

FY2021 Rural Issues Survey Data

The Rural Maryland Council annually conducts a *Rural Issues Survey* to help the Council identify the concerns and challenges faced in Rural Maryland. The information collected will help recognize trends and target certain planning priorities for the year. In fiscal year 2021, the survey was released in August 2020 to RMC members and stakeholders in the quarterly online newsletter, RMC website, and through email marketing. The survey received a total of 252 responses.

Survey Contents: The survey consisted of the following 6 questions-

1. Name and Contact Information (optional)
2. What is your County of Residence?
3. What is your Occupation?
4. Choose the top three priorities that best indicates the most important issues facing your community or field of interest
 - Engaging in regional cooperation in planning for new growth and development in rural areas.
 - Maintaining existing businesses and recruiting new employers with good paying jobs.
 - Making health care more accessible and affordable.
 - Addressing issues related to the aging rural population and senior citizens.
 - Providing a good educational system beyond K-12.
 - Dealing with the effects of poverty and providing assistance to low-income families.
 - Securing more quality health care providers and facilities.
 - Encouraging providers to install last mile of broadband.
 - Preserving farms and farmland.
 - Securing more financial resources for roads, water and wastewater facilities and public transit.
 - Providing more opportunities for youth.
 - Providing appropriate services to support entrepreneurial activity in rural areas.
 - Planning for residential growth that includes affordable housing but discourages sprawl.
 - Encouraging telemedicine.
 - Keeping and making farming profitable.
5. Please identify potential legislative and/or policy discussions that are important to you.
6. Do you have any other issues of concern that are not mentioned in this survey?

The top five priorities identified as the most important issues are the following:

43%-Encouraging providers to install last mile broadband.

40% - Maintaining existing businesses and recruiting new employers with good paying jobs.

23% - Dealing with the effects of poverty and providing assistance to low-income families.

22% - Providing more opportunities for youth.

22% - Keeping and making farming profitable.

Answers from questions 6 and 7 are the following:

Identified potential legislative and/or policy discussions:

Maryland Health Department CHW Advisory Committee
Mail safety, voter security, and rasism.
Rural Broadband
No Answer
The right to keep and beat arms, second amendment.
Broadband to everyone!!!
No Answer
Support of the 2nd amendment.
Protection of public lands
Education
No Answer
Bringing better jobs to the area
Deep Creek Lake environment and usage
No Answer
BLM, LGBTQIA+, Homeless, GCPS BOE, Drug Dependency, Suicide Prevention
No Answer
Access to educational and informational resources
Chicken manure buildup on the Eastern Shore
Obstacles from legislation restricting entrepreneurial ideas from happening on the water's edge in the most rural parts of this County
Attracting businesses and industries to the area
Protecting the environment from harmful fossil fuel development (e.g., natural gas infrastructure) and transitioning to clean energy, especially support for low and middle income households and job training in the solar field.
Encouraging policies that encourage smart growth, but limit uncontrolled sprawl
Economic Development, Internet Access in Rural Areas, New Business
Unemployment; Covid-19 response
Legislative/policy dealing with access to healthcare, out of school learning programs, Internet access, and education in general.
Water and air pollution, keeping fracking away and preparing for the consequences of fracking occurring in WV and PA
Don't know

Minority and LGBT representation. A lack of diversity and understanding for others is keeping our county closed off from the rest of America.
Expansion of the metropolitan district and revision of the tier designations, which were done for political reasons
broadband access
Insurance and taxes/fees
Expansion of the metropolitan district. Revising the tier designations.
Affordable Healthcare
health care, natural resource policies, housing
No Answer
Broadband access and preserving environmental resources are most important to me.
Commissioners lack of interest in attracting business to the area
N/A
Farming legislation
The lake area
Broadband
Rural Broadband / Access to Technology for Education / Access in General
having a representative that represents Western Maryland only, not Western Maryland and parts of Montgomery County
No Answer
1) Affecting economic growth and attracting high-paying jobs while maintaining rural character. 2) Preserving natural environment. 3) Expand access to quality health care, especially for under-served populations.
drug abuse treatments
Defining Broadband as a basic and essential utility
Transportation Priorities
Universal childcare, better paying jobs, more places to take youth (children's museum, indoor play cafe, arts & music)
Rural broadband
zoning code related to forestry and related industries
Healthcare, Broadband
Being on the House Judiciary Committee and the current political climate, public safety, criminal justice, and supporting police and our justice system in this time of crisis and division.
Minimum wage, unemployment insurance, funding for broadband, K-12 education, opportunity zones, transportation

School funding Transportation
Choptank Electric's Broadband
Environmental impacts to agriculture
Healthy Eating
Funding for education
Access to affordable Broadband and Education and Healthcare
Access to affordable Broadband and Education and Healthcare
Transportation Funding Road/Gas Tax Funding
Funding for non profit organizations that work with underprivileged youth trying to promote furthering health, fitness , and college readiness
Eastern Shore
Health Care workforce, affordable housing Child day care and connectivity for all
Allowing small farms to diversify. Some counties make it very difficult. Farm breweries, wineries and additional uses for events.
Supporting rural k-12 education. Most other issues will be easier to resolve if children receive a quality education.
Do away with one size fits all. Down size Government, Give rural areas the voice to take of there selves.
Need to preserve more farm land and stop the sprawl while helping young farmers to obtain the land and equipment needed to be successful. We need a strong local food system.
family engagement in education, access to high-quality child care programs, improving access to broadband for students and educators, teacher/provider prep programs in colleges
water treatment in Somerset County, funding to address homes with health and safety hazards (i.e roofs, mold and mildew, drain fields) Pre-k3 program expansion
Rural Broadband in Public and Nonpublic Schools
Power Companies providing Broadband
No Answer
Funding for volunteer fire and EMS; Career training and re-training; Return of Highway User funds; Rural health care, including drug addiction
Any legislation tied to youth and family services, poverty initiatives, broadband
Broadband expansion, affordable housing, innovation for the rural area, more state involvement,
No Answer
Healthcare and Senior Citizen's Well Being
No Mandatory Vaccines

Legislation should be changed to allow for broadband services to be part of the franchise fees collected for use of the ROW and should be used to expand broadband services into areas that don't have them.
Highway User Revenues
have broadband at reasonable rates in rural areas
Internet Connectivity through Fiber to Rural Underserved Areas
Affordable housing, esp. for older adults and people with disabilities, broadband/internet access for our students living in rural areas, assistive technology loans, assisted suicide law for Maryland residents
Education
Profitability in farming; Access to locally produced foods, including support to local farmers, processing (butcher facilities), markets, etc.; Agricultural education opportunities for schools and the public and funding to support such programs
Anything to do with childcare, ie. wages, financial support, level of importance when considering the economic needs of a community.
No Answer
Affordable healthcare
Tax INcrease due to COVID
No Answer
Broadband - Reliable Internet Access that is affordable
Affordable senior care and housing
Adequate funding for economic development initiatives
Grants for business development
Funding for Women Business Owners
Tax Credits for Small Businesses
Transfer of development rights between counties
A SOMD plan for rural broadband
No Answer
workforce housing
Higher wages for entry level healthcare professionals like certified and geriatric nursing assistants; providing more funding for workforce development training through community colleges
affordable housing, zoning that permits affordable housing options, equity in services and housing
Jobs to help with affordable housing and youth resources for low income families.
No Answer
disability policy and legislation
More access to inexpensive transportation; Medicaid covering dental care and transportation to it for all adults; more income for TCA and SSI recipients; higher SNAP benefits or deliver food to those living on less than \$1,000 a month.

Life skill training/jobs for youth offenders. Systemic Racism. Fair housing for all and prevention (substance)
NA
Rural health care access and affordability; mental health services, especially for rural women; farm and forest preservation and conservation; safe, clean, renewal and sustainable energy resources in rural Maryland; climate change affecting farms, forestry, fisheries and coastal towns; pertinent K-12 education in rural areas; healthcare, education, housing and employment equity for all rural minority populations
Better paying jobs/ more job opportunities. More activities for youth in the community
living wage, affordable housing
Expanding Public Transportation
Any that may impact Broadband expansion, Aging, and financial impacts on jurisdictions/County Government
Modifying the tax sale system
Anything related to Healthcare costs
Pesticide policy; immigration; H-2A worker populations
Environmental issues including clean water and sustainable agriculture
education and access to it/work opportunities/economic and social development
Protecting the ecosystem
Essential worker, economic development for minority, social justice, immigration, agriculture and farm workers.
Next care act with financial assistance to businesses and unemployment/furlough including non profits
Environmental protection; internet accessibility for rural residents; affordable and accessible health care options
No Answer
food centers to make regions self sustaining and to keep our farmers farming. Anything to do with public schools food services.
Infrastructure Funding initiatives; USDA funding for Tech Assistance; programs to help rural poor pay their water/sewer bills
Rural broadband, pesticide regulation, urban/suburban development regulation, solar regulation, urban agriculture
Growth of available broadband services to rural areas., Tax credit and grant programs for businesses (to encourage new and expanding business growth). Favorable business tax and regulations- again to support attraction and expansion.
healthcare, transportation, affordable housing (not workforce housing but housing for lowest-income families)
No Answer
na

Distillery legislation and supporting local Maryland distilleries vice multi-national corporations that have immense sway on regulations and legislation.

No Answer

Community Benefits, Telemedicine

Facilitating the development of biofuels

Promoting solar energy without consuming farmland; stream restoration; more funds for open space and land preservation

Not sure

Broadband Funding

hemp, on-farm spirits, cottage foods/value-added ag, broadband, alternative energy

Health

transfer of wealth (and farmland)

It is important that Charles County address the racial disparities prevalent in this community, and how this contributes to the poverty levels and instances of crime that continue to climb every day in our communities.

Acute Care Hospital Access in rural communities; smart growth in rural area; preserving farming and farmland; assisting low income rural families and individuals

Funding for Agricultural Steam Programs at Rural Schools Public and Private Schools

Housing

Rural broadband is #1 importance to me.

K12 education, educational disparities, telehealth, behavioral health services (especially youth), systemic racism, law enforcement accountability

Getting Solar off farmland

Overdevelopment; Inadequate resources for seniors

The Renewable Portfolio Standards call for more renewable generation but have not indicated where or how that goal will be attained. Are we to sacrifice farmland for energy? We need a well designed plan that benefits communities and not just developers.

Investing in public education and providing reliable and affordable broadband to rural areas.

Unity

Broadband for Municipalities only

greater eligibility for woody biomass in thermal renewable energy credit- to increase markets that can help good forestry pay for itself

Broadband expansion and access

can't think of any right now

infrastructure spending

Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners maintaining ability to be medical director of behavioral health clinics; increased mental health providers in rural areas

Supporting nonprofits during COVID-19
Broadband Internet services middle mile and final mile.
Community College funding; Broadband
Community and economic development
No Answer
Broadband and Agriculture
Broadband
Many of the important priorities listed on the previous question are services provided by the nonprofit sector here on the Lower Shore. More support for the nonprofit sector both at the state level and the local level is the best and most cost-effective way to address these priorities.
None
No Answer
Fairness for all including vulnerables
Additional grant funding opportunities for local gov't.
No Answer
Agricultural education in the classroom throughout all levels of schooling All agricultural policy
Behavioral Health Care; Public Safety; Preservation of Farms and Watermen's Way of Life; Cleaning Up the Chesapeake Bay; Controlling New Developments and Sprawl
Nutrient management and its impact on the poultry industry.
Rural broadband; Cost of Kirwan legislation; Renewable energy
Telehealth and broadband
financial support for farmers in MD
Affordable quality health insurance; infrastructure funding and priorities; preserving rural Maryland
state laws
Preventing suburban sprawl; protecting prime farmland from industrial solar projects
Clean water issues, BRF funding, our waters should be swimmable
Grants to fund home repairs.
Vote by mail
No Answer
conservation
Discouraging development of industrial scale solar projects on prime farmland
Most major threat to farming - Using prime farmland for installation of industrial solar panels. Industrial solar installations should be limited to non-agricultural land.
Broadband must be done regionally- somd needs infrastructure support in a new bill
Common sense policing, health and safety, discrimination in schools, particularly private schools

Maintaining Rural Legacy funding for land protection; Climate - halting the Del-Mar Pipeline and support renewable energy, resiliency planning; ban toxic pesticides impacting pollinators.
Change in Tax Sale laws
Restoring Highway User funds to 2007 level, Stopping State preemption
Telemedicine, minority workforce development and health care access
Improved Medicare for All; Green New Deal; Election reform
funding opportunities & assistance for infrastructure improvements compatible with or corresponding to additional regulatory demands
Funding
Protecting the environment while still being to farm profitably.
Alzheimer's issues, fair voting, Census
Competitive internet providers
Value Add for farmers and developing living wage employment from processing of farm products.
Investment Tax Incentives and Rural Broadband
taxation, second amendment and first amendment protection
Funding for rural residents'/small community infrastructure, particularly water and sewer
Opening / keeping Commerce open - bringing Federal \$'s back to 1stCD
Transportation planning that prioritizes renewable fuels infrastructure (pumps) for near- and mid-term climate change mitigation for existing vehicles, equipment. More transportation options for rural areas; expand MARC and Metro rather than \$ to I-270 that has minimal traffic impact. Against incinerator, against increased high tension wires; against solar farms on good ag land or forest; priority to parking lots/garages homes.
Reviving the forest industry in western maryland
Somerset is the only county that is way behind in everything, growth, economic benefits etc..
last mile broadband, lower taxes/costs for businesses. tax credits and grants for businesses. less legislative rules/regs/paperwork for businesses.
BALANCE THE BUDGET AGAINST REVENUE WRITE DOWNS WITHOUT TAX INCREASES!
Agricultural education and literacy; Simplify sales tax to help new small businesses
Equality issues, failing infrastructure, sea level rise impact on infrastructure, loss of property value due to sea level rise (inundated/flooded properties) art funding
Rural Maryland to continue getting funding!
Broadband
Forestry, urban and rural-education especially related to environment and natural resources-climate change related issues such as carbon sequestration- land use planning
Providing financial incentives for young farmers to grow in all counties of Maryland.
Affordable post-secondary education

Assistance for childcare providers during COVID-19 and beyond.
Maryland CHW Advisory Committee about CHW Development
During this time when many school children will be home schooling, making internet accessible and school based programs more accessible from rural and poor communities who many not own a computer or have access to broadband is important.
Counties and municipalities should be allowed to have more control over their budgets and management
Public infrastructure financing; poverty remediation programming, sustainable, environmentally responsive land use for farming and ag economies
Biking and Alternative Transportation
Broadband
Rural Broadband; Funding for agricultural land preservation; Funding for agricultural water quality cost share programs for conservation practices; Maintaining choice in and access to crop protection and seed in agriculture; Telemedicine
Summer and out of school learning opportunities for disadvantaged youth. Job opportunities for residents.
Increased priority and investment in agritech/aquatech as an industry sector
Land Preservation, also how to minimize conflicts between farmers and non-farming neighbors
Rural Internet Access is key right now to reaching the people we support, their families and for our employees and their children!
No Answer
the geography and affordability of affordable housing; mixed-income developments, increasing the minimum wage, funding mechanisms for rural healthcare agencies and hospitals, increasing harm reduction access in rural communities, expanding safety net benefits for non-legal immigrants or who have work visas, inspections of working conditions and labor violations on farms/agricultural operations
education
Development of renewable energy-offshore wind
Employment opportunities for people with disabilities
Support for rural development, entrepreneurship, and entrepreneurship education. Support to assist farms and agribusinesses to adapt to and take advantage of changing food supply chains. Provide support to grow urban agriculture and rural producer access to urban markets.
Completion of last mile broadband in rural areas; Solidification of the Right-to-farm in Maryland (including prevention of state and county legislative bans and restrictions); expansion of agriculture education in K-12
COVID-19, Immigration, Police Brutality
No Answer
Agriculture Education in school systems; Anything pertaining to agriculture
Linking land stewardship to economically viable businesses

Small cell technology

providing affordable health care and/or overhauling the health insurance industry

broadband, no sprawl...

Economic Development Opportunities, Food Security, Jobs and Health Insurance
--

Healthy civic communities

Veteran related issues

Continued infrastructure grant opportunities and funding
--

Kirwin Commission/ College Promise/ COVID assistance for Community Colleges

Other issues of concerns not identified in the survey:

Providing workforce development opportunities for unemployed and underemployed people

Too big a county government, more money in education instead of jobs for county employees that aren't needed. Very little middle class here, rich and poor because jobs don't pay enough.

Brining internet to the entire state

No Answer

Not enough pizza delivery in our area

No Answer

no

2nd amendment support. Lack of resources for families with substantial income, but difficult situations. Lack of childcare.

no

No

No Answer

Transportation in & around country

Cost of health care for seniors

There is no high speed internet down cove road. ENFORCING the mask requirement for businesses and patrons (especially out of state tourist who refuse to wear mask).

PreP (pre exposure AIDS Preventative)

No Answer

Wealth inequality and lack of economic participation by lower tier employees of successful corporations and entrepreneurs.

Lack of State support for substantive Healthy Soil programs that are science-based and innovative

More resources to support businesses that are not related to NAV/AIR

Deep Creek Lake preservation

Not that I can think of right now.

I think you hit on the main issues in your list, but I would have liked to have marked more that are urgently important.

No

no

A network for nonprofits in rural areas to support community service would be helpful.

No

No

Minority and LGBT representation. Encourage EVERYONE to participate in rural growth. Sticking to the same template won't work forever, we need to grow and expand for our county's future.

Lack of enough land zoned for residential and commercial use, leading to an artificially low supply and causing prices higher than necessary

no
Na
lack of land zoned for residential and commercial activities, leading to an artificially reduced supply and high costs to live and work in Howard County
Preservation of Social Security -- It's not an entitlement
Lack of a regional plan to harness market forces
No Answer
Our representatives should truly represent their constituents, rather than being in office for their own personal gain.
Drugs
Us not getting Maryland news
No at this time
The housing market does not match the income levels for local people here.
no
Lets make sure we salute our leadership at RMC for doing a great job. Charlotte and her team are doing an amazing job.
no
no
State and local government budgets have been devastated by the impacts of COVID-19. Federal support is necessary to avoid permanent cuts to critical public services.
No
Redistribution of workforce/wealth to rural areas through remote-work alternatives. A COVID initiative could disperse populations and benefit rural communities.
Financial Support to Business Start-Ups to create jobs
No Answer
Financial literacy in schools
no
Broadband is mentioned but this needs addressed immediately for work from home, school from home etc
Trying to have the necessary balance between development and agriculture and food production.
No
No
The children that will be lost due to this pandemic
no
Fresh Produce - grow what you eat initiatives
No
Workforce Development and Public Transportation

Workforce Development and Public Transportation
No
more funding for the lower 3 counties wicomico , somerset and worcester
system and institutional racism
No Answer
I could only pick 3 from a previous question, but broadband is so important to allow people to work from home.
Land use on the Shore.
Yes, sprinkle law that got jammed down or throat will kill any growth we need. We need to stop putting constitutional killing laws in affect every year. Put government back in hands of people and the
Affordable farming expansion
increasing access to high-quality, affordable child care for families
n/a
Water and Septic and the spreading of DAF
Sea Level Rising and Erosion
No Answer
No
no
Are we taking advantage of all the state resources that we could be to help our schools, kids, neighborhoods and elderly?
No
No
no
No
More funding for infrastructure
upkeep of rural roads, including grass cutting, and maintaining ditches
Internet Connectivity to Rural Underserved Areas
Homes will close esp. in rural areas without some type of financial assistance for PPE and testing supply acquisition.
Would like to see the continued growth on the Eastern Shore
Infrastructure - not just maintenance of roads and bridges, but improvements that lead to safe transport of farm equipment (i.e., bridges that are wide enough for modern equipment); ability to use
Not at this time.
No
no
No

Assisting tourism-related business needs
No
no
n/a
no
No
No
limiting industrial solar on prime farmlands
Using undeveloped lands for solar vs ag and homes. Lack of homes is causing price increases and causing unaffordability.
no.
No Answer
No Answer
Transportation is an issue in rural communities making it difficult to access needed resources.
Not at this time.
No Answer
Supporting disability services providers through COVID related loss of funding
Transportation for those who live in outlying communities off the bus route.
programs for youth and summer jobs. funding for non-profits that service their community
No
Housing, healthcare, broadband access, education and employment equity for all rural minority populations
No Answer
impact of COVID on small businesses & low income residents.
No
Land Conservancy expansion
Resilience to climate change and sea level rise
There is no quality representation in rural Southern Maryland. Turning these counties into mini-metro areas is not what everyone wants. It would be nice to have representation that is not solely driven by
Immigration; the farmworker population
Sustainability
Closing the language barrier among populations providing services to populations. Information dissemination: information is always difficult to find in rural MD.
Racial inequities, Birth to grade 12 education needs improvement, parental supports need improvement including supporting child care, new to here families need more support, including
Immigrant population need more supports, help and aid to navigate the system.
how do we educate our youth to have qualifications to better paying jobs which need to come to our communities

racial equality
No
I truly believe the root of healing our communities is to address poverty at the core and to build strong economic systems. Together we are better.
Emerging contaminants in drinking water and private well regulation
No
Not at this time. Thank you!
I can't go back to check! You have covered a lot.
N/A
na
Benefits and/or tax incentives for businesses that embrace sustainability and reduce greenhouse gases due to local/MD sourcing of supplies and reduced logistics supply chains
Support of Small Business; Cultural Resources Interpretation and preservation; expansion of heritage tourism opportunities
Transportation
Energy sources
Addressing climate change and impact on infrastructure and water resources
Small Towns matter
No
local food distribution efforts - it's such a challenge to get local food into institutions, retailers, etc.
None
Opioid and chemical addiction
Bringing the subway system to the Charles County community would be a great and much needed improvement for the residents, improving the air quality by reducing the need for people to drive their cars into the city of DC.
Saving and sustaining the Chesapeake Bay and commercial fisheries; preserving forests and sustaining forest industry; women and minority services and equity in rural areas
The regulation of DAF material spread in Agricultural zoned property
child care
Broadband internet
No
Energy development on farmland
No
The problem of utility scale energy projects as well as data centers looking for cheap land to build their unsightly and sprawling developments. Few jobs if any are created and tax revenue is often minimized by agreements for payment in lieu of taxes. Rural communities oftentimes get short term gains (at best) and long term liabilities.

Reliable and acceptable {time spent traveling from place to place} public transportation continues to be a challenge. Pandemic testing and treatment in rural areas.

No

Funds for COVID directly to Municipals

regenerative agriculture, and create alternatives to poverty

opportunities for young people are essential to healthy rural communities.

not at the moment

Smith Island's problems, although we are rural, are different than most rural areas. We are making good progress with shoreline protection but we still have areas, particularly the harbor at Ewell, that are very vulnerable to storm surge and Somerset County just doesn't have the funding to help right now.

Transportation is a huge barrier to care

Helping guide broader renewable energy deployment

We need infrastructure funding for roads and internet services.

Economic recovery for businesses remains a concern

no

No Answer

No

none

Identifying, maintaining and improving heritage sites particularly including those relevant to African-American heritage and history.

No

No Answer

Mental Health for Youth

Infrastructure and facility maintenance - grants do not typically cover maintenance.

No Answer

Access to funding to support our local food supply chain - most specifically solving our regional meat processing issues

No

Provide more opportunities for intelligent young adults to be employed and remain on the Shore.

Allegany & Garrett Counties seem almost forgotten by too many State agencies

Access to substance use and behavioral health services in rural Maryland.

no

none

no

No

Pesticide use, Race relations
No
Legalize Industrial Hemp
No Answer
no
No
No
Broadening economic development opportunities, rather than maintaining and working cooperatively to attract Fortune 100 to MD similar to how Arlington and Fairfax Co has
community pools are lacking, need more summer camp options, public transportation schedule and routes need improvement
programs instill civic responsibility and provide young job seekers with training and a conservation ethic for our state lands and natural resources.
impact of climate change on rural areas
Attempting to keep up with regional wage equity
Cultural competency and racial equity
Food security for all who reside in Maryland.
While referenced earlier in the survey, though I did not it check as being in the top 3 concerns, rural broadband (readily available within my municipality but limited in the surrounding community) remains a challenge for many in our community
Support for Women-owned businesses in Rural Maryland
protecting and strengthening ag education at all levels.
Funding for rural counties
Minority Business support
Developing regionally based sustainable food systems with the creation of living wage employment to address the issues of poverty and the working poor.
Recovery of the economy from virus constraints
No Answer
Would like to see a fund established to help rural residents pay their water and sewer bills during the COVID crisis and beyond. There are many programs for Electric and Gas bills, but virtually non for water and sewer.
All areas listed are of importance, not just the top three
No Answer
No
Jobs , or lack there of

Tools to support tele-work and support to encourage re-shoring of manufacturing -- the eastern shore has affordable space for new manufacturers and the support system (trade school training) to help them find and create employees with the skills they need. We need to capitalize on the re-shoring push and attract manufacturers to the eastern shore.
THE FARCE OF RENEWALABLE ENERGY BEING A JOB CREATOR AND SO EFFICIENT.
Rural opioid addiction/services
The ones listed in the previous question
No
No Answer
Effective collaboration between rural and urban leadership on economic issues
Providing additional resources for Seniors
No
Increasing staff salaries to \$15/min wage during this crisis.
CHW employment in rural areas
Rural communities of the Eastern Shore continue to have difficulties attracting and retaining Health professionals.
Volunteerism is critical to fire and EMS services. There have been some small steps taken to provide financial incentive to encourage volunteers. There needs to be much more emphasis in this area strengthening community and economic relief systems for individuals and families affected by the pandemic response.
Walkable Communities
n/a
No Answer
Transportation- We need more options and we need to make it possible for low-income families to obtain a license to drive to and from work and other destinations.
How can we enable more participation by RMC members that we have already thought of
Just as mentioned above - the conflict between farmers and non-farming neighbors
I wish we had a consistent, free place to communicate for the mid-shore especially since the paper and cable aren't free and many people do not get them. Example: Inclusive Dubuque website has all town and county news, jobs, political info etc for free. Lower shore is more covered by news Salisbury News Stations.
no
N/A
no
Economic and workforce development
No
Rural mental health, producer profitability and adapting to low commodity prices, transition producers to grow crops and animals that serve markets with higher profitability.

No Answer
no
K-12 Educational system and exposing children to opportunities. Setting a path to their, and our, future.
Finding new markets for corn, soybeans, wheat etc
Long term planning taking into account water quality and reducing greenhouse gases.
no
No
i wish i could have picked more than three. I have feelings that impact my work and differing ones that impact living here
No.
Communities and community members must learn to work together.
No
No
No