

ANNUAL REPORT FY2018

Rural Maryland Council

An independent state agency located within the
Maryland Department of Agriculture



RMC
Rural Maryland Council

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TO OUR FELLOW MARYLANDERS

We are pleased to share with you our Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Report.

We had another busy year in Fiscal Year 2018. The Rural Maryland Council hosted the national conference for Partners for Rural America (PRA) in September. The conference was attended by State Rural Development Council staff and directors, and included tours of economic development projects on the Eastern Shore, and visits with Congressional Representatives in Washington, D.C.

Nearly 350 rural stakeholders gathered for the 2017 Rural Summit “Bridging the Divide: Strengthening Rural and Urban Communities” on December 1, 2017 in Annapolis to discuss and address challenging issues in agriculture, community development, economic development and health care in rural Maryland communities.

Highlights of the event included the inaugural AgPitch where five finalists presented their business ideas to compete for cash and related business services. Keynote speakers included Assistant to the Secretary Anne Hazlett, United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development; Lieutenant Governor Boyd Rutherford; Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh; and, bestselling author Amy Goldstein.

In April 2018 the legislature budget included historic funding for rural communities. The Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) will receive in Fiscal Year 2019 \$6,000,000 in funding for targeted investment to promote economic prosperity in Maryland’s traditionally disadvantaged and underserved rural communities. These funds will sustain efforts to promote rural regional cooperation, facilitate entrepreneurial activities, and support key community colleges and nonprofit providers.

For Fiscal Year 2018, RMPIF grants were distributed to 27 organizations throughout the State. The Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) provided for 34 grants to 32 organizations.

The Rural Maryland Foundation finalized the Transfer of Wealth Study, outreach sessions are scheduled for 2019.

LOOKING AHEAD

As always, everyone is welcome to join us at our meetings and gatherings. Thanks for all that you do to help us meet our vision of a future where all of Rural Maryland is prosperous with thriving resources, vibrant economies, and healthy, connected communities!

To our continued success;



Josh Hastings
Board Chair



Charlotte Davis
Executive Director

WHO WE ARE



The Rural Maryland Council's (RMC) mission is to bring together citizens, community-based organizations, federal, state, county and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to collectively address the needs of rural Maryland. The RMC is an independent state agency located within the Maryland Department of Agriculture. We provide a venue for members of agriculture and natural resource-based industries, health care facilities, educational institutions, economic and community development organizations, for-profit and nonprofit corporations, and government agencies to cross traditional boundaries, share information, and address in a holistic way the special needs and opportunities in rural Maryland.

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.

Our vision for the RMC is where we see a future where all of Rural Maryland is prosperous with thriving resources, vibrant economies, and healthy, connected communities.



Photos Courtesy of Edwin Remsburg Photography

WHO WE ARE

RMC OFFICERS

Chair, Representing District 5 – Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot Counties:

Mr. Josh Hastings, Deputy Director, Lower Shore Land Trust

First Vice Chair, Representing Maryland Department of Agriculture:

Mr. Matthew Tefteau, Director of Government Relations, Maryland Department of Agriculture

Second Vice Chair, Representing District 6 (Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset Counties) & RMC Representative on Governor's Intergovernmental Commission on Agriculture:

Mr. Erroll Mattox, Farm Management Specialist, University of Maryland Extension

Immediate Past Chair, Chair (January – December 2016), Representing MidShore Regional Council:

Mr. Scott Warner, Executive Director, MidShore Regional Council



Photo: Senator Chris Van Hollen meets with RMC Executive Director Charlotte Davis

RMC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rodney Glotfelty,

District 1 – Garrett, Allegany and Washington Counties and Health Care Committee Co-Chair

Angela Spencer,

District 2 – Carroll, Frederick and Hartford Counties

Chris Kaselemis,

District 3 – Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Loretta Lodge,

District 4 – Cecil, Kent and Queen Anne's Counties

Chris Benzing,

District 7 – Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Howard and Montgomery Counties

Daniel Rider,

Representing Rural Maryland Foundation

George Vogelsang,

Representing For-Profit Organizations

Vanessa Finney,

Representing State At-Large

Jeannie Haddaway-Ricco, Representing Governor's Office

Steve Pennington,

Representing Maryland Department of Commerce

John Kinnaird (Town of Thurmont),

Representing Maryland Municipal League

Jamie Windon (Town of St. Michaels),

Representing Maryland Municipal League

Denise Lovelady,

Representing USDA Rural Development

Donald VanHassent,

Representing Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Temi Oshiyoye,

Representing Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Jim Hanson,

Representing University of Maryland Extension

Craig Hartsock,

Representing Western Maryland Resource Conservation and Development

The Honorable Wilbur Levengood (Caroline County), Representing Maryland Association of Counties

The Honorable Richard Rothschild (Carroll County), Representing Maryland Association of Counties

Sharan Marshall,

Representing Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators

Santo Grande,

Representing Maryland Association of Community Action Agencies

Emily Snyder,

Representing Maryland Farm Bureau

Lara Wilson,

Representing Maryland Rural Health Association and Health Care Committee Co-Chair

Scott Warner,

Representing MidShore Regional Council and Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF)

Michael Pennington,

Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland and Nominating Committee Chair

Steve McHenry,

Representing Special Appointment

Lindsay Thompson,

Representing Special Appointment

Mike Thielke,

Representing Nonprofits and RMC/RMF Joint Planning Committee Chair

Cindy Stone, Representing Maryland

Department of Housing and Community Development

John Hartline, Representing Tri-County

Council for Southern Maryland

The Honorable Sheree Sample-Hughes,

Representing Maryland House of Delegates

The Honorable Michael W. McKay,

Representing Maryland House of Delegates

The Honorable Edith Patterson,

Representing Maryland House of Delegates

The Honorable Mary Ann Lisanti,

Representing Maryland House of Delegates

The Honorable Thomas M. Middleton,

Representing Maryland Senate

The Honorable George C. Edwards,

Representing Maryland Senate

The Honorable James N.

Mathias, Jr.,

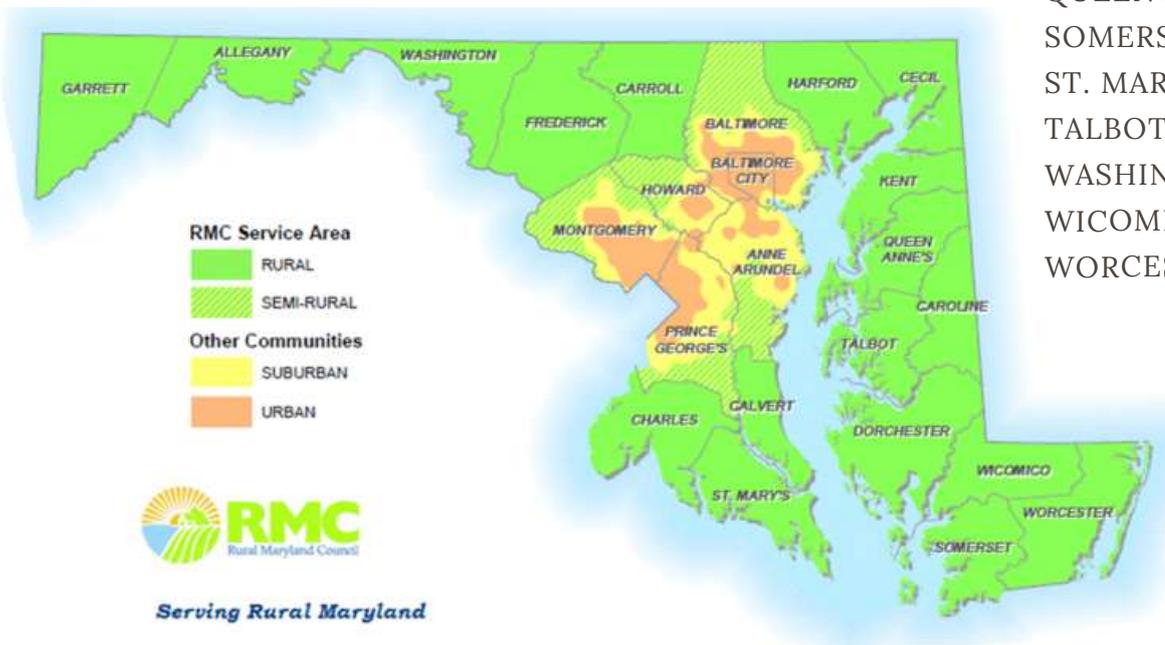
Representing Maryland Senate

SERVING RURAL COMMUNITIES

Rural jurisdictions share common characteristics that set them apart from their suburban and urban counterparts, such as geographic isolation, lack of transportation, and lack of access to and availability of health care. The State definition of rural is articulated in the Annotated Code of Maryland, §2-207, and includes 18 of the 24 jurisdictions in Maryland. Each is represented by the Rural Maryland Council.

THE FOLLOWING COUNTIES CONSTITUTE RURAL MARYLAND:

- ALLEGANY
- CALVERT
- CAROLINE
- CARROLL
- CECIL
- CHARLES
- DORCHESTER
- FREDERICK
- GARRETT
- HARFORD
- KENT
- QUEEN ANNE'S
- SOMERSET
- ST. MARY'S
- TALBOT
- WASHINGTON
- WICOMICO
- WORCESTER



RMC STAFF

- Charlotte Davis, Executive Director
- Meredith Donaho, Program Administrator
- Amanda Clevenger, Administrative Assistant

SERVING RURAL COMMUNITIES



Pictured: 2017 Partners for Rural America Conference attendees tour Layton's Chance Vineyard in Vienna, MD.

PARTNERS FOR RURAL AMERICA

The Rural Maryland Council hosted the 2017 Partners for Rural America (PRA) Conference, September 10-13, 2017 in Annapolis and Washington, D.C. Highlights of the multi-day conference included guest speakers Kathy Beisner, Acting Director of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development, and Mike Romano of the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA). Tours of the Eastern Shore included the Chesapeake Culinary Center in Denton, the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy in Easton; and, Layton's Chance Vineyard in Vienna. Presentations were provided by the MidShore Regional Council and Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center.

Attendees also met with representatives of the National Rural Health Association, National Sustainable Agricultural Coalition, American Farm Bureau Federation, and Congressional Representatives in Washington, D.C. Charlotte Davis, Executive Director of the Rural Maryland Council, was elected Chair of PRA during the annual board meeting.

PRA was founded in 1998 to support the efforts of its member State Rural Development Councils (SRDCs), which are uniquely positioned to expand economic and social opportunities for America's rural communities and their residents, promote equal treatment of rural America by government agencies and the private sector and provide a collective voice for rural America.

SRDCs across the country work in their states to conduct research, work with state and federal government officials, partner with other community and economic development organizations and serve as leaders representing the perspective and needs of rural communities throughout their states. More information on PRA can be found online: www.partnersforruralamerica.org.



Pictured: 2017 Partners for Rural America Conference attendees tour the Chesapeake Culinary Center in Denton, MD.

SERVING RURAL COMMUNITIES

RURAL IMPACT AWARDS

Each year, the RMC makes an effort to recognize some of the great work of our fellow Rural Marylanders. The awards were presented at the Annual and Executive Board Meeting held on November 30, 2017 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland.



Pictured (left to right): 2017 Rural Impact Awardees Mike Thielke, Dr. William McGowan, Charlotte Davis (RMC Executive Director), J. Robert Tibbs, Jr., and Josh Hastings (RMC Board Chair).

2017 RURAL IMPACT AWARD HONOREES

Outstanding Rural Volunteer
Mr. J. Robert Tibbs, Jr.
Shadow Springs Farm,
Volunteer for
Harford County Farm Bureau,
Inc.

For leadership, dedication, and noteworthy volunteer achievement beyond the call of one's professional duties to help improve their community.

Outstanding Rural Economic Development
Mr. Mike Thielke
Executive Director,
Eastern Shore
Entrepreneurship Center
For leadership, dedication, and noteworthy achievement to help improve economic development opportunities in their rural community.

Outstanding Rural Community Involvement
Dr. William McGowan
Former USDA Rural
Development State Director
for Maryland and Delaware
For leadership, dedication, and noteworthy achievement to help improve rural communities.

2017 RURAL SUMMIT "BRIDGING THE DIVIDE: STRENGTHENING RURAL AND URBAN COMMUNITIES"

The Rural Maryland Council held its biennial summit on Friday, December 1, 2017 at the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel in Annapolis. Keynote speakers included Amy Goldstein, bestselling author of *Janesville: An American Story*, and staff writer for the *The Washington Post*. Ms. Goldstein shared the story of one small, proud Wisconsin city that lost the nation's oldest operating General Motors assembly plant two days before Christmas, in the midst of the Great Recession – and the lessons it offers about economic pain and resilience.



Pictured: Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford provides updates at the 2017 Rural Summit.

The Summit's luncheon guest speaker Dr. William E. Kirwan, chair of the Maryland Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, spoke of needing to make bold changes in Maryland's educational system in order to connect students with future, good paying jobs. In addition, a session presented by the Taskforce on Rural Internet, Broadband, Wireless and Cellular Service gave an update on its draft plan to provide equal access by connecting all Marylanders to high speed Internet. Other highlights included updates from Maryland Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford and Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh, and a secretary panel that included the Maryland Departments of Natural Resources, Budget and Management, Environment, Housing and Community Development and Commerce.

350

Rural Stakeholders from the public, private and nonprofit sectors participated

12

Breakout sessions focused on special topics including agriculture, community development, economic development, and health care

6

Keynote speakers presented on topics including education reform and rural economic development

2017 RURAL SUMMIT "BRIDGING THE DIVIDE: STRENGTHENING RURAL AND URBAN COMMUNITIES"

The Summit also hosted the first AgPitch where five finalists presented their ideas/business plans to compete for cash and related business services. The grand prize winner of \$7,500 cash and prizes was Ben Lee of Rockville. Lee's firm NABAS Group, Inc., (Nano Air Bubble Aeration System) increases crop yields by 20 percent and extends the harvest's freshness for an additional seven days. AgPitch 17 was sponsored by the MidAtlantic Farm Credit with support by Clearview Group, North Central Insurance Agency and Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr LLP.



Pictured: Secretary Ben Grumbles, Maryland Department of the Environment, left, and Secretary David Brinkley, Maryland Department of Budget and Management, right, present during the Secretary Panel.



Pictured: Ben Lee, left, President and CEO, NABAS Group, Inc., won the grand prize at the first-ever MidAtlantic Farm Credit AgPitch. Presenting the check are Andrew Rose, center, Marketing Manager, MidAtlantic Farm Credit, and Kurt Fuchs, Government Affairs Officer, MidAtlantic Farm Credit.

Pictured: Keynote Speaker Amy Goldstein reads an excerpt from her book Janesville: An American Story during the opening of the 2017 Rural Summit



ADVOCATING ON BEHALF OF RURAL MARYLAND



*Pictured: HB243/SB 968 Task Force
for Rural Broadband Bill Signing*

The 2018 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session was positive overall for rural communities. Highlights for the RMC included FULL FUNDING for the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) in the State's Fiscal Year 2019 Operating Budget. The Rural Maryland Council (RMC) thanks Governor Hogan and the Maryland General Assembly for their support of the RMC and rural communities. Other highlights include full funding for Program Open Space, three additional years of funding for the Next Generation Farm Land Acquisition Program, and increased Highway User Fund Revenues for Fiscal Year 2019.

RMC would like to acknowledge the unexpected passing of Senator Wayne Norman (District 35 – Harford and Cecil). Senator Norman served in the Maryland General Assembly for 10 years and will be greatly missed.

The Legislative Committee met bi-weekly to review legislative efforts, advance its legislative priorities and increase work with legislators. Other activities included testifying before standing committees, working with the Rural Caucus and local rural delegations, as well as drafting and submitting written position statements.

The RMC hosted a bus trip for members and local elected officials to the Tawes Crab and Clam Bake in Crisfield in July 2018. The Council also hosted Community Reinvestment Act outreach events in partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond as well as Small Rural Lending Forums in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development.

RMC BUDGET PRIORITIES ACHIEVED:

- RMC will receive \$6,167,000 million in funding for the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (Full Funding!) in Fiscal Year 2019
- The Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) will receive \$167,000
- The five Regional Councils were funded at \$200,000 each
- The Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO) received its core funding at \$2,873,000
- The Next Generation Farmland Acquisition Program received \$2.5 million in Fiscal Year 2019, with an additional commitment of \$2.5 million each in Fiscal Years 2020, 2021, and 2022.

RURAL MARYLAND DAY

Governor Hogan proclaimed February 8, 2018 as Rural Maryland Day. As part of Rural Maryland Day, the RMC welcomed more than 100 rural advocates to meet with dozens of elected officials and staff. The RMC was officially recognized during floor sessions in the State House and, in partnership with the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts, hosted a luncheon with over 250 attendees.



Pictured: Governor Larry Hogan presents the Rural Maryland Day Proclamation to RMC Executive Director Charlotte Davis and the RMC Executive Board on February 8, 2018.

ADVANCING BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT

During the 2018 session the Department of Housing and Community Development was tasked with conducting an inventory of state assets for broadband expansion to unserved and underserved areas of Maryland. A bill with the intent to establish model local legislation regarding permitting and siting of telecommunications equipment.

While industry wants more consistency in working with different jurisdictions in order to facilitate broadband expansion, local governments objected to several major provisions.

TASK FORCE ON RURAL INTERNET, BROADBAND, WIRELESS, AND CELLULAR SERVICE

HB 243/SB 968 - Task Force on Rural Internet, Broadband, Wireless, and Cellular Service - Study and Extension, was passed this session and extends the work of the broadband study task force. As a result, the Task Force continued to meet and will issue a report of recommendations for expanding broadband access to unserved and underserved communities by November 30, 2018.

The Task Force members met on the following dates during FY2018, including: October 26, 2017 in Frederick; November 20, 2017 in Hughesville; December 1, 2017 in Annapolis; May 21, 2018 in Havre de Grace; and, June 19, 2018 in Annapolis. RMC Executive Director Charlotte Davis is Chair of the Task Force for Rural Broadband.

In addition, RMC testified in support of the **Angel Investor Tax Credit Program**. Senator Adelaide Eckardt (District 37 – Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot and Wicomico) and Delegate Brooke Lierman (District 46 – Baltimore City) worked hard on the bill, but it failed to receive a vote in committee.

HEALTH CARE

Highlights for rural health care include the passage of the Mid-Shore Rural Health Collaborative, a regional partnership that will lead in building a rural health system that enhances access to and utilization of health care services designed to meet certain goals (SB 1056). The Maryland Health Care Commission, in consultation with the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities, the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, the Vital Statistics Administration, and interested stakeholders, will conduct a study on the mortality rates of African American infants and infants in rural areas (HB 716/SB 266). A report will be due November 1, 2019.

MARYLAND RURAL HEALTH PLAN

The Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) released findings from a year-long comprehensive examination of the rural health care needs of Maryland in February 2018. The 2018 Maryland Rural Health Plan encompasses existing county health plans, Community Health Needs Assessments, State Health Improvement Process (SHIP) data, results from a state appointed study on Maryland's Eastern Shore, and feedback from citizens and healthcare professionals in each of Maryland's 18 rural counties.

The 2018 Maryland Rural Health Plan highlighted six areas of need:

- Access to care
- Sustainable funding mechanisms for health care services
- Care coordination
- Chronic disease prevention and management
- Health literacy and health insurance literacy
- Outreach and education

The 2018 Maryland Rural Health Plan outlined several recommendations in three categories:

- Policy recommendations
- System-based recommendations
- Individual recommendations

The 2018 Maryland Rural Health Plan was made possible through a collaboration between MRHA, the Maryland Department of Health, the Rural Maryland Council, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The plan can be viewed and downloaded from the MRHA website: <http://www.mdruralhealth.org/maryland-rural-health-plan/>.

ADDITIONAL BUDGET COMMITTEE FUNDING APPROVALS

- Program Open Space – Statewide: \$54,000,000
- Program Open Space – Local: \$53,300,000
- Rural Legacy Program: \$20,000,000
- Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Program: \$40,500,000

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION & RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND (MAERDAF)



Photos courtesy of Friends of the Grape, Inc.
(Chesapeake Culinary Center)

MAERDAF GRANT AWARDS (RMPIF FUNDED)- SCOPES OF WORK

Allegany Health Right

Amount Awarded - \$19,900.00

Program: Allegany Health Right improves the oral health for underserved, low income adults in Allegany and Garrett Counties. The dental care program works on prevention and improved oral health while also tackling the immediate dental needs of the target population.

Summary: The program focuses on adults with Medicaid or Medicare coverage as these health coverage plans include little or no dental care. The program works with community dentists, oral surgeons and the dental clinics at both the Allegany and Garrett County Health Departments. MAERDAF funding has provided for partial salary for a Dental Case Manager, and direct payment for dental treatment to dentists. **To date, 43 low-income individuals have received dental care treatment provided for with MAERDAF funds.**

OVERVIEW

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 2018, the average grant amount awarded was \$20,015.15.

During FY 2018, a total of 119 applications were submitted with a total of \$1,642,296.00 requested. A total of 34 grants totaling \$680,515.00 were distributed to 32 organizations.

Of the total awarded grants, 25 were supported by RMPIF funds. The remainder of the grant awards were funded from FY18 MAERDAF funds appropriated through a separate line-item in the State's Operating Budget.

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION & RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND (MAERDAF)

Arundel Lodge, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$29,951.00

Program: Telemental health services (TMH) are particularly suited for treatment of deaf and hard of hearing (HOH) individuals, especially those who live in rural areas where not only is there limited access to mental health services in general, but an extreme scarcity of service providers who culturally and linguistically competent to provide services.

Summary: MAERDAF was used to expand the current platform for offering telemental health services to deaf and hard of hearing individuals who communicate using American Sign Language on the Eastern Shore. MAERDAF funding purchased HIPAA-compliant video software and a contract for technical support, and trained 2 staff members to use the video software platform; disseminated marketing materials to rural areas, including behavioral health and other providers, community members, and deaf-related agencies; recruited 10 new consumers to receive software-based teletherapy; and, established meetings face-to-face with consumers for the initial session to provide training on the software and establish schedule for regular therapy schedule. At the end of year 1, a consumer satisfaction survey was conducted to inquire about accessibility to telemental health services. **The program served 21 deaf individuals with home-based psychotherapy.**

Atlantic General Hospital Association

Amount Awarded - \$26,590.50

Program: Atlantic General Hospital Association's mission is to create a coordinated care delivery system that will provide access to quality care, personalized service, and education to improve individual and community health.

Summary: MAERDAF funding provided support to Lower Eastern Shore area food banks to address the basic health needs of the homeless and transitional population and to help understand the nutritional value of foods, prepare diet specific food packages, and increase nutritional education to the recipients. Funding addressed the primary health needs of the homeless patients, those who are food insecure, and residents in the Diakonia Shelter, through early identification screening and increased access to primary care services. Specifically, MAERDAF funding provided for salary and fringe benefits for a part-time Community Health Worker (CHW), Telemedicine Coordinator, Dietician, and Care Coordination and Prevention Nurses, and reimbursement for travel and transportation. Funds provided for the Dietician to attend an education seminar to obtain latest updates and community outreach information, and purchase of a laptop computer, publication and documentation, and administrative materials and supplies.

Bay Area for Independent Living

Amount Awarded - \$20,000.00

Program: Bay Area Center for Independent Living, Inc. promotes access to community resources and support for people with disabilities and their families through programs which offer choices, preserve dignity, and increase independence for an improved quality of life across the nine counties of the Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Summary: MAERDAF funding supported the Youth Assistive Technology and Vocational Training Program to allow students with disabilities to gain employment skills in Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties. The vocational services included computer skills training, cover letter writing, resume development, online application completion, job exploration, and career assessments. The Assistive Technology skills included individualized assessments to determine proper adaptive software or low-tech assistive technology devices that may bridge the gap towards gainful employment. Funds were used to provide for partial salary for a Vocational Trainer, purchase of a computers and software equipment, and printing of career assessment materials. **To date, 36 outreach sessions have been conducted, 42 youth have applied for jobs or apprenticeships, and 42 youth have engaged in vocational training.**

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION & RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND (MAERDAF)

Bay Community Support Services, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$13,000.00

Program: Bay Community Support Services' (BAY-CSS) mission for the past 25 years is to support people with intellectual and physical disabilities to attain their fullest possible employment productivity and inclusion into the everyday life of the community, along with assuring their rights, entitlements and choices and educating the community to improve awareness and understanding of people with disabilities.

Summary: MAERDAF funding addressed the transportation needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in St. Mary's, Charles, Calvert and Southern Anne Arundel County served by Bay Community Support Services to access employment, volunteer locations and community activities. Funding purchased a lift equipped, 12 passenger vehicle used to transport people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to access their communities for work, volunteering, social engagements and medical appointments. **To date, 20 individuals have been provided with daily transportation to 15 locations on a daily basis.**

Caroline County Council for the Arts

Amount Awarded - \$13,000.00

Program: For 40 years, Caroline County Council of Arts has served the residents of Caroline County, Maryland by pursuing our mission to enhance the cultural opportunities and access to the arts in each of the County's unique communities, promote economic development and downtown revitalization through the arts, and inspire creativity and personal development by supporting arts education programs in our schools and communities.

Summary: The Fiber Arts Center of the Eastern Shore (FACES), a division of the Caroline County Council of Arts, supports the economic opportunity in the rural communities of the Eastern Shore through the fiber arts. MAERDAF funding developed training resources on marketing topics for fiber and culinary artists and small business owners. The training included a full-day training workshop, featuring speakers and trainers on a variety of topics, and the development and distribution of marketing how-to guides available in print and online. **The full-day workshop training was held on May 4, 2018 at Chesapeake College in Wye Mills, MD with 60 individuals in attendance for training; three training guides and 12 workshops are now available online.**

Chesterwe Center, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$30,000.00

Program: The mission of Chesterwe Center is to enhance the lives of adults with developmental disabilities towards personal independence and choice. The program offers a wide range of services that will assist individuals to develop their abilities, support their life choices, and become a valued member of their community.

Summary: The Chesterwe Center serves adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Midshore five county region. MAERDAF funds purchased and installed a ceiling tracking and hoist to adequately assist residents in becoming more independent. The tracking is mounted in the ceiling between bed and toilet/shower and can also go in the living spaces to assist staff with patient movement. It will provide greater safety to the persons using it. Accessibility throughout the group home is designed to increase independence for people with some of the most significant physical and intellectual/developmental needs.

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION & RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND (MAERDAF)

Community Development Network of Maryland, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$30,000.00

Program: The Community Development Network of Maryland (CDN) is a statewide organization made up of over 180 member organizations from across the state including nonprofits, public agencies and developers. CDN promotes, strengthens and advocates for Maryland's community development industry serving urban, rural and suburban communities.

Summary: MAERDAF funding provided technical assistance to help rural-serving community development organizations build capacity. Specifically, funds were used to hire consultants: one consultant to assist with the development of a viable, sustainable funding source for the Community Development Fund. The Capacity Building Program includes services for organizational transformation for five (5) nonprofit community development organizations, including strengthening of strategic plans, budgeting and programming. This opportunity will streamline operations and diversify funding to help keep organizations sustainable to continue to provide critical services.

Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center

Amount Awarded - \$15,120.00

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

Summary: In order to meet the demands of the current health care deficit on the rural Eastern Shore, it is imperative to train more Community Health Workers (CHWs). Funding was used to train a cohort of twelve (12) Community Health Workers, throughout the nine counties of the Eastern Shore within a one year time frame. ESAHEC will be responsible for scheduling and facilitating the training for a cohort of twelve (12), reviewing base line knowledge scores and program evaluations, as well as compiling all data to create a final report for the funder. **Funds provided support for the costs for twelve (12) individuals to participate in Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center (ESAHEC) 80 hour curriculum Community Health Worker training program and to hire a Community Health Worker contractual co-trainer to assist the LEAD Trainer.**

End Hunger in Calvert County, Calvert Ca\$h

Amount Awarded - \$7,500.00

Program: End Hunger in Calvert County (EHCC) is a coalition of over 150 businesses, churches, farmers, public schools, government and social service agencies united behind the idea that we can end hunger in our community.

Summary: MAERDAF funding provided for a stipend for a Volunteer Maryland Coordinator for the Calvert Ca\$h program. The Calvert Ca\$h program is a free tax preparation service that serves low-income families in Calvert and St. Mary's Counties, and teaches families how to prepare their own tax forms, claim the Earned Income Tax Credit and avoid predatory practices. The Volunteer Maryland Coordinator recruited and trained new volunteer area experts and business partners to provide financial education classes, tax coaches to support the Calvert Ca\$h program, and assist with bilingual education material development and distribution. **The program successfully filed 264 tax returns, trained 8 new tax coaches, and completed policies and procedure documents.**

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION & RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND (MAERDAF)

End Hunger in Calvert County, Food Distribution Warehouse

Amount Awarded - \$7,500.00

Program: End Hunger in Calvert County (EHCC) is a coalition of over 150 businesses, churches, farmers, public schools, government and social service agencies united behind the idea that we can end hunger in our community.

Summary: MAERDAF funding was used to support a Volunteer Maryland Coordinator (VMC) position to meet the growing demand for food distribution services for low-income families in Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties, as well as rural Southern Anne Arundel County. The Volunteer Maryland Coordinator developed volunteer guidelines, training materials, and helped to build the volunteer base, and recruit community volunteers and new business partners during the grant period. **To date, 13,000 unduplicated individuals have received food support and community based referrals.**

Farming 4 Hunger

Amount Awarded - \$27,000.00

Program: Farming 4 Hunger's mission is to feed the hungry and help feed the soul. Hunger comes in many different ways. Healing the mind, body and spirit is at the core of Farming 4 Hunger. We believe if you serve others, you too will be fed.

Summary: MAERDAF funding expanded the Agricultural Education/Workforce Investment Initiative to introduce more students and incarcerated men completing time at the Department of Corrections Southern Maryland Pre-Release Unit to farming and agriculture as an employment opportunity and viable way of life. The Initiative includes promoting agricultural education directly into schools with an overarching theme of developing healthy lifestyles. Funding supported costs to hire consultants to serve as a Farm & Inmate Supervisor, a Warehouse Manager, Youth Outreach Coordinator, Grant Manager and a Life Coach. Funds also provided for stipends for three(3) assembly speakers to speak at Southern Maryland area high schools to promote agricultural education and careers.



Photos courtesy of Farming 4 Hunger

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION & RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND (MAERDAF)

Friends of the Grape, Inc. (Chesapeake Culinary Center)

Amount Awarded - \$30,000.00

Program: Chesapeake Culinary Center (CCC) is a grassroots non profit organization committed to the betterment of our community through job training, youth development, culinary and nutrition education, local foods sustainability, and economic development.

Summary: Friends of the Grape will provide direct assistance to farmers and other food based entrepreneurs to guide them through the process of getting their product to market. Specifically, MAERDAF funding provided for salary for a Processor and Operator position, and for a Marketing and Sales position to target a goal of assisting at least 10 businesses/individuals annually. **Over 16,000 meals have been purchased to date, and resulted in a new full time person as well as providing 550 hours of additional hours for safety trained cafeteria workers from Caroline County Schools.**

Garrett County Memorial Hospital (DBA Garrett Regional Medical Center)

Amount Awarded - \$25,000.00

Program: Garrett County Memorial Hospital's (DBA Garrett Regional Medical Center) mission is to treat every patient and each other like a member of their own family.

Summary: Garrett Regional Medical Center does not have a vehicle for Community Health Workers (CHWs) to visit patient homes or ferry patients with limited transportation options to health care appointments. Funds purchased of a 4-wheel drive vehicle for CHWs to use for patient home visits and to take patients with transportation barriers to wellness checks and other doctor appointments as needed. **Through June 2018, 272 patients have received support for making and keeping medical appointments, and 141 patients have been apprised of community resources.**

Habitatfor Humanity Choptank

Amount Awarded - \$26,625.00

Program: Habitatfor Humanity Choptank, an affiliate of "Habitat International", is a nonprofit organization operated on Christian principles that seeks to put God's love into action by building homes, communities and hope, and serves Dorchester and Talbot Counties.

Summary: MAERDAF funds provided support for the growth of Habitat for Humanity Choptank's Neighborhood Revitalization (NR) program by hosting AmeriCorps members. MAERDAF funds purchased tools and safety gear supplying a dedicated volunteer repair and home preservation crew. **Through June 2018, 60 families have been served with home repairs including weatherization and preservation, and 51 new volunteers have completed training.**

Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area

Amount Awarded - \$11,800.00

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

Summary: A Familiarization (FAM) Tour, a complimentary tour designed to acquaint participants with destinations to stimulate travel, was provided to the Student Youth Travel Association (SYTA) Annual Conference held in Baltimore in 2018. The FAM tour introduced the advantages of staying in a Carroll, Frederick, or Washington County lodging facility when leading student group tours in the region, and demonstrated the locations as accessible and affordable hubs for visiting Washington, D.C. and Gettysburg. Funds provided for motorcoach rental for two (2) days and lodging expenses for FAM tour attendees.

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION & RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND (MAERDAF)

Mental Health Association of the Eastern Shore

Amount Awarded - \$12,552.00

Program: The mission of the Mental Health Association of the Eastern Shore is to promote mental wellness and behavioral health with education and advocacy.

Summary: Mental Health Association of the Eastern Shore is the lead organization for the Shore Training Collaborative (STC), whose goal is to improve outcomes for children and youth with serious emotional and behavioral challenges. The STC trains professionals, families and other community members in mental health related topics. MAERDAF funds provided for costs for six (6) professional behavioral health/mental health trainings to residents of the nine Eastern Shore counties. Deliverables include increased mental/behavioral health knowledge and understanding of individuals and organizations responsible for the care and education of youth, and distribution of a survey to behavioral health workforce, families and others who engage with youth on the Eastern Shore and identify future training needs. **To date, the survey has received 101 responses, and 6 outreach trainings have been conducted with a total of 200 participants.**

Phillips Wharf Environmental Center, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$22,100.00

Program: Phillips Wharf Environmental Center informs, inspires, and involves the public in understanding how every-day decisions affect the Chesapeake Bay. Hands-on learning experiences teach how modern scientifically based aquaculture can launch an economically viable and environmentally appropriate seafood industry for the 21st century.

Summary: The Phillips Wharf Environmental Center (PWEC) has launched a secondary school vocational aquaculture program for students in their junior and senior year of high school, in the 2017 - 18 school year. MAERDAF funding provided for partial salary and fringe benefits for the Executive Director to create lesson plans and ensure curriculum meets Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) to teach best practices of oyster aquaculture; partial salary and fringe benefits for Aquaculture Manager to implement the new curriculum; student transportation expenses to Phillips Wharf and other industry partner sites from participating schools once a week as an immersion part of the curriculum. Funding also provided for a stipend for an AmeriCorps member to work directly with the Education Director and Aquaculture Manager to recruit and train needed volunteers to staff the program for maximum effectiveness, and expenses for Skipjack cruises to provide educational sailing trips for younger students. **A total of 75 students participated in the pilot program.**

Preservation Maryland

Amount Awarded - \$30,000.00

Program: Preservation Maryland is dedicated to preserving Maryland's historic buildings, neighborhoods, landscapes, and archeological sites which are irreplaceable resources that instill pride of place, attract new investment, stimulate employment and economic activity as well as create livable towns and communities.

Summary: The Rural Historic Communities Development and Education Program helps to bridge the gap, and lack of understanding of the economic value of historic preservation and how the private sector can access available financial incentives to reduce the cost of historic rehabilitation investments by providing an education program directed to the leaders of historic preservation commissions and related organizations in the 18 rural counties. MAERDAF funding provided for the costs of professional development training workshops, in-the-field service outreach sessions, expanding and maintaining online business directory, podcasts, webinars, and communication. **Eight rural focused PreserveCast episodes have been distributed nationally, and a 70+ page directory was published in June 2018.**

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION & RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND (MAERDAF)

Susquehanna Workforce Network, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$18,800.00

Program: Susquehanna Workforce Network (SWN) is focused on executing workforce strategies that contribute to the economic competitiveness of the Harford and Cecil County region by creating solutions to address the region's pressing workforce and economic development challenges.

Summary: The Susquehanna Workforce Network proposes to address the long term unemployed in Cecil and Harford Counties with the development of the Cecil College Warehouse Distribution Technician Training Pilot for projected new warehouse jobs coming to Cecil County. This training will include basic warehouse training, fork lift operations, OSHA industry safety, computer basics and distribution functions. MAERDAF funding provided for subcontracts for training of participants in the Warehouse Distribution Training program at Cecil College, daily support payments for participants in training, and participant supplies including occupational tools and uniforms. **Eight trainees completed program requirements, four became employed, and seven became involved in a job search.**

Tri-County Council Foundation

Amount Awarded - \$10,269.00

Program: The Tri-County 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, non-profit organizations and business.

Summary: MAERDAF funding provided a portion of the operating expenses of the One Stop Job Market mobile unit to address the need for employment and training services in the remote areas of Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties. The use of the One Stop Job Market mobile unit allows the Lower Shore Workforce Alliance to bring and deliver employment services to those who live in rural areas and need them the most. MAERDAF funds provided for salary and fringe benefits for the One Stop Job Market Mobile Operator, and expenses for the One Stop Job Market Mobile Unit to include gasoline reimbursement, and routine maintenance and vehicle repairs. **As of June 2018, 1,005 individuals have been assisted with employment services and training opportunities, 669 Maryland Workforce Exchange clients have been registered, and 321 clients have been assisted with online job applications.**

Washington County Community Action Council, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$29,600.00

Program: Washington County Community Action Council, Inc. assists people in economic need in our community to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency while respecting their diversity.

Summary: MAERDAF funding supported systems upgrades and related work for a shared client tracking software system, called Service Point (SP). SP is the brand of software counties use to manage Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) requirements. The system was implemented in Allegany, Washington and Cecil Counties. **Specifically, MAERDAF funds provided for travel for the HMIS staff to local agencies for training or consultation and/or applicable trainings hosted by parent software company; salaries and fringe benefits for at least four (4) full-time employees to assist as liaisons for the coordination efforts for the HMIS system; and, provided 36 hours of training and 360 hours for systems upgrades & testing, rebuilding shared reports, data element integration, and other system administration duties for Allegany, Washington and Cecil Counties.** MAERDAF funds also supported specific local needs such as new user set-ups, client de-duplication, provider set-ups & consultations, issue tracking & monitoring, etc., and one-time reporting license upgrades and annual user license fees.

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION & RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND (MAERDAF)

Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

Amount Awarded - \$30,000.00

Program: A non-profit organization serving the public good, the mission of the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts (WCMFA) is to provide a vibrant place for the presentation and exploration of art of lasting quality for the benefit of a diverse public through intentional art collecting, lively interpretation, diligent preservation and care, active educational programs, and opportunities for social interaction.

Summary: The Washington County Museum of Fine Arts serves a broad cross section of five Western Maryland rural Counties including Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett and Washington to provide a vibrant place for the presentation and exploration of art of lasting quality. MAERDAF funding provided support for comprehensive modifications of the Museum's HVAC system and LED upgrades to maintain its reputation, accreditation, and increase visitor capacity and energy efficiency. MAERDAF funding also supported subcontracted services for installation of HVAC installation.

Western Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Council

Amount Awarded - \$17,380.00

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

Summary: MAERDAF funding purchased a trailer style post pounder with hydraulic post hugger and 4" pilot auger. The machine was made available to all Soil Conservation Districts (SCD) in Western Maryland. Benefiting from this grant were farmers and landowners in Garrett, Allegany, Washington, Frederick and Carroll Counties. Specifically, funds were used to purchase a post pounder with hydraulic post hugger and 4" pilot auger machine equipment. **As of June 2018, five landowners have used the post pounder and over 8,000 linear feet of fence has been built.**

Women Supporting Women, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$9,200.00

Program: Women Supporting Women's mission is to provide awareness, education and support to all those affected by breast cancer.

Summary: Women Supporting Women (WSW) provides awareness, education and support to all those who are affected by breast cancer. The "Your Healthiest You" conference is a unique, positive step and aids in providing awareness, education and support to all those who are or will be affected by breast cancer in the future on the Eastern Shore. MAERDAF funding provided for speaker and travel fees for keynote speaker, Darryle Pollack, a breast cancer survivor, for the "Your Healthiest You" healthcare conference in spring 2018, and marketing materials to promote conference attendance.

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION & RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND (MAERDAF)

MAERDAF GRANT AWARDS SCOPE OF WORK - MAERDAF FUNDED

The following list contain the scope of work of the remainder of the MAERDAF grant awards which were funded from FY18 MAERDAF funds appropriated through a separate line-item in the State's Operating Budget. In addition to the \$4,167,000.00 received for RMPFI, the RMC also received an additional \$167,000.00 in a separate line-item for MAERDAF funds.

Chesapeake College Foundation

Amount Awarded - \$9,469.84

Program: Chesapeake College prepares students from diverse backgrounds to excel in further education and employment in a global society. As a community college, Chesapeake College is more than an institution of higher education.

Summary: Agriculture Mechanics is a fundamental, required course within Chesapeake College's new agriculture degree program and will be offered for the first time in the spring 2018 semester. The course enables students to attain basic welding, plumbing, electrical, and mechanical skills essential to on-farm repairs of equipment or structures and make students more marketable as agriculture employees. Specifically, MAERDAF funding provided for salaries and fringe benefits for Adjunct Instructors for the Agriculture Mechanics Course; consummable materials and supplies for students in the Agriculture Mechanics course; OSHA 10 Safety Course for students enrolled; and, marketing and advertising campaigns to promote the Agriculture Mechanics Course. **As of June 2018, four students enrolled in the Agriculture Mechanics course, and four students completed the OSHA 10 Safety course.**

Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$9,625.00

Program: 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.

Summary: The Elementary Edibles pilot allows for each participating grade of students from South Penn Elementary, a Title I Allegany County school, to grow and harvest a different vegetable, culminating in student/parent salad bar events (one per grade level) in May 2018. MAERDAF funding provided contractual support for project management, program preparation, lesson development, in-class lessons and planning and the salad bar event, and costs for purchase of supplies for the lessons/planting kits and the salad bar event. **439 South Penn Elementary school students participated in the program, and 20 teachers; 23-27% of the student participants reported an increase in agricultural literacy in pre/post tests, and 100% reported they were willing to try a new vegetable/herb as a result of the pilot.**



Photos courtesy of
Evergreen Heritage
Center Foundation, Inc.

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION & RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND (MAERDAF)

Hagerstown Community College

Amount Awarded - \$29,813.00

Program: Hagerstown Community College is a state and county supported comprehensive community college. Its central purpose is to offer a diverse array of courses and programs designed to address the curricular functions of university transfer, career entry or advancement, adult basic skills enhancement, general and continuing education, as well as student and community service.

Summary: The MAERDAF grant funded a part-time recruiter/curriculum development assistant to work with lead faculty to help establish the new environmental studies program, as well as to fund a summer institute to develop collaborative relationships with local secondary school teachers, so that they can, in turn, educate their students and encourage them to enroll in the new program. Information about the environmental science program was distributed to Allegany, Carroll, Garrett, Washington and Frederick Counties. Specifically, MAERDAF funding provided support for salary and fringe benefits for a part-time Recruiter/Curriculum Development Assistant; travel and attendance costs for Project Director to attend Association for Environmental Studies and Science Conference; and, materials and supplies. **As of June 2018, there are 14 declared majors in the Environmental Science program, 9 of the declared majors are actively taking courses in the program.**

Historic Sotterley, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$27,580.96

Program: Historic Sotterley's mission is to preserve our historic structures and natural environment and use the powerful stories of our land, lives, and labor to bring American history to life while serving as a cultural resource.

Summary: MAERDAF funding purchased and constructed a 24' x 40' x 10' Post Frame open pavilion with a 4/12 pitch truss roof, and installed a base of permeable CR6 bluestone, electricity and a waterline. The pavilion will host educational programs and events for the Southern Maryland community. Specifically, MAERDAF funding provided for salaries and wages for labor costs to grade and prepare site for pavilion installation and to spread bluestone, purchase of bluestone, 200 amp panel, ground fault wiring, lights, powerline, 4" well, and two (2) spigots, and to provide for additional pavilion equipment and labor.

LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$30,000.00

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

Summary: MAERDAF funding supported five multi-day educational seminars for Class X Fellows (2017-18) as part of the LEAD Maryland Fellowship training program. The project includes five seminars, or sixteen days of training, for twenty-three fellows in LEAD Class X. The grant allows the program to be present in rural counties that have never before hosted a LEAD program. **Support provided for the following seminars: Seminar 4: September 12-14, 2017, Dorchester County; Seminar 5: November 7-9, 2017, Lower Eastern Shore; Seminar 6: January 30-February 2, 2018, Annapolis; Seminar 7 April 10-12, 2018, Baltimore City; and, Seminar 8 June 12-14, 2018, Talbot and Caroline Counties.**

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION & RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND (MAERDAF)

Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$3,400.00

Program: Maryland Association of Soil Conservation District's (MASCD) mission is to promote practical and effective soil, water and related natural resource programs to all citizens.

Summary: MAERDAF funding supported the 2018 Maryland State Envirothon event, tentatively scheduled for June 20 - 21, 2018 at the Western Maryland 4H Camp in Garrett County. The goal of the Maryland Envirothon is to educate students on the importance of conservation, and help them become more involved in protecting natural resources by honing their problem-solving skills and instilling a sense of stewardship. **MAERDAF funding supported the purchase of meals for an estimated 170 participants of the 2018 Maryland State Envirothon event.**

Maryland Forestry Foundation (Mel Fellowship Program)

Amount Awarded - \$25,140.00

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

Summary: The Maryland Forestry Foundation continued the FY17 MAERDAF grant which funded a Mel Fellowship position to promote natural resources careers. The fellowship position was made available to a college student currently enrolled in a natural resource career field. This grant covers the cost of a 10-month fellowship (20 hours per week), including providing support for the matriculation of a well-qualified student in the field of Natural Resources, development of a new relationship between the Maryland Green Schools Program and the Natural Resources Careers Camp (NRCC), continued focus on recruitment efforts for NRCC, working with corporate and environmental partners, schools, county Forestry Boards and DNR. Specifically, **MAERDAF funding provided for Fellowship stipend for 20 hours a week, 10 months; purchase of an iPad and software for Fellowship student; provided for contract expenses associated with Natural Resources Careers Camp partnership kick-off, workshop assistance, and travel; and, purchase of materials and supplies, conference attendance costs, and telecomm - prorated cell phone costs for the Fellowship student.**

Maryland Forestry Foundation

Amount Awarded - \$22,600.00

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

Summary: MAERDAF funds delivered a training program for all Forestry Board leaders and up to eighty (80) selected board members drawn from every Maryland county. The funds enabled the development of a shared perspective with locally tailored outreach action plans, and to provide a wide range of tools and materials that encourage Forest Stewardship Plans, rural economic growth and local fundraising for specific local projects. The training was carried out in three regions of the State to include Eastern Shore, Western and Central Maryland. MAERDAF funds supported travel and meal costs for attendees and trainers at three workshops, provided for contractual services for landowner design and workshop delivery, development of landowner outreach materials, local fundraising workshop design and delivery, and development of fundraising workshop materials, and provided for contractual services for website design and updates, and video production and distribution for the three workshops.

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION & RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND (MAERDAF)

Southern Maryland Resource Conservation & Development Board, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$10,000.00

Program: The purpose of the Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Council is to accelerate the conservation, education, development and utilization of natural resources, improve the general level of economic activity, and to enhance the environment and standard of living in designated resource conservation and development areas.

Summary: MAERDAF funding provided support for the National Conservation Foundation (NCF) Envirothon Maryland 2017 National High School Environmental Education Competition at Mount St. Mary's University in Frederick County, Maryland. The Envirothon is a program that combines classroom learning with outdoor hands-on activities to prepare students for competition. During the week-long event, students trained and tested their knowledge in five topic areas: soils and land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and a current environmental issue which changes each year. MAERDAF funding provided for costs of lodging facilities to host 2017 Envirothon Maryland participants and attendees. **A total of 385 students and teachers participated in the 2017 Envirothon program.**



Photo courtesy of Southern Maryland Resource Conservation & Development Board, Inc. (2017 Maryland Envirothon)

RURAL MARYLAND PROSPERITY INVESTMENT FUND (RMPIF)

RMPIF GRANT AWARDS SCOPES OF WORK - ENTREPRENEURSHIP

College of Southern Maryland Foundation/SBDC Amount Awarded - \$20,000.00

Program: The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) Foundation, Inc. is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization governed by a volunteer board of directors. Established in 1970, the mission of the Foundation is to promote academic excellence, growth, progress, and the general welfare of the college. The Maryland Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Southern Region, hosted by CSM, provides Training and Counseling services to new and existing businesses.

Summary: RMPIF funds supported the development and implementation of a regional web-based resource and information portal, to convene a regional Entrepreneurship & Innovation Summit, and supported the development of entrepreneurial courses that will inform, engage and ignite the synergy needed to support a developing entrepreneurial ecosystem in Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties. Specifically, RMPIF funds provided support for partial costs for consultant services for the information portal enhancements and data integration.



Photo courtesy of Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore (Leadership Cohort and Training Program)

OVERVIEW

The Rural Maryland Council was pleased to receive \$4,167,000.00 in a General Fund Appropriation for RMPIF in Fiscal Year 2018. At the end of Fiscal Year 2018, there were \$0.00 in remaining funds from projects.

Funds were used to support the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) Fiscal Year 2018 Grant Awards, Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) Fiscal Year 2018 Grant Awards, and to support RMC operating expenses. The majority of the \$4,167,000 in appropriated funds were expended, with the exception of RMC operating expenses of approximately \$513,917.00.

In FY 2018, the average grant amount was \$58,222.19. During FY 2018, a total of 53 applications were submitted with a total of \$3,809,668.00 requested. A total of 27 grants totaling \$1,571,999.00 were distributed to 27 organizations. Grants were focused to four areas: entrepreneurship, health care, infrastructure and regional councils.

RURAL MARYLAND PROSPERITY INVESTMENT FUND (RMPIF)

Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center

Amount Awarded - \$119,420.00

Program: The mission of the Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center is to stimulate and support entrepreneurship in Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties, and to collaborate with other service providers or organizations in support of regional entrepreneurship within adjacent state and county jurisdictions of the Delmarva Peninsula.

Summary: The F3 (Farm-Fish-Food) Tech Accelerator program will position the Eastern Shore and Southern Maryland for increased economic growth by elevating their traditional industries of agriculture and seafood through innovation and technology and by utilizing their unique geographic characteristic of land and water to create the next generation of prosperity and wealth creation. This project served Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, St Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties. RMPIF funds initiated and grew the F3 Tech Accelerator program during its first year, including planning, promoting, and executing three of its program activities: the Seed and Incubator Stage (Challenge Events), Hatchery Stage (Pre-Accelerator), and Nursery Stage (Accelerator). **As of June 2018, four new firms have been created and supported, five new products have been launched by participants, three technologies have been licensed or commercialized, and ten challenge events or symposiums have been held.**

Energetics Technology Center, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$115,945.00

Program: Energetics Technology Center engages in technology activities which support the country's future national security posture and public interest, and is a catalyst for research, development, prototyping, education and training in Southern Maryland.

Summary: RMPIF funding allowed the continuation of dedicated, early stage tech transfer and entrepreneurial ecosystem development to continue as a core component of the TechFire mission and align with the objectives of the Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head Explosives Ordnance Disposal Technology Division (NSWC IHEODTD) and revitalization of the Town of Indian Head. Specifically, RMPIF supported consultation services for Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EIR) meetings, Small Business Reserve (SBIR) training sessions, Innovation and Discovery event speaker, panelists and judges, Defense--Maryland Industrial Partnerships program (D-MIPS) development, speakers for meet-ups, Entrepreneurial Competition judges and awards, and speakers and facilitators for scientists and engineers (S&E) entrepreneurship trainings and commercialization sessions.

Maryland Rural Development Corporation

Amount Awarded - \$18,000.00

Program: Maryland Rural Development Corporation provides resources that promotes self-sufficiency in low- income families and builds strong, sustainable communities throughout rural Maryland.

Summary: The Maryland Rural Development Corporation (MRDC) Circuit Rider Program addresses the issues of poverty and town management in rural towns by expanding outreach to include economic and entrepreneurial development in rural towns to bring the rural economy closer to the levels of the rest of the state. RMPIF funding was used to identify, hire, and train a consultant who will work directly with two towns, Goldsboro in Caroline County and Betterton in Kent County, to build or restore at least one business per town by creating a comprehensive business plan for each town. Specifically, RMPIF was used to provide for salaries and wages for a contractual consultant to provide economic development services to the towns of Goldsboro and Betterton.

RURAL MARYLAND PROSPERITY INVESTMENT FUND (RMPIF)

Phillips Wharf Environmental Center, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$54,720.00

Program: Phillips Wharf Environmental Center informs, inspires, and involves the public in understanding how every-day decisions affect the Chesapeake Bay.

Summary: Phillips Wharf Environmental Center (PWEC) implemented an aquaculture training program specifically designed to help working watermen move from traditional wild seafood harvesting to modern sustainable aquaculture. The participants learned best business practices, marketing, essential dealer and shipping skills, shellfish biology, oyster farming practices, shucking and health certification for producing a safe product for public consumption. The program was open to residents of all Maryland counties, and the project partners were based in Talbot, Queen Anne's, and Dorchester Counties.

Four individuals, three who are active watermen, participated in the program; three of the participants are pursuing oyster leases.

Tech Frederick

Amount Awarded - \$30,000.00

Program: Tech Frederick was formed to identify, highlight, support, foster awareness of, advocate for, and develop Frederick's growing high tech community through community education and human resource development, entrepreneurship training programs and seminars, and related events.

Summary: RMPIF funds provided for the purchase of technology and installation for entrepreneurs and small businesses in the Western Maryland region to practice presentation skills and promote their business. This project enabled regional entrepreneurs to receive free services to create a video to download and post on websites, social media, and more, to promote their businesses and gain access to additional capital. Specifically, RMPIF funds were used to provide for purchase of equipment, including installation and shipping, to include human circuit for video cameras; audio video and control; podium and curtain; wireless microphones; and, a production switcher.

SCOPES OF WORK - HEALTH CARE

Asian American Center of Frederick

Amount Awarded - \$63,217.00

Program: The mission of the Asian American Center of Frederick is to support ethnic minorities and immigrants so that they can live the American dream.

Summary: Asian American Center of Frederick expanded its Community Health Worker (CHW) program in both Frederick and Washington Counties in support of three critical needs facing the region: expanding access to and utilization of preventive and primary health care, improving the efficacy of health care delivery systems, and linking current resources in education, health care and workforce development to create more jobs and opportunities for economic empowerment and sustainable growth. RMPIF funding supported the expansion of the Collective Impact Model through contracts with expert(s) including the Institute for Public Health Innovation (IPHI) to strengthen the CHW training program, and the addition of a full-time CHW training coordinator. RMPIF funding also invested in fund development and marketing efforts to build the sustained, long-term, governmental and private business support needed for the CHW program based on a Collective Impact Model. **15 CHWs were enrolled in the training program in Washington and Frederick Counties with an 80% graduation rate, and six partnerships with community-based providers were established.**

RURAL MARYLAND PROSPERITY INVESTMENT FUND (RMPIF)

Calvert Hospice

Amount Awarded - \$4,212.00

Program: The mission of Calvert Hospice, a not for profit, community-based organization, is to provide comprehensive, interdisciplinary services focused on medical care and psychosocial, emotional, and spiritual support to residents of Calvert County who are dying or in need of palliative care.

Summary: Calvert Hospice developed a new substance abuse grief support program for individuals who have lost a loved one due to substance abuse. The program was held for eight-weeks at no charge to Southern Maryland residents. The sessions were facilitated by a licensed mental health professional specializing in grief counseling. RMPIF specifically funded consultant services for planning and evaluation for grief support classes, in addition to advertising and marketing the classes, purchase of research materials. **52 individual counseling sessions were held with 12 adult participants; 54 in-school group sessions were held with 14 children participating.**

Caroline County Health Department

Amount Awarded - \$30,000.00

Program: Caroline County Health Department's mission is to work together to improve the health and safety of all Caroline County Residents through disease prevention, access to care, improving the environment, quality management, and community engagement.

Summary: The Caroline County Health Department project educated all medical providers, Emergency Rooms, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), school health providers, and patients and citizens on the dangers of opioid use, prevention of abuse of prescription medications, and education on addiction and treatment, in Caroline County and in areas on the Eastern Shore where Caroline County residents may be served. Specifically, RMPIF funds provided for salary, wages and fringe benefits for a part-time Opioid Overdose Prevention Liaison, costs for printing and binding for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) books for program, including English and Spanish versions, and materials and supplies including business cards for the part-time Opioid Overdose Prevention Liaison and paper. **408 individuals participated in presentations and trainings, 320 attendees received Narcan certification. 487 Deterra bags were distributed at events and festivals.**

Crossroads Community, Inc.

Amount Awarded -\$13,790.00

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

Summary: RMPIF funds supported the Residential Rehabilitation Program (RRP), a structure in which a consumer learns life skills in a safe communal living environment with a high level of support built into daily life, by providing for repairs to three RRP properties located in Queen Anne's County. The property repairs will improve the quality of life, health and safety for Queen Anne's County residents in the RRP. **RMPIF funds provided for subcontract costs for repairs located at the following properties: 100 Farewell Road, Chestertown, MD - Replacement of HVAC, painting, roof replacement, and replacement of attic stairs; 521 Round Top Road, Chestertown, MD - Installation of sump pump and window replacement; and, 2515 Centreville Road, Centreville, MD - Painting exterior.**

RURAL MARYLAND PROSPERITY INVESTMENT FUND (RMPIF)

For All Seasons, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$68,480.00

Program: For All Seasons, Inc. is the only licensed behavioral health and rape crisis center serving the five counties of Maryland's Mid-Shore without regard to one's ability to pay. Their mission is to provide the highest level of comprehensive and integrated therapy, advocacy and psychiatric care in a safe environment, empowering and nurturing our clients toward wellness.

Summary: For All Seasons, Inc. provided additional mental health crisis services for men, women, children and families in the five counties of the Mid-Shore (Kent, Queen Anne's, Caroline, Talbot and Dorchester), by building on its urgent crisis response as a method to address the need for mental and behavioral health services. RMPIF funds provided support for outreach prevention education presentations in community organizations throughout the Mid-Shore, crisis appointments in the Psychiatrist and Clinical Director's daily schedules, the creation and dissemination of youth suicide risk assessment tools and non-billable time for the clinical team to consult with families in crisis.

Life Crisis Center, Inc. for the Lower Eastern Shore Suicide Prevention Coalition

Amount Awarded - \$27,439.00

Program: The Life Crisis Center's (LCC) mission is to ensure the quality of life in our communities through crisis intervention and violence prevention. The Lower Eastern Shore Suicide Prevention Coalition (LESSPC) exists to reduce suicide rates by enhancing access to behavioral health care. The vision is to create a community without suicide.

Summary: RMPIF funds supported the expansion of prevention services and continued to build upon progress in addressing suicide among youth by expanding the Signs of Suicide (SOS) program in middle schools in Worcester and Somerset Counties. Specifically, RMPIF funds provided for salaries, wages and fringe benefits for two (2) ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) trainers, Program Administrator, and HR/Payroll Administration; travel costs to include hotel, airfare, car rental, and per diem for one ASIST trainer to attend the SafeTALK training in Denver, Colorado; costs to purchase one hundred (100) ASIST workbooks, SafeTALK training kit, and SOS materials for 1,000 students; and, purchase of materials and supplies to include paper, pens, markers, flip charts, and presentation materials.

Maryland Area Health Education Center (AHEC West)

Amount Awarded - \$20,000.00

Program: The mission of the Maryland Area Health Education Center West (AHEC West) is to improve access to and promote quality in health care through educational and other partnerships.

Summary: RMPIF funds improved the oral health and employability of low-income Western Marylanders by providing dentures and related services, as well as emergency dental care, to more than 100 low-income adult residents of Allegany and Garrett counties who lack dental insurance. This project supported a collaborative effort between AHEC West and Allegany Health Right. Allegany Health Right coordinated emergency services for the uninsured, while AHEC West oversaw the denture program. AHEC West staff also assisted Allegany Health Right in working with Garrett residents and dentists who are outside of Allegany Health Right's normal service area. **RMPIF provided for the purchase of dentures for dental program participants. 41 residents of Western Maryland have been served by the program. 25 of these clients have received dentures and 16 have received emergency dental treatment.**

RURAL MARYLAND PROSPERITY INVESTMENT FUND (RMPIF)

Maryland Rural Health Association

Amount Awarded - \$18,000.00

Program: The Maryland Rural Health Association is a 501(c)3 nonprofit rural-serving health care organization whose mission is to educate and advocate for the optimal health of rural communities and their residents.

Summary: RMPIF funds supported the creation of an interactive website to engage rural communities and all 18 rural Maryland counties in the work and findings of the Rural Health Plan project, and provided useful data and information to fiscal and policy leaders, rural health planners, researchers, and other stakeholders interested in improving the health of rural people and Maryland.

Southern Maryland Center for Independent Living

Amount Awarded - \$75,000.00

Program: Southern Maryland Center for Independent Living (SMCIL) is a nonprofit organization created by and for people with disabilities. SMCIL is an advocacy, information and educational center that promotes independent living and empowerment for people with all types of disabilities.

Summary: RMPIF funds supported the purchase of a 10 to 15 seat wheelchair accessible van or bus to provide the Southern Maryland Center for Independent Living (SMCIL) to expand its geographic reach, provide services to an increased number of people with disabilities and veterans, and lead more people to independent living in Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties. **The van allows SMCIL to serve at least ten (10) additional people each day (five days each week), or an additional 200 people per month, and provide them with the means to pick up people in need of services and transport them to the SMCIL office.**

The Lower Shore Clinic, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$57,500.00

Program: The Lower Shore Clinic, Inc. provides sanctuary and support to adults recovering from substance abuse and/or severe mental illness on the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland as well as providing health care to all members of the community.

Summary: The Lower Shore Clinic, Inc. provides primary care and mental health treatment to residents of Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties. The Lower Shore Clinic, Inc. proposed to hire a new psychiatric nurse practitioner (PNP) to provide mental health treatment to its 3000 primary care members. RMPIF funds were used to provide for a salary for the PNP position. **As of June 2018, the PNP provided psychiatric services to 397 unique individuals, and provided 1,323 services to patients including referrals to primary care providers, referrals for medication resources, lab work, etc.**

Totally Linking Care in Maryland (TLC-MD)

Amount Awarded - \$50,000.00

Program: Totally Linking Care in Maryland (TLC-MD) was developed to improve access to and quality of health care provided to patients. Three Southern Maryland regional hospitals (Calvert Memorial Hospital, MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center, and MedStar St. Mary's Hospital) affiliated with TLC-MD partnered for the project.

Summary: RMPIF funding was designated for the purchase of two (2) mini-van style vehicles to enhance the services provided by the Community Health Workers (CHWs) that operate under TLC-MD. **As of June 2018, 793 specialty rides have been scheduled.**

RURAL MARYLAND PROSPERITY INVESTMENT FUND (RMPIF)

University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center

Amount Awarded - \$75,000.00

Program: University of Maryland Charles Regional Health exists to always provide excellent patient care as measured by the population's health, clinical outcomes, patient satisfaction and cost effectiveness.

Summary: The University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center plans to address the psychiatric provider shortage by engaging a Telepsych provider service to virtually consult with patients presenting to the Emergency Department for acute episodes of care in Southern Maryland. The Telepsych approach will provide capability for quality mental health care in a location without local providers of psychiatry. Providing mental health care with a psychiatric evaluation earlier in the course will greatly improve patient care, patient placement decisions and safe discharge planning. RMPIF provided for Telepsych fees for each virtual visit for patients with behavioral health needs. **As of June 2018, the length of stay for behavioral health patients has decreased by greater than 10%, average improvement has been consistently greater than 40% month over month. More than 288 telepsych consultations have been completed.**

Williamsport Volunteer Fire Company

Amount Awarded - \$22,000.00

Program: Williamsport Volunteer Fire Company's mission is to serve the needs of the Williamsport, Washington County community.

Summary: The Williamsport Volunteer Fire Company is in need of a ATV/UTV vehicle, due to overwhelming traffic and tourism coming into the Williamsport community, due to the expansion of the C&O Canal National Park. RMPIF funds provided for a UTV vehicle that will allow the Williamsport Volunteer Fire Company to manage and rescue individuals on the C&O Canal, and to increase rapid deployment and access restricted areas that may delay care to an individual in need.



Photo courtesy of The Lower Shore Clinic

RURAL MARYLAND PROSPERITY INVESTMENT FUND (RMPIF)

SCOPE OF WORK - INFRASTRUCTURE

City of Crisfield

Amount Awarded - \$125,000.00

Program: The mission of the City of Crisfield is to provide service to the citizens of the Greater Crisfield Area with responsiveness, honesty and non-partisan government to enhance all of our lives.

Summary: RMPIF funding supported the replacement of a failing wastewater pumping station and associated infrastructure located at 26466 Silver Lane, Crisfield, MD 21817. The pumping station supplies wastewater service to the portion of the City of Crisfield northwest of Highway 413 which includes McCready Hospital and Assisted Living Center. The project strengthened the relationship with the Somerset Sanitary County Sanitary District.

Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$90,000.00

Program: 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.

Summary: RMPIF funds defrayed the initial installation costs associated with using NeuBeam's broadband service for low income families. The project specifically targeted families participating in Garrett County Community Action Committee (GCCAC)'s Two-Generation Initiative (2-G), about 300 families throughout Garrett County, as well as other low-income households identified within GCCAC's database and within NeuBeam's serviceable areas. Additionally, GCCAC used its resources and Coordinators to inform families how to keep their children safe from exposure to undesired content as well as access the digital resources to assist them in financial management, improved employment, and accessing community resources.

Kent County Economic Development

Amount Awarded - \$200,000.00

Program: Kent County Government delivers services that protect and improve the health, safety, education, welfare, environment, economy, and unique quality of life of its citizens consistent with the County's values and priorities in a fiscally responsible manner.

Summary: RMPIF funds supported the construction of the Chestertown Business Campus, which will include apartments, a fitness center, and multiple speculative commercial pad sites. The Chestertown Business Campus will support the recruitment of new businesses and workforce training, as well as provide housing options, to spur the economic growth of the Upper Shore. Specifically, RMPIF funds provided for direct costs for infrastructure to develop roads for Phase I construction.

RURAL MARYLAND PROSPERITY INVESTMENT FUND (RMPIF)

Southern Maryland Minority Chamber of Commerce Foundation

Amount Awarded - \$31,785.00

Program: The Southern Maryland Minority Chamber of Commerce Foundation supports, educates, and serves the minority business, farming, and entrepreneurial community in southern Maryland which includes the southern parts of Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties and all of Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties.

Summary: RMPIF funding assisted with the support of identifying Southern Maryland locations that will potentially offer the best chance to acquire United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds to bring broadband access to rural communities in Maryland. This included the completion of broadband demand customer surveys, and development of high-level broadband system engineering and build-out timelines for selected rural communities. This project alleviates the lack of affordable and customer-oriented high-speed Internet access and other broadband services in rural underserved Southern Maryland communities. **The broadband demand customer surveys received 600 responses, 77% reported not being satisfied with the internet speed of their current provider, 88% of responded they are interested in switching internet service providers, and 11.2% reported not having broadband access at home.**

Sudlersville Volunteer Fire Company

Amount Awarded - \$48,655.00

Program: The mission for Sudlersville Volunteer Fire Company is to provide protection of life, property, and the environment from the effects of fires, medical emergencies, and hazards and to engage the community in their mission through progressive community outreach.

Summary: RMPIF funding supported the construction of a public laundromat facility that is easily accessible and affordable to residents of the Upper Shore area. The Sudlersville Community Laundromat initially anticipated to have 10 washers and 10 dryers of various sizes and will have Wi-Fi service that is needed for school children to do their homework. RMPIF Funding provided for the balance for the purchase, delivery and installation of laundry equipment to include ten (10) washers and ten (10) dryers.

Town of Denton

Amount Awarded - \$52,586.00

Program: The Town of Denton provides the residents of Denton, Caroline County with police, public works, and planning and codes services.

Summary: RMPIF funds supported the installation of fiber optic lines to the Town of Denton Waste Water Treatment Plant, and Industrial Park. This project provides fiber to the Town of Denton's wells and industrial park pump station, and the 2nd street pump station, which handles nearly 80% of the Town's waste water. This project will enhance the Town of Denton's network, and connect the pump station to the visitor center. Specifically, funds provided for costs for the installation and connection of fiber optic lines.

RURAL MARYLAND PROSPERITY INVESTMENT FUND (RMPIF)

Town of Preston

Amount Awarded - \$125,000.00

Program: The Town of Preston's mission is to preserve and enhance the heritage and environment which are sources of pride and an asset to the Town.

Summary: RMPIF funds provided upgrades to the influent lift pump station for the Town of Preston. This project achieves the upgrade of the Town's Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) to Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR) standards to meet the future wastewater needs of the Town, and to advance the milestones of the Caroline County Phase 2 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). RMPIF funds provided for subcontract costs for construction services for the influent lift station.

Town of Ridgely

Amount Awarded - \$16,250.00

Program: The Town of Ridgely will provide appropriate opportunities for employment within the community, while preserving the Village of Ridgely as an attractive rural community that encourages growth and development appropriate both in scale and scope with the existing community.

Summary: RMPIF funds supported the digital mapping and field validation locations of water mains, service laterals, hydrants, meters, and valves in the Town of Ridgely. Sewer facilities constructed since the original GIS mapping will be added and areas will be identified for field validation and update. Ridgely currently serves approximately 650 utility accounts (both residential and commercial) – the majority of the developed areas of Town. This project allows for the Town of Ridgely to plan for the future of its water and wastewater systems, and have the most up-to-date information available regarding Ridgely's utility system.

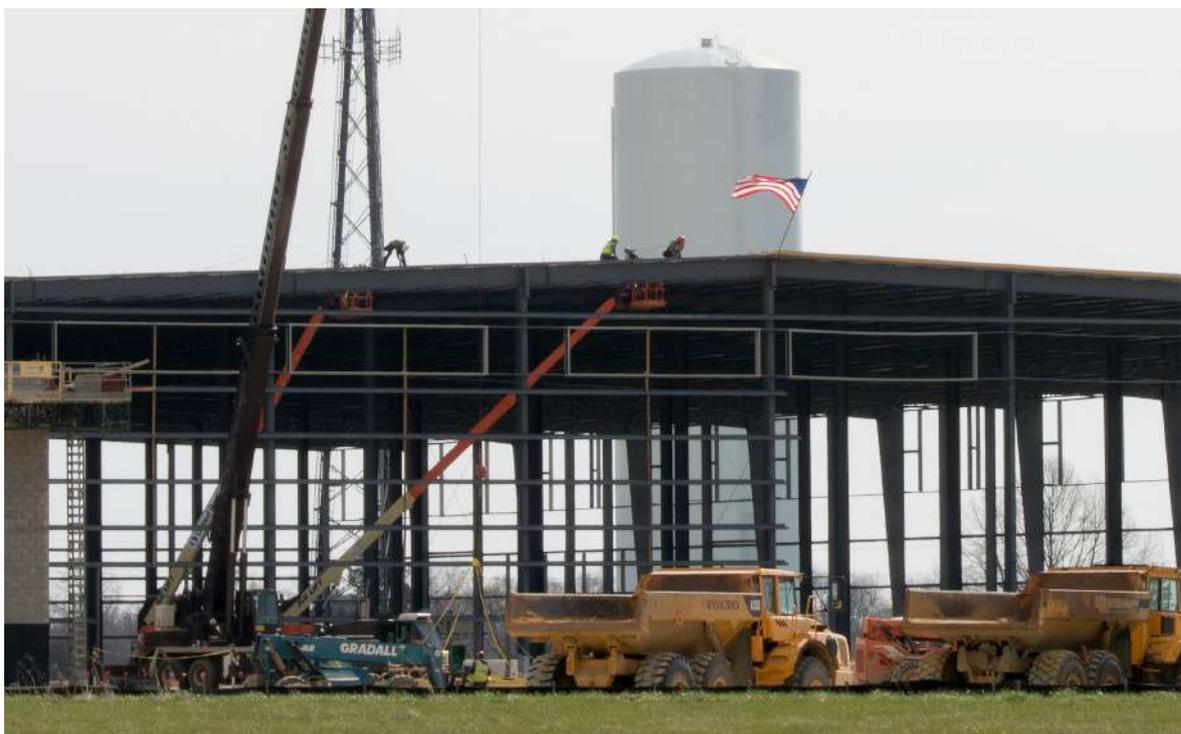


Photo courtesy of Kent County Economic Development

RURAL MARYLAND PROSPERITY INVESTMENT FUND (RMPIF)

SCOPES OF WORK - REGIONAL COUNCILS

Mid-Shore Regional Council

Amount Awarded - \$211,133.00

Program: The Mid-Shore Regional Council operates as a cooperative regional planning and development agency within Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot Counties to foster physical, economic and social development. The Council initiates and coordinates plans and projects for the development of human and economic resources.

Summary: RMPIF were implemented for seven (7) projects, including:

- Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC) - 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. **56 entrepreneurs have been mentored or coached during the full grant period; 38 AgPitch! submissions received; 13 start-ups participated in two programs and developed business model canvases; and, 11 startups participated in two programs and improved pitches and investor decks.**
- Shore Gourmet/Chesapeake Culinary Center – Retain the Development and Education Coordinator to continue and build the objectives of Shore Gourmet. **700 additional safety training hours for cafeteria workers at Caroline County schools was achieved.**
- Agricultural GIS Extension - Work with the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore (TCCLES) and the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) to maintain and expand a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Initiative for family farms to develop mapping and spatial analysis projects driven by their needs and requiring little to no additional effort on the part of the farmers. **Completed digitization of 20,000+ agriculture ditches from 2016 aerial imagery for the six Mid and Lower Eastern Shore Counties.**
- DelMarVa (Eastern Shore) Index - Work with the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore (TCCLES) and the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) to create an online repository and visualization tool that will function as a comprehensive data source for demographic, economic, geographic, and social data, pertaining to the DelMarVa Peninsula (or if datasets for the 3 states are not consistently available, the focus will be on the nine (9) counties of Maryland's Eastern Shore). The DelMarVa Index received guidance from the economic development professionals in each County to determine those datasets that are of the highest priority. This project subsumes the two previous dashboard projects (Healthcare and Education), rolling their results into a larger tool. **Implemented all dashboard functionality.**
- Housing (Blight) Study – Responded to an immediate need for data collection on housing challenges within the City of Cambridge, this project partners with the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) to collect housing quality, or blight, information for the City of Cambridge. Additionally, other municipalities such as the Town of Ridgely and the Town of Trappe will be included in this study being executed in the summer of 2017. This data can then be used by town planners, local elected officials, and the public to make decisions about priority remediation, potential solutions, and neighborhood comparisons of disrepair. **10,698 properties were evaluated as a part of the project.**
- Annie's Project – Supported the University of Maryland Extension in providing Annie's Project to the Mid-Shore region (Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot Counties). **10 registrants participated in the webinars, with 10 speakers and 18 hours of classroom time.**
- Regional Marketing Project – Supported a collaborative effort by Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot Counties to design a regional marketing effort. **Created request for proposals, advertised and presented concepts.**

RURAL MARYLAND PROSPERITY INVESTMENT FUND (RMPIF)

Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore

Amount Awarded - \$211,133.00

Program: The Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland was formed by an Act of the Maryland General Assembly in 2001. The purpose of the Council is to facilitate regional planning and development in Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties.

Summary: RMPIF funds were implemented for eight (8) projects:

- Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center: Mentor and coach thirty-six (36) entrepreneurs during project period and solicit as many as seventy (70) submissions to AgPitch! Business competition; coordinate five (5) finalists to present at Rural Maryland Council's Maryland Rural Summit; and, solicit as many as ten (10) startups to participate in each program. **56 entrepreneurs have been mentored or coached during the full grant period; 38 AgPitch! submissions received; 13 startups participated in two programs and developed business model canvases; and, 11 startups participated in two programs and improved pitches and investor decks.**
- Agricultural GIS Extension: Complete at least six (6) separate agricultural mapping/database projects for farmers in the middle and lower Eastern Shore. Host two (2) meetings of all local extension service agents to discussion project ideas that will have the greatest applicability to the widest possible subset of farmers, one in the beginning and one in the middle of the year. **Completed digitization of 20,000+ agriculture ditches from 2016 aerial imagery for the six Mid and Lower Eastern Shore Counties.**
- DelMarVa Index: Launch the beta version of the website by 2018. Take meetings with regional economic development directors to be sure the highest priority datasets are being collected and presented first. Seek feedback on alpha version of the website from economic development directors to ensure it is meeting expectations. **Implemented all dashboard functionality.**
- Summer Youth Employment: Placement of forty (40) youth in summer employment programs in Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties. **Placement of 53 youth in summer jobs has been achieved.**
- Project Opportunity: Use of a web based survey to determine outcomes of completing the program for graduates. **25% of graduates have responded to an online survey.**
- Worcester County Step Up and Reach for the Stars STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Camp, Leadership Cohort, and Internship Program: Placement of five (5) additional youth in STEM Program. **There were a total of 21 participants in the Stars STEM Camp, and 13 participants in the Leadership Cohort and Internship Program.**
- Tri-County Council Revolving Loan Fund: Create and capitalize a regional Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). **Commitments have been made for \$200,000.**
- Regional Marketing/Branding: Establishment of part-time marketing position. **The position was created and filled in October 2017.**

RURAL MARYLAND PROSPERITY INVESTMENT FUND (RMPIF)

Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland

Amount Awarded - \$211,133.00

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

Summary: RMPIF funds were implemented for seven (7) projects, including:

- **Expanding Access to Agricultural Education:** The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC) and the University of Maryland Institute of Applied Agriculture will expand access to agriculture education to five (5) to ten (10) rural resident in Southern Maryland through two agricultural courses, Analyzing Alternative Enterprises and Agricultural Leadership and Teamwork. **A total of nine students enrolled in the classes, and expressed positive feedback in evaluations.**
- **Market Enhancement for Small Fruits and Hops for Southern Maryland Farmers:** This project provided enhanced research, education, and training of small fruits (specifically – strawberries, blueberries, and brambles) and hops production for an estimated thirty (30) existing and beginning farmers between September 2017 and June 2018. **61 total individuals participated in the workshops, and 14 small businesses/existing farm enterprises were maintained. An average of 80% of individuals returning post surveys indicated they wanted to attend advanced classes and needed more information to confidently implement recommended practices and plantings.**
- **Livestock Enhancement Project:** Provided up to five (5) workshop sessions and a three-day Artificial Insemination hands-on training and classroom program to improve producers' livestock genetics, enhance productivity and increase the quality of meat products sold locally. **35 individual producers representing 29 farms participated in the artificial insemination workshops, and 72 individuals representing 50 farms participated in the Small Ruminant workshop. 80% of all survey respondents indicated they will use the knowledge gained to enhance their raising practices.**
- **Transportation Coordination Project:** Provided for a Design Thinking project to provide innovative solutions for healthcare related transportation in Southern Maryland. This project was a partnership between Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, Lifestyles of Maryland, Bay Community Support Services, ARC of Southern Maryland, and Center for Life Enrichment to expand transportation into the utmost rural areas of the Tri-County area. **Three new partnerships were established and included in an encompassing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).**
- **7th Annual Regional Hiring Event:** Hosted the 7th Annual Regional Hiring Event in Spring 2018, **63 hiring businesses and 856 jobseekers attended the event.**
- **Renovation of Office Space for New Calvert County American Job Center:** Renovate the Calvert County Department of Social Services (DSS) existing space located in Prince Frederick, MD to meet the requirements of an American Job Center.
- **Project Open Doors:** Increase capacity, increase business participation in training and expand outreach to area businesses. **10 eligible participants enrolled in the program, 8 enrolled participants completed training and completed a business plan and will launch a new business.**

RURAL MARYLAND PROSPERITY INVESTMENT FUND (RMPIF)

Tri-County Council for Western Maryland

Amount Awarded - \$211,133.00

Program: 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.

Summary: Tri-County Council for Western Maryland built upon the Appalachian Economic Development Initiative (AEDI) by making existing financing tools accessible to entrepreneurs and businesses in the Western Maryland region, and the other rural parts of the State, so that they may start or grow their businesses, and develop new financing tools for entrepreneurs and growing businesses where there is currently not any viable option for funding.

RMPIF funding enhanced the operation of the loan fund programs to better serve the needs of the business and entrepreneurial community; to support continuous improvement in staff skills within portfolio management and general accounting software through training opportunities; develop and implement the risk analysis assessment program implemented as part of the RMPIF program in Fiscal Year 2017; and, utilize the balance of resources available as capital for lending. **60 inquiries for funding were received, 5 applications for loans were received, and 16 lending institutions were visited. A total of 95 contacts were added to partnership database. Six loans were approved and five were disbursed during the grant period. The five disbursed loans resulted in 29 new jobs and 38 jobs retained.**

Upper Shore Regional Council

Amount Awarded - \$211,133.00

Program: The Upper Shore Regional Council is a regional planning and development organization serving Cecil, Kent and Queen Anne's counties.

Summary: RMPIF Funding increased current programs and created new opportunities to enhance business development and retention in the Upper Shore Region.

RMPIF funding supported administrative and programming costs for the Upper Shore Regional Council, as well as to provide for consultation services and subcontract support for economic development projects serving Cecil, Kent and Queen Anne's Counties. Subcontract support included a joint partnership with the Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO) to incentivize loan requests from Upper Shore Maryland farmers and to help them to meet certain down-payment (equity) requirements to help improve the quality credit for their applications.

Funding provided for support for subcontracts for: creation of the Upper Shore Agricultural Equity Incentive Matching Fund in partnership with MARBIDCO; support the Kent County "Hot Desk" marketing and equipment project; creation of two (2) Cecil County tourism videos; support the Cecil County Volunteer program, including increasing the number of volunteers and expansion of the program; and, creation of the Kent Narrow's Economic Feasibility Study, including benchmarking current economic activity, inventory changes to economic climate, and provide market data and guidance to new and existing businesses in the Waterfront Village Center. **The Kent County marketing of economic development projects was attended by 30 students, 6 teachers, 4 parents, and 6 business owners.**

RURAL MARYLAND FOUNDATION

The Rural Maryland Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization formed in 2001 to support the work of the Rural Maryland Council. All contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible and may be sent to: Rural Maryland Foundation, Post Office Box 1544, Annapolis, Maryland 21404. More information on the Foundation can be found at: ruralmdfoundation.org.

TRANSFER OF WEALTH STUDY

The Rural Maryland Foundation completed the Transfer of Wealth Study (TOW) project for Rural Maryland, in partnership with the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship. America's communities are struggling to find the financial resources necessary to support community and economic development. Traditional sources, such as government funding, is stagnant or declining. In this environment, possibly the single largest underdeveloped resource is community-based philanthropy fueled by capturing some portion of the TOW opportunity.

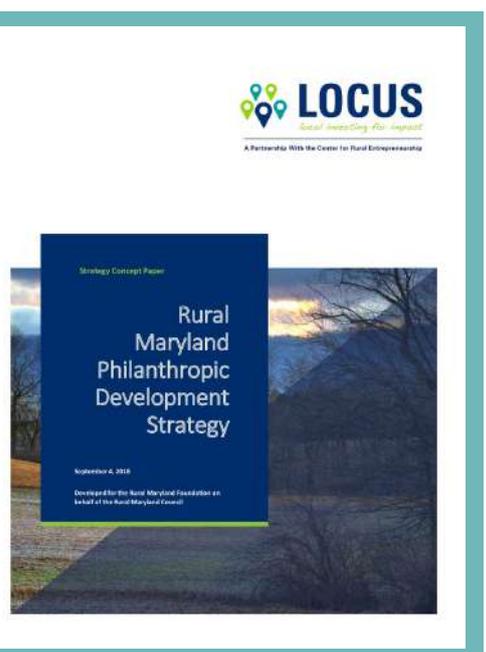
TOW is an estimate of American household wealth from which charitable giving could be realized. The draft analysis and research yields a conservative estimate of TOW, discounting wealth that is unlikely to be available for charitable giving.

In September 2017, the 2017 Transfer of Wealth Opportunity Analysis was produced to measure rural Maryland's philanthropic potential. The report is available for download here:

<http://www.ruralmdfoundation.org/transfer-of-wealth-study.html>

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RURAL MARYLAND FOUNDATION

RURAL MARYLAND PHILANTHROPIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

In late 2017 and throughout the spring of 2018, the Rural Maryland Foundation continued its partnership with the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship to form strategies for implementing a plan to encourage philanthropic investment in rural communities.

The Rural Maryland Foundation held several TOW Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings with its Board of Trustees, members of community foundations, grantmakers, and interested community stakeholders to craft impact and strategy goals.

Working session two (January 19, 2018) articulated the following strategy goals:

- Keep wealth in rural Maryland.
- Engage foundations in the initiative.
- Engage community foundations, private foundations, and non-profits.
- Support enhanced estate planning.
- Provide best practices.
- Provide gap financing.
- Help rural Maryland minority farmers.

After considerable discussion, the TAC team decided to embrace the following overarching goal using the strategy goals: *Keeping wealth in rural Maryland so that it can be used to support community economic development work.*

In September 2018, the Rural Maryland Philanthropic Development Strategy was finalized. The report is available for download here:

<http://www.ruralmdfoundation.org/transfer-of-wealth-study.html>

KEY FINDINGS

The Center for Rural Entrepreneurship's 2017 Transfer of Wealth Opportunity Analysis for the Rural Maryland region produced the following findings:

- **2016 Household Current Net Worth – \$530 Billion**
- **10-Year (2017 through 2026) TOW Opportunity – \$64 Billion**
- **50-Year (2017 through 2066) TOW Opportunity – \$703 Billion**

Over the Next Decade. Acting aggressively on the 10-year TOW opportunity and achieving a five percent giving goal, the State and its communities would realize the following:

- **10-Year Opportunity – \$64.1 Billion Transferring between 2017-2026**
- **5% Giving Goal Realized – \$3.2 Billion in New Community Endowments**
- **5% Sustained Annual – Payout \$160 Million a year in Perpetual Grant Making**

Over Two Generations. Acting aggressively on the 50-year TOW opportunity and achieving a five percent giving goal, the State and its communities would realize the following:

- **50-Year Opportunity – \$702.5 Billion Transferring between 2017-2066**
- **5% Giving Goal Realized – \$35.1 Billion in New Community Endowments**
- **5% Sustained Annual Payout – \$1.8 Billion a year in Perpetual Grant Making**



CONTACT US



50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410 841-5772
rmc.mda@maryland.gov
rural.maryland.gov

 [Facebook/ruralmaryland.council](https://www.facebook.com/ruralmaryland.council)

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