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PRESS RELEASE

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Rural Maryland Council announces FY 2019 RURAL MARYLAND PROSPERITY INVESTMENT FUND (RMPIF) Grant Recipients

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.

Total Requested:	163 grants	\$10,520,515
Total Awarded:	79 grants	\$5,980,343

Rural Maryland Council 1 grant = \$513,917

Under RMPIF, the RMC receives a little over \$500,000 for operating expenses. Founded in 1994, the Rural Maryland Council serves as the state's federally designated rural development council and functions as a voice for rural Maryland, advocating for and helping rural communities and businesses across the state to flourish and to gain equity to its suburban and urban counterparts. The Council administers the RMPIF and MAERDAF grant programs. The Council also conducts research activities to understand rural challenges and outreach to engage rural residents in developing solutions to these challenges, and convenes groups to identify solutions through consensus and coalition building.

The RMC operates under the direction of a 40-member executive board in a nonpartisan and nondiscriminatory manner. The vision for RMC is a future where all of Rural Maryland is prosperous with thriving resources, vibrant economies, and healthy, connected communities. Our goals are to:

- Encourage healthy, connected communities throughout Rural Maryland through convening of stakeholders, education, public relations, and advocacy.
- Support the development and growth of vibrant economies in Rural Maryland.
- Foster stewardship of Maryland's natural resources.
- Maximize RMC outreach, resources and mission through financial and organizational development.

Regional Councils 5 grants = \$2,055,667

One-third of RMPIF Funds support the State's five regional councils: Tri-County Council of Western Maryland, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, Upper Shore Regional Council, Mid-Shore Regional Council and the Tri-County Council of the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland. Activities funded under RMPIF include:

- Funds for equity lending
- Marketing materials and activities
- Transportation software and systems
- Regional Agricultural development and education
- Economic and small business development activities
- Rural economic research

During Fiscal Year 2019, RMPIF grant categories of Entrepreneurship, Health Care, and Infrastructure received 48 applications totaling \$4,763,525. Of these requests, 31 grants totaling \$2,316,829.55 were awarded to 28 organizations:

Entrepreneurship 6 grants = \$708,105

- Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center, \$111,805
- Frederick Innovative Technology Center, Inc. - Growth Accelerator, \$200,000
- Frederick Innovative Technology Center, Inc. - Tech Shop, \$250,000
- Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, \$30,000
- Southern Maryland Resource Conservation - Farmers Market, \$40,000
- University of Maryland Eastern Shore MANRRS, \$76,300

"A Collective Voice for Rural Maryland"

Health Care 21 grants = \$868,724.55

- Bay Area Center for Independent Living, Inc., \$60,000
- CalvertHealth Foundation, \$60,000
- Caroline County Health Department, \$40,000
- Channel Marker, Inc., - Regional Wellness Center, \$8,000
- Channel Marker, Inc., \$27,000
- Chesapeake Charities, \$15,000
- Choptank Community Health System, Inc., \$75,000
- Corsica River Mental Health Services, Inc., \$20,000
- County Commissioners of Caroline County Maryland, \$78,338
- For All Seasons, Inc., \$72,725
- Go-Getters, Inc., \$40,000
- Habitat for Humanity of Wicomico County, Inc., \$50,000
- Life Crisis Center, Inc., for the Lower Eastern Shore Suicide Prevention Coalition, \$20,000
- Mental Health Association Eastern Shore, \$15,000
- Southern Maryland Community Network, Inc., \$34,050
- The Arc of Southern Maryland, \$37,500
- The Benedictine School for Exceptional Children, \$100,000
- Town of Denton, \$20,000
- University of Maryland Extension, \$27,951.55
- Worcester County Health Department, \$51,000
- YMCA of the Chesapeake, \$17,160

Infrastructure 4 grants = \$740,000

- City of Crisfield, \$250,000
- Kent County Economic Development, \$200,000
- Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Board, Inc. - Three Notch Trail, \$40,000
- Talbot County Council, \$250,000

Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund 42 grants = \$1,093,930

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

Between 2001 and 2018, the MAERDAF program has awarded more than \$4.4 million in grants to 115 rural-serving nonprofit organizations. During Fiscal Year 2019, a total of 109 applications were submitted with a total of \$3,256,990.93 requested. 39 organizations were awarded the following:

- Adkins Arboreteum, \$8,100
- Allegany College, \$40,000
- Bishop Walsh School, \$34,000
- Cambridge Main Street, \$26,500
- Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center, \$10,000
- Community Foundation of Southern Maryland, \$19,000
- Compass Regional Hospice, \$20,000
- Dove Pointe, \$2,900
- Fair Hill Foundation, \$29,600
- Fort Ritchie Community Center, \$30,000
- Friends of the Grape, \$30,000
- Garrett College - Mountain Top Driving Institute, \$36,300
- Garrett College - Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) Program, \$16,440
- Habitat for Humanity Choptank - AmeriCorp Volunteer, \$23,760
- Habitat for Humanity Choptank - Direct Repair Costs, \$40,000
- Habitat for Humanity Tuckahoe, \$14,780
- Hagerstown Community College, \$38,072
- Health Partners, Inc., \$40,000
- Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, \$40,000
- Jessie Klump Memorial Fund, \$19,000
- LEAD Maryland Foundation, \$38,000
- Maces Lane Community Center, \$40,000
- Maryland Agriculture Education Foundation, \$12,355
- Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Science, \$9,400
- Maryland Association of Soil Conservation - Farmer Suicide Prevention Program, \$14,550
- Maryland Association of Soil Conservation - Envirothon Program, \$4,808
- Maryland Dairy Industry Association, \$40,000
- Maryland Forestry Foundation, \$30,000
- Maryland Small Business Development Center - Northern Region, \$22,574
- Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, \$19,400
- Maryland Telehealth Alliance, \$20,000
- MidShore Pro Bono, \$40,000
- People for Change Coalition, \$22,500
- Preservation Maryland, \$40,000
- SHORE UP!, \$40,000
- St. Martin's Ministries, \$10,007
- Telamon Corporation, \$10,800
- Tri-County Council Foundation, \$15,284
- Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, \$29,500
- Western Maryland Resource Conservation and Development, \$36,300
- WISP Ski Patrol, \$40,000
- YMCA of the Chesapeake, \$40,000

For more information, visit the RMC website: www.rural.maryland.gov