



RMC
Rural Maryland Council

2023 Legislative Priorities

- **Broadband and Infrastructure**
- **Transportation**
- **Rural Economic Development**
- **Rural Workforce Development**
- **Viable Agriculture, Aquaculture, Forestry & Rural Communities**
- **Public Safety**
- **Rural Health**

The Rural Maryland Council (RMC) brings 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 communities. 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 more holistic way the special needs and opportunities in Rural Maryland.

"A Collective Voice for Rural Maryland"



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Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Priorities

The rural areas of the state continue to struggle to recover economically as reflected in unemployment and poverty rates.



Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund

- \$9,000,000
- Supports entrepreneurship, infrastructure and health care



Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund

- \$167,000
- Builds capacity of rural-serving nonprofits



Rural Maryland Council

- \$750,000
- Supports the Council's staff, grant administration and event planning expenses



Regional Councils

- \$200,000 each for maintaining the current funding of the State's five regional councils at the historic levels
- Support the Small, Women and Minority-Owned Business Account fund



MARBIDCO

- \$5,235,000 for core programs, local farm enterprise and WPIEI grants, watermen's and oyster shucking house loans
- \$10,000,000 for the Next Generation Farmland Acquisition Program