



# RURAL MARYLAND PROSPERITY INVESTMENT FUND

*Capacity building that transforms and strengthens our communities*

**Total Grants Requested:**  
**177**  
**\$10,521,692**

**Total Grants Awarded:**  
**83**  
**\$6,291,030**



## FISCAL YEAR 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

**Match Dollars: \$5,773,126.04**

**Number of People Served: 29,563**

**Amount of capital items: \$1,746,728.00**

**Number of research/tools to be developed: 41**

March 29, 2016, stands as a proud moment for Maryland legislators. On that day our lawmakers demonstrated their commitment to equity and parity throughout Maryland by passing the Fiscal Year 2017 State Operating Budget, ending a decade-long challenge to provide dedicated funding to support the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF).

Since then almost \$15 million dollars has supported 245 grant projects designed to promote economic prosperity in Maryland's traditionally disadvantaged and underserved rural communities. In FY 2020 alone, 83 RMPIF grants, totaling more than \$6.2 million awarded to ensure the strength and vitality of our rural communities.

*Without RMPIF funding many organizations could not provide innovative programming that enhances the quality of life in our rural communities. Many nonprofit organizations and stakeholders cannot access federal and private grant funds. The Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund provides the critical support needed to fuel healthy, resilient rural communities.*



# RURAL MARYLAND PROSPERITY INVESTMENT FUND

Improving Quality of Life in Our Rural Communities

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Developing and supporting small businesses



- \$835,137.00 for 5 Entrepreneurship grants
- \$200,000 Revolving Loan Fund capitalization
- \$350,000 in Capital Investments
- Investments in Business Accelerators and Apprenticeship programs

## INFRASTRUCTURE

Replacing aging public facilities



- \$890,000.00 for 6 Infrastructure grants
- \$325,000 in Capital Road Investments
- \$165,000 in Capital Laboratory Investments
- \$250,000 in Food Distribution Investments

## HEALTH CARE

Improving access to health and dental care



- \$968,916.24 for a total 16 grants
- \$440,949.12 for Behavioral Health Services
- \$175,000 for Dental Services
- \$125,000 for Community Health Worker training

## REGIONAL COUNCILS

Providing rural regional planning and development assistance



- \$ 2,055,665.00 for a total 5 grants
- Funds for equity lending
- Transportation software and systems
- Regional Agricultural development and education
- Rural economic research

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When End Hunger in Calvert County needed to build a new distribution warehouse and 21,915 square foot food distribution center to enable them to ramp up their capacity to provide more than 1.5 million pounds of food annually to support 73 feeding organizations throughout the region, they turned to RMPiF. With their \$250,000 grant they could also do workforce development and provide much needed community space.

Workforce development was the focus for Preservation Maryland's Campaign for Historic Trades. This \$50,000 RMPiF project is addressing the growing gap in unmet needs for construction and skilled preservation trades workers. The program is so innovative in fact that Preservation Maryland recently was acknowledged as one of 10 national organizations to receive the J.M.K. Innovation Prize for using social innovation to tackle one of America's most pressing challenges.

When it comes to community challenges, the opioid crisis is one that is ravaging rural and urban communities alike. The Caroline County Health Department's Eastern Shore Opioid Overdose Prevention program is using its \$41,500 RMPiF funds to implement Phase III of the program to expand outreach to training business personnel, transportation workers, and education staff.

Lasting transformations happen when organizations confront traditional challenges head on. For rural communities lack of transportation often tops the list. In Charles County thanks to a \$26,000 RMPiF grant the Charles Regional Medical Center Foundation has launched the University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center Transportation to Wellness Pilot Project to reduce transportation barriers and increase access to care for residents of Charles, St. Mary's, and Calvert counties by funding door-to-door round-trip and one-way transportation.