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*Scott Warner, Chair*

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Rural Maryland Council announces Fiscal Year 2020  
RURAL MARYLAND PROSPERITY INVESTMENT FUND (RMPIF)  
Grant Recipients**

The Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund supports the Rural Maryland Council's activities and the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF), which provides capacity-building funds to rural nonprofit service providers. It also supports the states' five regional councils, regional infrastructure projects, rural entrepreneurship development, rural community development, and rural health care organizations.

Total Requested:	177 grants	\$ 10,521,692.01
<b>Total Awarded:</b>	<b>83 grants</b>	<b>\$6,291,030.01</b>

**Rural Maryland Council 1 grant = \$513,917.00**

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

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

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

**Regional Councils 5 grants = \$ 2,055,665.00**

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

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

During Fiscal Year 2020, RMPIF grant categories of Entrepreneurship, Health Care, and Infrastructure received 58 applications totaling \$ 5,284,247.24. Of these requests, 27 grants totaling \$ 2,694,053.24 were awarded to 26 organizations:

**Health Care 16 grants = \$968,916.24**

- Asian American Center of Frederick, \$125,000.00
- Atlantic General Hospital, \$220,322.12
- Caroline County Health Department, \$41,500.00
- Channel Marker, Inc., \$22,725.00

*"A Collective Voice for Rural Maryland"*

- Charles Regional Medical Center Foundation, \$26,000.00
- Circle of Angles Initiative, Inc., 40,000.00
- Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center, 22,000.00
- For All Seasons, Inc., \$117,902.00
- Garrett Regional Medical Center, \$10,590.00
- Go-Getters, Inc., \$40,000.00
- MAC, Inc., \$26,250.00
- Medstar St. Mary's Hospital, \$150,000.00
- New Horizons Supported Services, Inc., \$44,000.00
- Somerset County Health Department, \$21,536.00
- Western Maryland Area Health Education Center, \$25,000.00
- YMCA of the Chesapeake, Inc., \$36,091.12

**Entrepreneurship     5 grants = \$835,137.00**

- Preservation Maryland - Campaign for Historic Trades, \$50,000.00
- Preservation Maryland - Rural Maryland Revolving Loan Fund, \$200,000.00
- Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center, \$200,000.00
- The College of Southern Maryland, \$350,000.00
- Howard County Economic Development Authority, \$35,137.00

**Infrastructure     6 grants = \$890,000.00**

- Caroline County Board of Education, \$50,000.00
- End Hunger in Calvert County, Inc., \$250,000.00
- Town of Federalsburg, \$100,000.00
- Talbot County, \$125,000.00
- Frederick Innovative Technology Center, Inc., \$165,000.00
- Kent County Commissioners, \$200,000.00

**Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund   37 grants = \$1,027,394.77**

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

During Fiscal Year 2020, a total of 101 applications were submitted with a total of \$ 3,181,779.77 requested. 37 organizations were awarded the following:

- Cecil County Farm Museum, \$20,000.00
- Chesapeake Culinary Center, \$20,000.00
- Delmarva Discovery Center, \$40,000.00
- Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center, \$40,000.00
- Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation, \$19,200.00
- Fair Hill Foundation, \$40,000.00
- For All Seasons, Inc., \$40,000.00
- Fort Richie Community Center, \$35,000.00
- Frederick CTC FFA Alumni, \$13,509.00
- Garrett College, \$40,000.00
- Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna, \$40,000.00
- Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology, \$40,000.00
- Health Partners, Inc., \$30,000.00
- Jesse Klump Memorial Fund, Inc., \$19,000.00
- LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc., \$20,000.00
- Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Committee, Inc., \$22,500.00
- Lower Shore Land Trust, \$11,574.77
- Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway, \$23,047.00
- Maces Lane Community Center, \$21,000.00
- Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, \$10,050.00
- Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts, \$2,500.00
- Maryland Forestry Foundation – Biomass, \$39,600.00
- Maryland Forestry Foundation- Improving Engagement of Women, \$17,900.00
- Maryland Forests Association, Inc., \$40,000.00
- Maryland Rural Development Corporation, \$40,000.00
- Mid-Shore Pro Bono, Inc., \$40,000.00
- Ocean City Development Corporation, \$21,000.00
- People for a Change Coalition - \$34,000.00
- Southern Maryland Minority Chamber of Commerce Foundation, \$35,500.00
- Telamon Corporation, \$40,000.00
- The Arc Central Chesapeake Region, \$40,000.00
- The Arc Southern Maryland \$8,300.00
- The Child and Family Foundation, \$4,064.00
- Untangled Minds, Inc., \$10,000.00
- Western Maryland RC&D, \$34,650.00
- Wicomico Farm and Home Show, Inc. , \$35,000.00
- YMCA of the Chesapeake, Inc., \$40,000.00

For more information, visit the RMC website: [www.rural.maryland.gov](http://www.rural.maryland.gov)