162 low income adults in 236 dental visits for a total of \$100,237 worth of services.

Asian American Center of Frederick

– Award Amount: \$13,297.04

Summary: The mission of the Asian American Center of Frederick (AACF) is to support ethnic minorities and immigrants in their pursuit of the American dream. AACF works to eliminate barriers to health care, employment, and human services.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding partially supported the coordination of the Community Health Worker (CHW) program and Retired and Senior Volunteer (RSVP) program, as part of the Minority Outreach and Technical Assistance program to address health disparities. Funding supported the development of an integrated service and outreach model to improve access to preventive care for Frederick and neighboring county residents by the newly developed CHW program, a coordinated plan for using Community Health Workers in partnership with Frederick Memorial Hospital, Frederick County Health Department and other providers, and delivery of three Health Disparity slideshow programs to ethnic minority business/community non-health leadership groups.

The October 2016 Health Fair collected 172 Health Disparity surveys and provided direct health services to 811 attendees. The first official Community Health Worker cohort has been developed, with participants having accomplished 160 hours of training.

Bay Area Center for Independent Living

– Award Amount: \$6,227

Summary: Through innovative services, Bay Area Center for Independent Living empowers and inspires people with disabilities to build a better tomorrow.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported the Vocational Training Program to allow students with disabilities to gain employment skills in Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties. The funding provided for the purchase of four touch screen computers for the vocational demonstration lab.

Chesterwye Center, Inc. and Benedictine School

– Award Amount: \$15,807

Summary: The mission of the Chesterwye Center, Inc. is to enhance the lives of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to explore their possibilities toward informed choice and personal independence. The Benedictine School helps children and adults with developmental disabilities to achieve their greatest potential.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding provided training to direct support professionals to meet the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) Community Rule that requires that people with intellectual/developmental disabilities must live in community settings and work or volunteer in community businesses. Chesterwye and Benedictine contracted with the National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (NADSP) to conduct two days of training with the Direct Support Professionals.

Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust

– Award Amount: \$22,513

Summary: Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust (CPNHT) is a non-profit Trust located in Calvert County. Their mission is to preserve and protect ecologically sensitive sites in Southern Maryland through land conservation, acquisition, scientific research, and environmental education.

Program Funds: MAERDAF provided a portion of a living and travel stipend for a Volunteer Maryland Coordinator for training. Funding was used to hire a part-time teacher to develop long-term regional support partnerships to ensure program longevity, present education trainings for Southern Maryland teachers and conduct student service learning. The Volunteer Maryland Coordinator has assisted with recruiting 20 students to plant native plants to increase visibility and attractiveness of trail map signs.

In addition, eight Girl Scouts and four Scout Leaders have been recruited to assist with marking trails. The first Maryland Master Naturalist program in St. Mary's County has been established and consulted with Calvert County's American Chestnut Land Trust on Master Naturalist program for best practices and lessons learned. 20 volunteer candidates from Calvert and St. Mary's have been accepted into the Master Naturalist training program. 10 experts from Central and Southern Maryland region have been recruited to present Master Naturalist training.

Crossroads Community, Inc.

– Award Amount: \$3,682.70

Summary: The mission of Crossroads Community, Inc. is to teach skills and to access resources that empower people with behavioral health needs to live satisfying and productive lives. Crossroads promotes community acceptance through advocacy and community education.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding helped to establish "natural supports" in the community for individuals managing mental illness. Funds supported a Volunteer Maryland Coordinator placement and associated expenses to recruit community volunteers and cultivate partnerships. To date, the Volunteer Maryland Coordinator has recruited four individuals to volunteer for Crossroads Community as Companions to consumers or in an administrative capacity.



Horticulture Training Center participants, Photo Courtesy of Delmarva Community Services

Delmarva Community Services, Inc.

– Award Amount: \$14,370

Summary: Delmarva Community Services, Inc. (DCS), is a multi-service, nonprofit agency dedicated to helping people who wish to maintain dignity, and an independent lifestyle within their community on the Delmarva Peninsula.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding increased access to the local community for DCS individuals and developed new partnerships and opportunities for job skills training. In addition, funding increased the number of Horticultural Training Center clients with community-centered goals. Funds supported the purchase of a vehicle for the Horticulture Training Center, capable of carrying 12 passengers and handling a large volume of sales products.

Individuals in the program have learned how to care for plants, how to volunteer in the community in horticulture and agriculture-related activities, and how to sell products that they have worked hard on. For the third year in a row, the Horticulture Training Center sold handmade, fresh Fraser Fir wreaths during the holiday season. Sales for the wreaths were the highest ever with a total of \$3,000.00 sold, an increase of \$800.00 from the previous year.

Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center

– Award Amount: \$21,555

Summary: Through collaborative partnerships, the Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center (AHEC) will become a leader in providing educational services and programs to assist rural communities in the retention and recruitment of health care professionals.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding has trained a cohort of 15 Community Health Workers (CHWs) to meet demands of current health care deficit on the Eastern Shore. Assistance in job placement was provided for all trained CHWs upon training completion.



Evergreen Barn Project, Photo Courtesy of Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation

Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation

– Award Amount: \$11,304.40

Summary: The Evergreen Heritage Center (EHC) Foundation is dedicated to utilizing experiential learning to provide rural Maryland's citizens with the knowledge and practical experience to compete in today's economy. To achieve that goal, the Foundation has partnered with the region's academic and business communities to collaborate in leveraging the resources of the EHC, as well as its partners' expertise, to develop an outdoor learning center that provides hands-on education for children, youth, and adults.

Program Funds: The purpose of the Evergreen Barn Project is to repair and renovate the Evergreen Barn, originally built in the late 1700s and now part of Federal Hill/Evergreen which is listed on both the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties and the National Register. Repairs and renovations resulted in the preservation and repurposing of an historic Maryland structure that will serve as both a farm museum and venue for education and

events while exemplifying the story of sustainable agriculture and forestry.

Beginning in the fall 2016 (and continuing throughout the school year), visiting early childhood, middle, high school, and college students learned about the Barn and the Barn Project. 612 students learned how the Barn supported farming at the Evergreen Heritage Center, its role on the farm, and the farm's soil and water resources. 104 college students and other adults gained knowledge focused on the Project itself including the design, use of heritage technology, and the Barn's role in the history of the farm.

Farming 4 Hunger

– Award Amount: \$14,370

Summary: Farming 4 Hunger's mission is to feed the hungry and help feed the soul. Farming 4 Hunger serves the Southern Maryland community, as well as the State through partnerships with the Maryland Food Bank.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding prepared incarcerated men in Pre-Release for living in the outside world by developing skills, including agricultural education. Funding assisted inmates and supported the development of business relationships for employment opportunities in Southern Maryland. The program has been successful in recruiting three guest mentors to discuss financial literacy, banking, math and English remediation skills to eight inmates currently serving on the Farm in individual and group sessions. In 2016, Farming 4 Hunger exceeded their goal of recruiting 5,000 volunteers and visitors by recruiting 16,000 volunteers, and held a successful Taste of the Farm event to promote awareness in the community.

For All Seasons, Inc.

– Award Amount: \$21,788.75

Summary: For All Season's mission is to provide trauma-certified mental health services, including 24-hour crisis hotlines, in Spanish and English, psychiatric and medication management, psychotherapy, school-based mental health services, group/therapy/support groups, and crisis response and support services for rape and sexual assault victims.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported the costs to become accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). Accreditation allows For All Seasons, Inc. to build institutional capacity to serve citizens of the five Mid-Shore counties with the highest quality of services.



Frederick CTC Student with Bee Smoker, Photo Courtesy of Frederick CTC

Frederick, Carroll and Washington Counties. Three nucs have been purchased for the spring, in addition to hive supplies. In addition, items were also purchased to help the honeybees survive the winter.

Frederick CTC/FFA Alumni

– Award Amount: \$14,370

Summary: The mission of the Frederick Career and Technology Center (CTC) and Future Farmers of America (FFA) Alumni Association is to support and advocate for agricultural education and the Future Farmers of America (FFA) through gifts of time, talent and financial resources at the local, state and national levels.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported the entrepreneurial agriculture program for Career and Technology Education students and promoted community-based agricultural enterprises in

Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology at the University of Maryland

– Award Amount: \$8,143

Summary: The mission of the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology is to promote the economic viability and environmental sustainability of Maryland’s farms and forests. The Center accomplishes this mission by funding applied research that is used to create policies and new management practices, as well as promote policy change and educate the public.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding increased the understanding of the poultry industry in Maryland by providing a platform for learning new technologies and solutions, creating a dialogue among diverse stakeholders and determining areas that need additional education and research among planners of the Eastern Shore’s nine counties. Funding supported a Poultry 101 Symposium and Planners' Meeting in May 2017.



Heart of the Civil War GeoTrail Kick-Off Event, Photo courtesy of Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area

Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area

– Award Amount: \$12,794.09

Summary: The mission of the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area is to promote stewardship of the historic, cultural and natural Civil War resources of Carroll, Frederick and Washington Counties.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding created a historical geocache trail to inspire geocache enthusiasts to learn about Civil War history, as well as encourage economic development by encouraging eating, drinking, shopping and lodging along the trail in Carroll, Washington, and Frederick Counties.

200 geocoins were claimed within one month of the trail month. 25 teams completed the geotrail between November 2016 to January 2017. Of the 180 participants who completed the trail, 54% were Marylanders, 79% lives outside of the boundaries of the Heritage Areas, 89% reported purchasing a snack/meal, 71% reported purchasing gas, and 8% reported spending a night in a hotel in a Heritage Area.

LEAD Maryland Foundation

– Award Amount: \$19,160

Summary: LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc. is dedicated to identifying and developing leadership to serve agriculture, natural resources, and rural communities.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding increased the overall capacity of the LEAD Maryland training program, to build the capacity of rural Maryland. Funds were implemented for four in-state multi-day seminars and to purchase the necessary equipment for Class IX Seminar 9 and Class X Fellows Seminars 1-3.

Maintaining Active Citizens, Inc. (MAC, Inc.)

– Award Amount: \$5,786.32

Summary: MAC, Inc. is the area agency on aging and disability resource center for Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties. Its mission is to preserve a dignified quality of life for older adults through serves that maintain healthy independent living, and help them manage challenges as they become frail.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported The Life After Breast Cancer program that serves women in rural communities on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, primarily Wicomico, Somerset and Worcester Counties. The project addresses the significant health issue of breast and gynecological cancer survivorship and particularly the correlation between weight gain and cancer recurrence of women in these communities who are underserved, underinsured and often financially vulnerable. To date, six breast cancer survivors were successfully recruited into the weight loss program.

Maryland Business Incubation Association

– Award Amount: \$11,496

Summary: The Maryland Business Incubation Association (MBIA) was founded in 2002 to advance business incubation in Maryland. Representing 25 incubators, MBIA supports nearly 550 companies across the state in both urban and rural areas. Since its inception, our incubators have generated 11,800 jobs, making it equivalent to one of the state's largest employers.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding facilitated greater attendance by rural entrepreneurs, especially those who are underserved, at Maryland TEDCO's Entrepreneur Expo, an annual statewide conference highlighting entrepreneurs and new startup businesses. 58 participants from rural Maryland communities attended the TEDCO Entrepreneur Expo in November 2016. The breakout session presented on rural entrepreneurship was successfully executed, and several attendees commented on its value to panel members post-session.

Maryland Farmers Market Association

– Award Amount: \$16,932.65

Summary: The mission of the Maryland Farmers Market Association (MDFMA) is to cultivate a vibrant and sustainable farmers' market community in Maryland as a means of supporting local agricultural producers, providing access to fresh, nutritious foods for all, and cultivating positive community spaces.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported Maryland's farmers markets by increasing the capacity of rural market farmers to effectively market directly to consumers through farmers markets thereby increasing their profits and the markets' capacity to provide sustainable community benefit. Funding provided 40 hours of technical assistance to market managers, hosted two in-person trainings to 45 attendees, and developed a *Guide to Selling at Maryland Farmers' Markets* publication.

Maryland Forest Association

– Award Amount: \$5,460.60

Summary: The mission of the Maryland Forests Association is to conserve and enhance forests in Maryland by increasing awareness of the diverse, public benefits of forests, supporting the sustainable use of forest resources, promoting economic opportunity for forest landowners, and maintaining a viable local forest products industry.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding increased awareness of value-added products and services opportunities associated with forest products. The Maryland Forests Association also increased knowledge of forestry organizations that exist in the State and that serve as resources to private landowners and forestry professionals; enhance Maryland's

forestry community; improved communication and awareness of forestry-related resource organizations; and, strengthened and forged relationships between Maryland Forest Association and other rural and natural resources-based organizations.

Funding supported three educational workshops during the fall 2016 in Allegany, Baltimore, and Wicomico Counties to offer maximized opportunity for individuals from across the State to attend, as well as to address region-specific issues. A total of 120 attendees, including 14 forestry students, attended the three workshops.

MedStar St. Mary's Hospital

– Award Amount: \$23,950

Summary: MedStar St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown, Maryland is a community hospital that upholds its tradition of caring by continuously promoting, maintaining and improving health through education and services while assuring quality care, patient safety, and fiscal integrity.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding expanded education, outreach, and basic health screenings across Southern Maryland. Funding supported the purchase and customization of a mobile resource vehicle and equipment for outreach events. To date, MedStar St. Mary's Hospital has reached 2,200 residents in Charles and St. Mary's Counties at 30 various community events and programs. 198 patients have received follow-up calls and referrals for services based on outcomes of screenings and assessments.

Preservation Maryland

– Award Amount: \$19,160

Summary: Preservation Maryland works to protect the historic places, stories, and communities in Maryland that matter, and dedicated to preserving Maryland's historic buildings, neighborhoods, landscapes, and archeological sites through advocacy, funding, and outreach.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding helped rural homeowners of historic properties in the nine counties of the Eastern Shore become aware of the tax credit program for historic preservation and help them access resources to preserve their houses.

Preservation Maryland conducted four in-person educational workshops for owners of historic properties, two in-person workshops for preservation commission members and preservation professionals, and 2 educational webinars for property owners. Preservation Maryland successfully contacted a total of 8,465 individuals as a part of the workshops and outreach.

SHORE UP!

– Award Amount: \$15,628.62

Summary: SHORE UP! Inc. is dedicated to building communities, changing lives, and empowering individuals and families to maintain long-term independence and achieve economic self-sufficiency, through a comprehensive system of services and resources on the Eastern Shore.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported the Out-of-School Youth (OSY) Services Program, which is intended to ensure youth ages 16-24 have the education they need to succeed on the job, while providing them with specific occupational skills training, work experiences, and supportive services so that they may become and remain gainfully employed, especially in professions in high demand. Funds created a computer work lab for students, including the purchase of computers, educational software and computer lab furniture.

Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Board, Inc.

– Award Amount: \$22,034

Summary: The mission of the Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Board, Inc., is to accelerate the conservation, education, development and utilization of natural resources, improve the general level of economic activity, and enhance the environment and standard of living.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported the 2017 National Conservation Foundation Envirothon Competition at Mount St. Mary's University in Frederick County. Funding provided for the rental facilities for the Competition participants. 385 students and teachers from across the United States and Canada participated in the Competition.

Spring Dell Center, Inc.

– Award Amount: \$14,370

Summary: Spring Dell Center, Inc. is dedicated to assisting individuals with disabilities in achieving their highest level of independence by providing support, opportunities, and employment for the quality of life they desire within their community.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding provided support for wheelchair-bound individuals in St. Mary’s, Charles, and Calvert Counties to increase the number of non-ambulatory individuals receiving education, employment and skills training in the community. Funding was used to purchase a used wheel-chair lift vehicle.

Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art

– Award Amount: \$14,370

Summary: The Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art is dedicated to exhibiting, collecting, and promoting wildfowl art and wildfowling heritage.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported outfitting of the new John A Luetkemeyer Sr. and Thomas F. Mullan Jr. Legacy Center as a state-of-the-art learning space to meet the growing demand for educational programs. Funding was used to purchase a visual display and audio equipment.

Western Maryland Resource Conservation and Development, Inc.

– Award Amount: \$19,160

Summary: The mission of the Western Maryland Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. is to build and sustain resource conservation programs, raising the quality of social, economic and environmental development in our region.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding provided building and equipment needs to further expand educational and operational activities at Frostburg Grows. Funding supported the purchase of a compact tractor with front-end loader, and construction of a 24’ x 40’ multi-purpose building site on Frostburg Grows.



*Volunteer Maryland Coordinators,
Photo Courtesy of Crossroads
Community*

FY 2017 MAERDAF Grantees By Region (Total)			
	# Grantees	Total Awarded	% of grant funds awarded
Eastern Shore (9 Counties)	18	\$215,147.78	39%
Southern Maryland (3Counties)	8	\$134,483.08	24%
Western Maryland (5Counties)	8	\$106,850.53	19%
Statewide	8	\$ 99,435.61	18%
Total	42	\$555,917.00	100%

FY 2017 MAERDAF Grantees by Category (Total)			
	# Grantees	Total Awarded	% of grant funds awarded
Health Care	10	\$138,766.64	23%
Regional Council	2	\$20,692.80	3.70%
ATC/Community College	3	\$21,108.57	3.80%
Economic/Community Development	14	\$185,797.20	33%
Ag/Forestry Education	13	\$189,551.79	34%
Total	42	\$555,917.00	100%

RMC Operating Expenses

The remainder of RMPiF Funding was allocated to RMC operating expenses for FY 2017. These expenses include:

Expenses	FY 2017 Budget	Actual FY 2017
<i>Fund PCA</i>		6/12/2017
Salaries	\$ 180,000.00	\$ 127,908.70
	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 9,689.60
Health Insurance	\$ -	
Retiree Health Insurance		
Employee Retirement	\$ -	
Employee Pension		
Unemployment	\$ 600.00	\$ 354.60
Professional Development	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 3,002.30
Total Personnel Expenses	\$ 200,100.00	\$ 57,983.18
Other Operations		

Postage	\$ 750.00	\$ 716.38
Telephone (Conf. Calls)	\$ 750.00	\$ 585.80
Cellular		
Instate Routine Ops	\$ 5,717.00	\$ 5,179.76
In State/Conf./Training (Board Meetings)	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,532.43
Motor Pool mileage	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,741.50
Out of State	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 950.16
Printing and Reproduction	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 8,009.65
Constant Contact	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,173.00
Xerox	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,606.89
Office Supplies	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,705.81
Association Dues	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,144.10
Insurance		
Constituent outreach		
Legislative Committee - Issue Forums outreach	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 16,831.49
Health Care Committee	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 1,651.15
Board Development	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,579.95
Marketing and Promotion	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 13,673.52
Grants, Contributions and Constituent Outreach	\$ 85,400.00	\$ 75,300.00
Conf. Sponsorships (RRTs, MRHA)	\$ 17,500.00	\$ 16,123.00
Statewide event	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
Mis. Contract Services (Rural Stat)		
Board Retreat - Strategic Planning		
Research - TOW	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Total Other Operations	\$ 388,917.00	\$ 335,959.79

Anticipated Expenditures

Salaries: The Rural Maryland Council budgeted for the addition of a third full-time, contractual staff member to serve as an Administrative and Communications Assistant. The budgeted salary for this position is \$30,000.00. The new staff position was filled in January 2017.

Research – TOW: The Rural Maryland Council budgeted \$45,000.00 to provide funding for a Transfer of Wealth (TOW) Study. The information gathered from the study will assist with creating solutions that will help to mitigate the financial burden transferred wealth has on rural communities, and will seek ways to encourage and strengthen rural philanthropy and investment.

Additional Expenditures

Grants, Contributions, and Constituent Outreach: The Rural Maryland Council granted the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) a \$30,000.00 grant to provide partial funding for a Maryland Rural Health Plan. MRHA has proposed to create an updated state-wide Rural Health Plan for Maryland. The new Maryland Rural Health Plan will assess the needs and serve all of the 18 rural counties in Maryland and its growing population - of over 1.6 million. Information from rural stakeholders will be obtained via multiple means and the final product, the new Maryland Rural Health Plan, will include a synthesis of all available data as well as identify gaps and opportunities, making it a valuable, reliable resource.

Other: The Rural Maryland Council in partnership with Grow & Fortify hosted the first Grow Maryland Summit in December 2016 to promote Maryland's value-added agriculture industry. Nearly 180 attendees were on hand for the full day program titled "Grow Maryland Summit: The Future of Value-Added Agriculture," which included a welcome address by Dr. Craig Beyrouthy, Dean of the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, as well as eight breakout sessions and "curbside consulting", an opportunity for one-to-one consulting on a variety of business topics.

Addendum

Remainder of MAERDAF Awards

The following list contain the scope of work of the remainder of the MAERDAF grant awards which were funded from FY17 MAERDAF funds appropriated through a separate line-item in the State's Operating Budget. In addition to the \$2,167,000.00 received for RMPIF, the RMC also received an additional \$167,000.00 in a separate line-item for MAERDAF funds.

FY 2017 MAERDAF Grantees (Non-RMPIF Funded)				
Applicant	Category	Region	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Chesapeake College Foundation	Community College	Eastern	\$23,200.00	\$8,526.20
Compass Regional Hospice	Health	Eastern	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 16,286.00
Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc.	Economic/Community Development	Western	\$30,000.00	\$19,160.00
Historic St. Mary's City Foundation	Ag/Forestry Education	Southern	\$30,000.00	\$14,370.00
Lifestyles of Maryland Foundation	Economic/Community Development	Southern	\$9,779.00	\$9,368.28
Lower Shore Land Trust	Ag/Forestry Education	Eastern	\$19,320.76	\$9,262.90
Maryland Forestry Foundation	Ag/Forestry Education	Statewide	\$22,000.00	\$18,297.80
Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts	Ag/Forestry Education	Statewide	\$30,000.00	\$4,790.00
Queen Anne's County/ Allegany County Public Library System	Economic/Community Development	Statewide	\$4,320.00	\$4,138.56
Tri-County Council Foundation	Regional Planning	Southern	\$15,000.00	\$7,185.00
Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland	Regional Planning	Southern	\$14,100.00	\$13,507.80
True Oyster Restoration Initiative, Inc.	Ag/Forestry Education	Southern	\$21,593.00	\$20,686.09
Tuckahoe Habitat for Humanity, Inc.	Economic/Community Development	Eastern	\$28,000.00	\$13,412.00
Women Supporting Women	Health Care	Eastern	\$7,342.20	\$7,033.83
Wor-Wic Community College	Community College	Eastern	\$21,834.00	\$5,397.37
TOTAL			\$290,388.96	\$171,421.83

MAERDAF Grant Awards– Scopes of Work



Hoop House and Flower Sale, Photo Courtesy of Chesapeake College Foundation

Chesapeake College Foundation

– Award Amount: \$8,526.20

Summary: The Foundation’s mission is to enhance student learning through the support of scholarships, technology and programs for Chesapeake College. Chesapeake College prepares students from diverse backgrounds to excel in further education and employment in a global society.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported the establishment of a high tunnel operation on campus for use as a hands-on teaching tool in the agriculture degree program. Funds developed a high tunnel management student internship program for implementation summer 2017, and developed a strategy with specific activities and a timeline for collaboration with high schools for

implementation fall 2017. 15 students received hands-on learning, and 90% of participating students responded positively to a survey of their experience with the high tunnel and its connection to their coursework.

Compass Hospice Regional

– Award Amount: \$16,286.00

Summary: Compass Hospice Regional team offers individuals, families and the community “care on your terms” through comprehensive, professional and compassionate end-of-life care and grief support.

Program Funds: Funding supported the existing Hope & Healing Centers in Queen Anne's, Kent and Caroline Counties. Specifically, MAERDAF funds were used to support Camp New Dawn, an annual camp for children and families, and to provide grief support services not covered by insurance. To date, a total of 26 elementary school children, 49 middle school and 32 high school students participated in grief support services. A total of 19 adults participated in grief support services.

Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc.

– Award Amount: \$19,160.00

Summary: The mission of Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc. is to improve the quality of life for people in need by empowering them to become more self-sufficient and by providing essential services in collaboration and cooperation with partners.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding was used to build the capacity to create greater family economic security in Allegany and Garrett Counties by enabling career coaching services and career ladder opportunities. This included attainment of a families' identified Career Advance Pathway Plan goal(s) reflective in creating greater economic security and wealth building, families pursuing education/career advancement, parents completing certifications, families increasing stability and economic security, and families completing the Crisis to Thrive (C2T) Family Wellness Composite.

Historic St. Mary’s City Foundation

– Award Amount: \$14,370.00

Summary: The mission of the Historic St. Mary’s City is to preserve and protect the archeological and historical record of Maryland’s first colonial capital and to appropriately develop and use this historic and scenic site for the education, employment, and general benefit of the public.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported the construction of a wooden, timber-frame pavilion with flexible enclosures (sliding wooden slides) to provide covered space for the comfort and convenience of museum visitors.

Lifestyles of Maryland Foundation

– Award Amount: \$9,368.28

Summary: Lifestyles of Maryland Foundation’s mission is to support people in crisis by providing emergency assistance through partnerships and provide referrals for health and human services.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding improved the mobility of the targeted population in accessing employment opportunities and increased the capability to provide more efficient transportation services. Funding supported the purchase of web-based transportation dispatch software, set-up fees, and training to enable more effective transportation services for Southern Maryland citizens.

Lower Shore Land Trust

– Award Amount: \$9,262.90

Summary: Lower Shore Land Trust is dedicated to preserving rural lands, to promoting vibrant towns, and to building a more healthy and connected Eastern Shore.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported the production of materials necessary to promote the new location of the Lower Shore Land Trust and create an environment to present programs, thus building capacity to conduct outreach. Funding supported the purchase of business cards, organizational brochures, and conference room equipment including a computer work station, table and chairs. Lower Shore Land Trust hosted five First Friday events to date with 50 attendees and 20 new names were added to the mailing distribution list.

Maryland Forestry Foundation

– Award Amount: \$18,297.80

Summary: The Maryland Forestry Foundation’s mission is to promote the stewardship, conservation, and sustainable use of Maryland’s forest resources—urban, suburban and rural.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported the expansion of the Natural Resources Career Camp by creating a fellowship to be made available to a college student currently enrolled in a natural resource career field. The NRCC Fellow will work with Forestry Boards, high schools, forestry operators, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and other partner organizations to promote the NRCC and encourage enrollment. To date, the Fellow has attended seven Forestry Board meetings around the State of Maryland, presenting a wide range of promotional ideas specific to each county, and has documented each county’s recruitment process and challenges.



Photo Courtesy of Maryland Forestry Foundation

Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts

– Award Amount: \$4,790.00

Summary: The mission of the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts is to promote practical and effective soil, water and related natural resources programs to all citizens. The Maryland Envirothon mission is to stimulate the interest of high school students in natural resources and have them grow as well-rounded learners and action-oriented adults.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding provided support for the purchase of equipment for the Maryland Envirothon Program, including the purchase of an off road utility vehicle and trailer to be used at the Maryland Envirothon competition.



Guys Read Program, Photo Courtesy of Allegany County Public Library

Queen Anne's County/Allegany County Public Library System

– Award Amount: \$4,138.56

Summary: Queen Anne's County Public Library educates and enriches the community through free access to resources. Allegany County Library System enriches people's lives by providing information, materials, services, and entertaining programs to promote the community, lifelong learning, and opportunity for all.

Program Funds: MAERDAF provided support for the Allegany and Queen Anne's County libraries Guys Read program for 4th and 5th grade boys, specifically the purchase of books for 5th grade boys in the coming school year. By the end of the school year, Queen Anne's County volunteers made 58 visits to the school and Allegany County volunteers made 16 visits.

Tri-County Council Foundation, Inc.

– Award Amount: \$7,185.00

Summary: The Tri-County Council Foundation will support economic development, job growth and retention and social development of the region by providing administrative and payroll services that will effectively utilize the public and private assistance provided to government agencies, nonprofits, and businesses.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported Project Opportunity, a program which provides entrepreneurship classes to veterans seeking employment in the Southern Maryland region. Funding provided consultant services, materials and supplies for the Project Opportunity entrepreneurship training classes for veterans. In November 2016, eight veterans completed the entrepreneurship course and graduated.

Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland

– Award Amount: \$13,507.80

Summary: The mission of the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland is to serve as a forum for the discussion and resolution of issues affecting the Southern Maryland region.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported the Mobile Career Center (MCC), a resource for providing employment and training services in the rural and remote areas in Southern Maryland where transportation is difficult or non-existent for individuals to attend "brick and mortar" career centers. Support included replacing a cracked windshield, updating the vehicle's wrapping exterior, and purchasing monitors, routers and printers for information technology (IT) upgrades.

True Oyster Restoration Initiative, Inc.

– Award Amount: \$20,686.09

Summary: The mission of True Oyster Restoration Initiative, Inc. is to become a leading oyster aquaculture organization in the Chesapeake Bay region.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported the creation of an agri-tourism oyster trail to capture markets from tourism to showcase the industry in Southern Maryland. Funding supported the development of marketing materials, and an inaugural oyster trail ceremony.

Tuckahoe Habitat for Humanity, Inc.

– Award Amount: \$13,412.00

Summary: Tuckahoe Habitat for Humanity's mission is to work in partnership with God and people everywhere, from all walks of life, to develop housing solutions for low-income families to live in affordable, safe, comfortable, and sustainable homes through: building new homes, rehabbing existing homes, doing repairs, weatherizations, and energy upgrades, so that there are decent houses available, in decent communities, in which every person can experience God's love and can live and grow into all that God intends.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported the Tuckahoe ReStore, as well as to encourage volunteering, donations and employment to serve the residents of Queen Anne's and Caroline Counties. Funds purchased a used box truck, marketing materials, installation of a HVAC system, and lighted signage and security system.

Women Supporting Women

– Award Amount: \$7,033.83

Summary: Women Supporting Women's (WSW) mission is to provide awareness, education and support to all those affected by breast cancer. WSW provides people with the tools to make educated choices regarding their health.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding was utilized to support the "Cooking for the New Me!" classes in spring 2017 to serve and support survivors of breast cancer and their families on the Lower Eastern Shore. Women Supporting Women held a healthy lifestyle program in the spring of 2017 designed to help change the way survivors approach healthy food selection and preparation. This objective was met through a series of four cooking classes using simple recipes with produce purchased from organic, local farmers' markets.

Wor-Wic Community College

– Award Amount: \$5,397.37

Summary: Wor-Wic is a comprehensive community college that enhances local economic growth by addressing the educational, training and workforce development needs of the residents of Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset counties.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funds developed and implemented a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) course for individuals who are non-native English speakers following the Maryland Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (MI-BEST) model.

RMPIF is administered by the Rural Maryland Council, an independent state agency and federally designated State Rural Development Council under the USDA's National Rural Development Partnership. Its 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 craft public policy, programmatic or regulatory solutions. 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, visit the RMC's website at: www.rural.maryland.gov



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