



RMC
Rural Maryland Council

Maryland Rural Health Transformation Program

Improving health. Strengthening communities. Transforming rural Maryland.

A statewide initiative advancing **health equity, access, and outcomes** in rural communities.



Better Health Outcomes



Stronger Rural Systems



Regional Partnerships



Healthier Futures





Funding Attestation

The Maryland Rural Health Transformation Program is supported by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award to the Maryland Department of Health totaling \$168,180,837.61 with 100 percent funded by CMS/HHS. The contents of this RFA are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CMS/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

- ★ **Total Award:** \$168,180,837.61
- ★ **Funding Source:** 100% federally funded by



About RMC

Established

- Created in **1994** by Executive Order
- Codified in **Maryland law (1995)**

Structure

- Independent State agency housed within the Maryland Department of Agriculture
- Governed by a **40-member Executive Board**
- Operates in a **nonpartisan, nondiscriminatory** manner

Role

- Maryland's **federally designated rural development council**
- Serves as the **voice of rural Maryland**

Funding

- Supported through the **State's Operating Budget**

With appreciation to Governor Moore and the Presiding Officers of the Maryland General Assembly for their continued support.



Who We Are

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.

VISION is a future where all of Rural Maryland is prosperous with thriving resources, vibrant economies, and healthy connected communities.

GOALS

- Encourage **healthy, connected communities** through out rural Maryland by convening stakeholders, education public relations and advocacy
 - Support the development and growth of **Vibrant Rural Economies**
 - Foster **natural resource stewardship**
 - Maximize **strong outreach, resources and mission** through financial and organization development
-

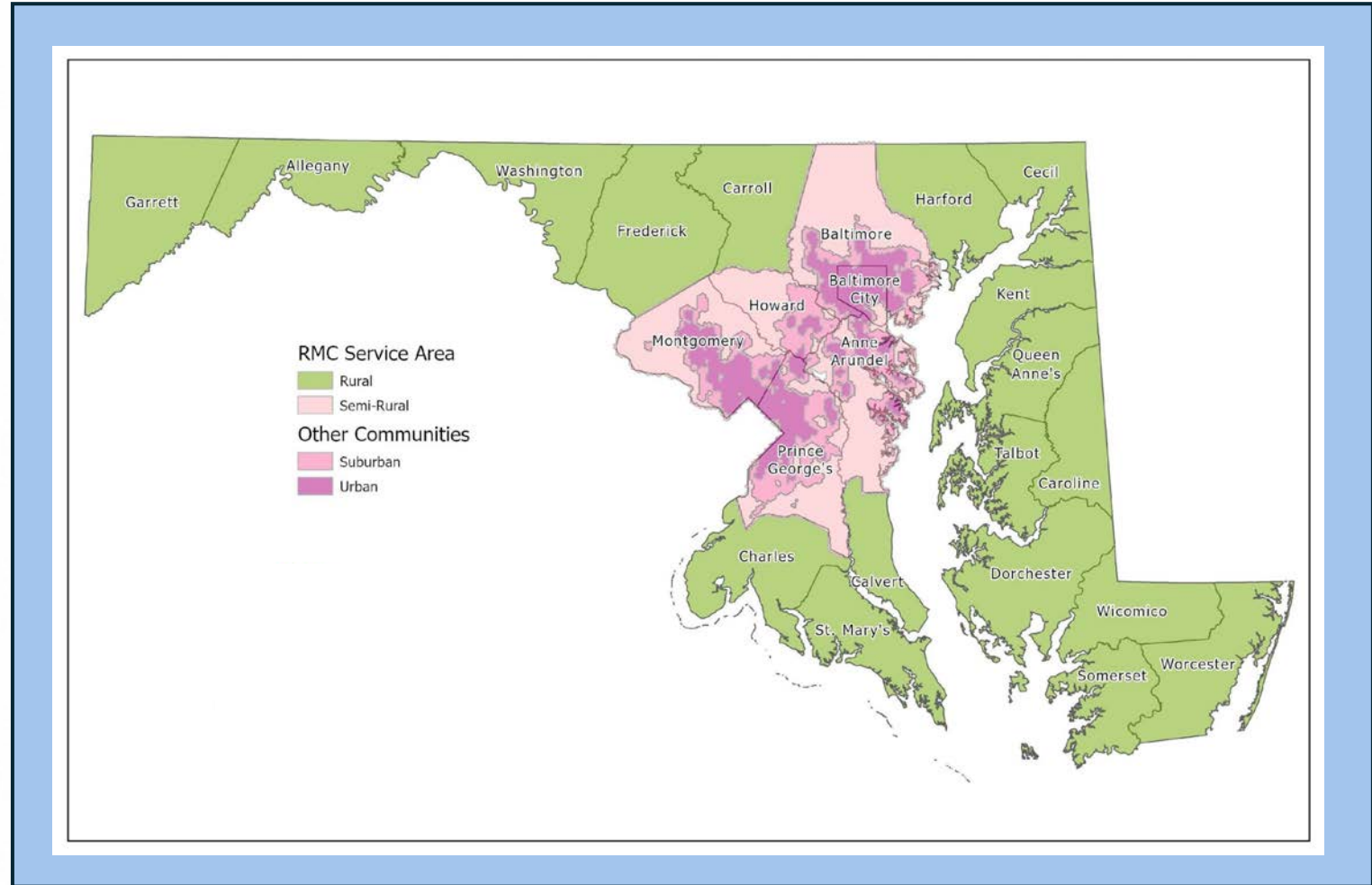
Why We Work

Key Challenges in Rural Maryland

- **High** Unemployment Rates
- **High** Poverty Rates
- **Limited** Access to transportation
- Education **Barriers**
- Healthcare **Disparities**
- **Limited** broadband and Connectivity
- Aging or **Inadequate** Infrastructure
- Economic **Pressure** on Agriculture

Rural Maryland comprises 75% of the State's land area, but only 25% of its population.

Where We Work



Service Territory

Allegany, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, St. Mary's, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico and Worcester

How We Work

EDUCATION

- Neutral convener for rural issues (Summits, roundtables, forums)

LEGISLATION

- Advocate for rural priorities
- Support policy development
- Connect communities to government

GRANTS

- Administers key grant programs:
 - MAERDAF – ***Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund***
 - RMPIF – ***Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund***



About the Maryland Rural Health Transformation Program

The Maryland Rural Health Transformation Program invests in rural communities to:

- ✓ **Improve** health outcomes
- ✓ **Strengthen** local systems
- ✓ **Address** the root causes of poor health



**Better
Health Outcomes**



**Stronger
Rural Systems**



**Regional
Partnerships**



**Healthier
Futures**





Maryland Rural Health Transformation Program

What is RHT?

- Authorized by H.R. 1(2025)
- *Supports **rural healthcare system transformation***
- *Program established by CMS; providing resources to 50 states.*

Focus Areas:

- Improve **access, quality, and outcomes**
- Strengthen **long-term rural health systems**

Strategic Goals

-  **Community Health**
-  **Access**
-  **Workforce**
-  **Innovation in Care**
-  **Technology**

Program Features

State-Led | Catalytic Funding | Technical Assistance | Transformational Change | Sustainable Impact



Funding & RMC Role

Maryland RHTP Investment

- **\$168M** (*Year 1 of 5*)
- Funded by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (**CMS**) and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (**HHS**)
- Administered by **Maryland Department of Health**

Supporting statewide rural health transformation

RMC Investment & Role

- **\$24M to RMC** (*Year 1 to 5*)
- Leads **program implementation in rural communities**
- Supports **local partnerships & project development**
- Focus on **Food is Medicine / Eat for Health strategies**

Two Key Opportunities:

- **Opportunity #1: Food Aggregation (Supply Side)**
- **Opportunity #2: Institutional Purchasing (Demand Side)**

Funding Snapshot

- **\$4.6M Available (FY2027)**
- No maximum award
- Projects: Aug 2026 – Sept 2027
- Match encouraged (not required)

Maryland RHTP Pillars

Three integrated pillars driving transformation and improving health in Rural Maryland.



PILLAR 1 Transform the Rural Health Workforce



IMMEDIATE IMPACT

- Expand training & certification programs
- Increase hands-on clinical experience in rural areas
- Strengthen health workforce technology & tools



TRANSFORMATION INVESTMENTS

- Career pathways & workforce pipelines
- Recruitment & retention of providers
- Support for advanced practice professionals



PILLAR 2 Sustainable Access & Innovative Care



IMMEDIATE IMPACT

- Expand rural care capacity (primary, specialty, school-based)
- Improve care coordination & efficiency
- Strengthen health IT & connectivity



TRANSFORMATION INVESTMENTS

- Mobile health solutions
- Telehealth expansion
- Adoption of value-based, innovative care models



PILLAR 3 Eat for Health (Pillar 3)



IMMEDIATE IMPACT

- Expand local food access through markets & mobile distribution
- Support post-harvest infrastructure for local farms
- Increase nutrition education & awareness



TRANSFORMATION INVESTMENTS

- Develop food hubs & aggregation systems
- Strengthen local procurement by institutions
- Build coordinated regional food systems





RMC Focus - Initiative 3: Eat for Health

● Opportunity #1: Food Aggregation (Supply Side)

- **Build & expand food hubs**
- **Connect farmers → large buyers**
- **Improve distribution & scale**
 - 🏠 (hub)
 - 🚜 (farmers)
 - 🚚 (distribution)

Key Activities

- Needs assessments
- Hub development & partnerships
- Infrastructure (cold storage, transport)
- Digital systems (ordering & coordination)

Outcomes

- Stronger **farm viability**
- Better **food access in rural communities**
- Improved **regional food systems**

★ **Goal - Increase volume & value of local, healthy food**



RMC Focus - Initiative 3: Eat for Health

● Opportunity #2: Institutional Purchasing (Demand Side)

Opportunity #2 - Purchasing Strategy

- Help institutions buy local food

Target Institutions

- Schools
- Hospitals
- Colleges
- Childcare centers
- Local governments

Key Activities



Policy & Procurement

- Local sourcing policies
- Simplified vendor processes
- Procurement staff training



Operations & Capacity

- Seasonal menu planning
- Kitchen upgrades
- Staff training



Data Systems

- Track purchasing & impact
- Improve decision-making

★ ***Goal: Help institutions buy more local, healthy food***



Eligibility

Who Can Apply

- Nonprofits (501c3)
- Local governments
- Higher education institutions
- Regional councils
- Collaborations of small and mid-scale farms

Requirements

- W-9
- Good Standing (MD)
- 990 (if applicable)
- Registration with Secretary of State if applicable
- Must be compliance with the Federal Government

Eligible Projects Timeline Aug 1, 2026 – Sept 30, 2027

Eligible Locations

Projects must take place in Maryland's **18 designated rural counties only**

Allegany, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico and Worcester.



Grant Amounts

- **No maximum award**
- Competitive funding
- **~10–15 projects funded**

★ Match Requirement

Cash or in-kind match encouraged

- Must be **non-state funding**
- Stronger match = **higher evaluation score**

Expenditures

Eligible & Allowable Costs

What funding CAN be used for, with appropriate sustainability plan

- 👤 **Salaries & wages** (program + project delivery)
- 🛠️ **Equipment purchases**
- 🚚 **Vehicle purchase or rental**
- 🏗️ **Facility Costs** - Up to 20% of building renovation costs are eligible
Needs to be clearly aligned with project & not change footprint or value of property.
- ⚙️ **Administrative Costs** - Administrative and indirect costs combined may not exceed 10% of the total grant request.

Quotes are required for equipment purchases and construction work

Expenditures

Ineligible / Unallowable Expenses

What funding CANNOT be used for

Not Permitted

- Food or produce purchases
- Property acquisition or **new construction**
- Donations, sub-awards, gift cards
- Fundraising, advocacy, lobbying

Funding Restrictions

- No **supplanting** (cannot replace existing funds)
- No costs already funded or obligated
- Must align with **approved project scope**

Capital & Equipment Limits

- No major construction or expansion
- Restricted telecom/surveillance purchases

Additional Restrictions

- No pre-award costs
- No costs outside approved activities
- No duplicate/billable services
- No clinician salaries

Other Limitations

- No profit allowed
- No marketing-only expenses
- Meals generally not allowed
- **Admin costs capped at 10%**



Grant Administration & Expectations





Grant Process & Key Dates

Key Dates





Reporting



Reporting Requirements

- **Quarterly reports required**
- Reporting guidance at rural.Maryland.gov

Due Dates:

- Nov 9, 2026
- Feb 8, 2027
- May 10, 2027
- Aug 9, 2027

Final Report: Oct 15, 2027

Projects must run: Aug 1, 2026 – Sept 30, 2027



Performance-Based Funding

- Funds tied to **program performance & benchmarks**
- May be **clawed back for non-performance**

Terms & Conditions:

All partners and subawardees of Maryland's RHTP cooperative agreement with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) must agree to and comply with RHTP terms and conditions included in:

- CMS Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- CMS NOFO - Frequently Asked Questions
- Maryland Notice of Award Terms and Conditions
- CMS RHTP Frequently Asked Questions—April 2026

Grant Decisions



Who Makes Decisions?

Grant awards are determined by the **MAERDAF Grant Review Board**, established by law.

Board Representation



Department of
Agriculture



Department of
Commerce



Department of
Health



Department of
Housing & Community
Development



Department of
Natural Resources



Rural Maryland Council
(Chair/designee)



Final Authority

All decisions are **final and binding**.

Ranking Criteria

The Grant Review Board uses the following criteria in reviewing applications:

- 

1 Basic Criteria:
Applicant meets all basic eligibility.
- 

2 Applicant has clearly identified a well-substantiated need
and developed a Scope of Work that clearly describes specific project activities and how an RHTP grant will be used.
- 

3 Proposal will significantly meet RHTP objectives.
Proposal demonstrates substantial value and lasting impact by providing information which includes relevant background research, opportunities for replication, and a statement of impact.
- 

4 Specific goals and measurable objectives were clearly stated and appear to be achievable.
Goals are specific, measurable, achievable, reasonable and time-bound. Its Mission Statement is included and lends itself to the activities and goals addressed in the proposal.
- 

5 SPECIFIC TO RHTP:
The applicant can or intends to report on health outcomes.

- 

6 The organization has the experience, expertise and resources
to deliver on this scope of work. Operational and line-item budgets were included and seem reasonable.
- 

7 The applicant has cash match funds from other sources.
- 

8 Other organizations, businesses, agencies, and/or other community-based entities have expressed strong support
for the organization's work and planned grant activities. Letters of support and other supportive materials (newspaper articles, etc.) were included.

Additional Considerations



Partnerships & Support:
Strong backing from organizations, businesses, or community partners



Supporting Materials:
Includes letters of support and relevant documentation (e.g., articles, publications)



Project Alignment:
Falls within one or more eligible focus areas

Applicant Requirements



- **Good Standing (Required)**

Must be in good standing with the State of Maryland

→ Check: egov.maryland.gov/BusinessExpress/EntitySearch



- **Verification**

Submit a screenshot showing current good standing
(*Certificate not required*)



- **If Not in Good Standing**

Include an explanation or application may be rejected



- **Registration**

Must be registered with the Secretary of State



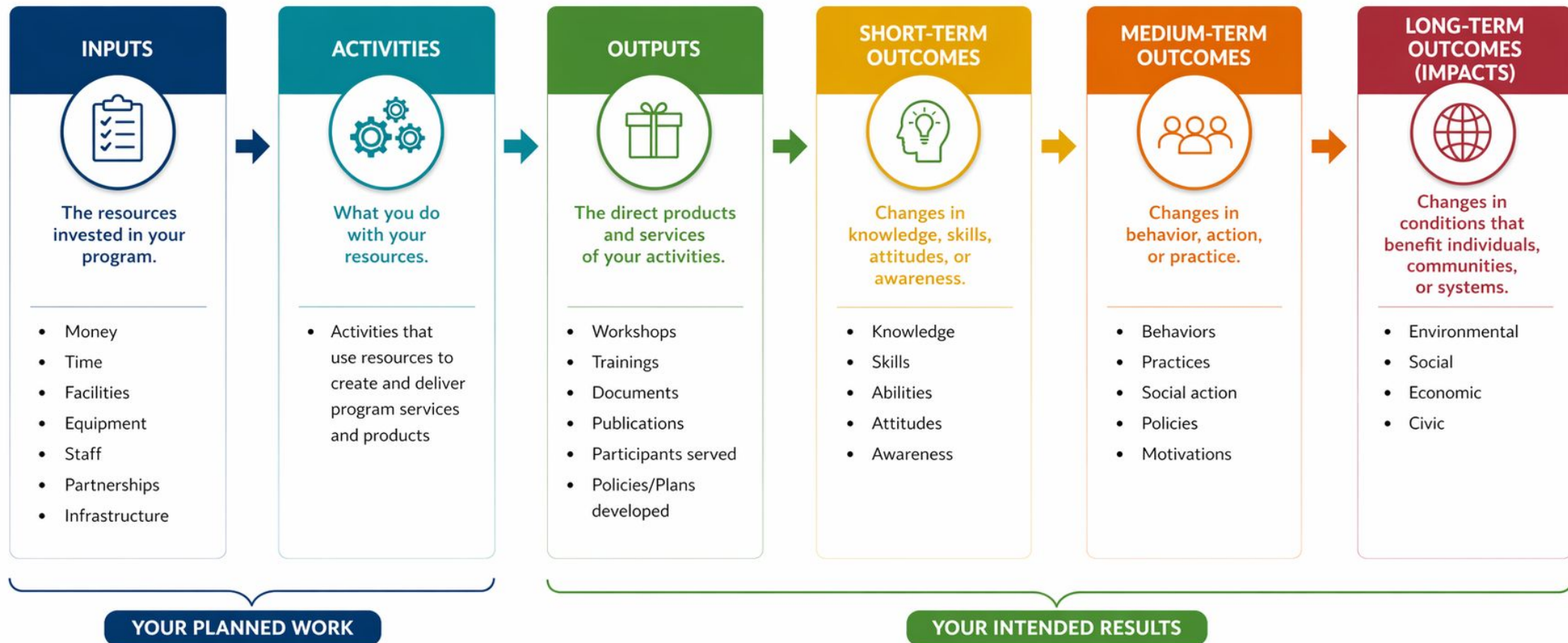
- **Required Documents**

- Form 990 (*if applicable*)
- IRS W-9 Form

Outputs/Outcomes/Impact

Program Logic Model

A roadmap that shows how your program's resources and activities lead to meaningful change.



RMC Examples - Outputs/Outcomes/Impact

Healthcare

- Patients served & services delivered
- Access improvements (*transportation, telehealth, equipment*)
- Workforce & training outcomes
- Community-based services & health outcomes

Economic Development

- Jobs & businesses created
- New products, industries & innovation
- Capital investment & loans
- Workforce training & entrepreneurship
- Tourism & community engagement

Education

- Training programs & courses created
- Individuals trained
- Capital investments in learning tools & facilities
- Workforce & leadership development

Infrastructure

- Environmental & water quality improvements
- Broadband access & connectivity
- Community facility investments
- Transportation & access solutions

How to Apply

Start Here – RMC Online Grant Portal

<https://rural.maryland.gov/grant-opportunities/>



Create Your Grantee Portal Account

Have ready:

- Email address (*username*)
- Contact information
- Organization or fiscal sponsor details (*EIN/Tax ID*)
- Organization website
- Executive Officer contact

Important Reminder

- Save your login information
- Applications can only be accessed through the account used to start them



Application Reminder

- **Multiple Applications Accepted**
- **Collaborator Tool (Grant Portal)**
Invite team members to help complete your application (*Video and written tutorials available in the portal*)
- **W-9 Form Required** - Name and address must match the information submitted in your application



Tips for a Strong Application

- **Define Your Scope**

Clearly outline your project and how funds will be used

- **State Your Goal**

What are you trying to achieve? Be specific

- **Use a Clear Structure**

Actions – Strategies – Outcomes – Timelines

- **Keep It Simple**

Avoid jargon—write for a general audience

- **Strengthen Your Application**

Include letters of support and supporting materials (*start early!*)

- **Draft Before You Apply**

Use Word or Google Docs to track word/character limits

- **Use Available Resources**

- Watch RMC's Grant Writing Workshop
- Visit: rural.maryland.gov
- Explore: grants.maryland.gov



Single Phase Process

Up to 2,400 words | Due May 15, 2026

What You'll Submit:



Organization Information

(mission, 501(c)(3) status, prior funding, SDAT info, Secretary of State registration, County, and Legislative District)



Project Information

(name, contacts, timeline, budget, match, project narrative, project summary, goals & outcomes, partnerships, rural area served, population served, and Managing for Results)



Financial Management & Audit Information



Attestation & Funding Assessment Form



Form Uploads

(Resolution letter, Goals & Measurable Objective Chart, Budget, Vendor, Proof of Matching Funds, Project Readiness, Form 990, W-9, IRS Determination Letter, and Supportive Materials)



Grantee Award Requirements

Administration

- Execute grant agreements
- Maintain recordkeeping
- Reporting
 - Narrative & financial reporting (proof of spending & paid invoices, receipts, etc.)

Quarterly Report Due Dates:

- Nov 9, 2026
- Feb 8, 2027
- May 10, 2027
- Aug 9, 2027

Final Report: Oct 15, 2027

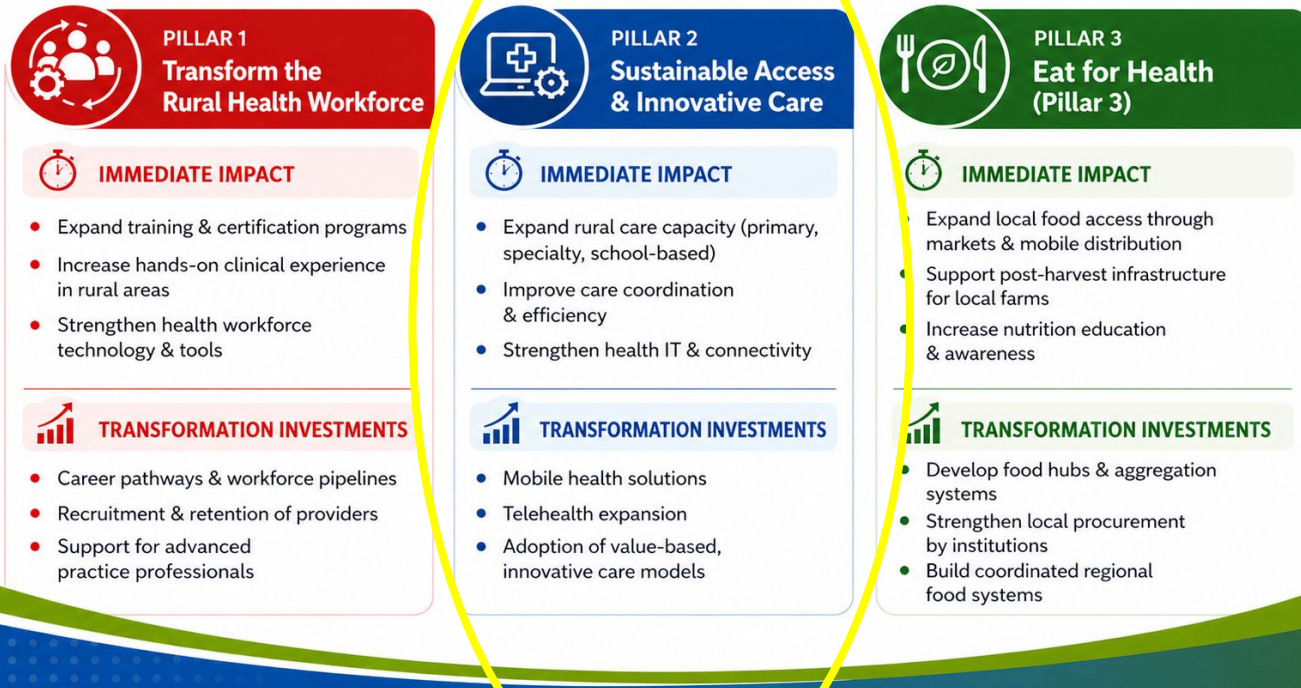
Engagement & Compliance

- Acknowledge MD RHTP & RMC funding
- Participate in site visits
- Share project photos

Maryland Department of Health RHTP Opportunity

Maryland RHTP Pillars

Three integrated pillars driving transformation and improving health in Rural Maryland.



Maryland RHTP Solicitation Overview

- **Funding Opportunity:** PHPA 3936 (MD Dept. of Health & HSCRC))
- **Focus:** Transforming rural healthcare access & outcomes
- **Goals:**
 - Expand primary, specialty & behavioral health care
 - Improve chronic disease management
 - Leverage technology to reach rural communities
 - Support innovative, value-based care models
- **Deadline:** May 26, 2026 (2:00 PM EST)

https://emma.maryland.gov/page.aspx/en/bpm/process_manage_extranet/90864



RMC Competitive Grant Programs

- **RMPIF** - Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund
- **MAERDAF** - Maryland Agricultural Education & Rural Development Assistance Fund



MAERDAF – Capacity Building

About the program

- Established in 2000
- Supports rural-serving nonprofit organizations
- Focus areas include:
 - Agriculture & Forestry
 - Energy
 - Rural Broadband
 - Youth Engagement & Leadership Development
 - Economic Development
 - Community Development

FY2026 Grant Cycle

87 applications received

\$3M requested

\$670,126 awarded

24 organization funded

\$14M+ Invested *Since 2002 in rural Maryland*

MAERDAF Focus Areas



AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

- Agricultural Education
- Value-Added Food Systems
- Forest Industry Development



ENERGY

- Combined Heat & Power
- Energy Efficiency
- Biomass



RURAL BROADBAND

- Broadband Expansion Efforts
- Municipal Broadband Projects



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

- Career Technology Centers
- Youth Enrichment Programs, including summer programming



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development
- Education & Workforce Development
- Regional Marketing & Tourism Projects



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Rural Transportation
- Housing Repairs
- Housing Counseling
- Poverty Alleviation Efforts



MAERDAF Program Requirements & Eligibility

Purpose

Supports rural-serving nonprofits and community colleges to address key development challenges and build public-private partnerships.

Requirements

- Must serve **2+ rural counties** or statewide
- Project must be completed in **1 year**
- Project timeframe: **Aug 1 – June 30**

Funding & Preferences

- Maximum award: **\$45,000**
- FY2027 funds available: **\$599,735**
- Preference for **secured matching funds**
(*cash preferred over in-kind*)

Eligible Applicants

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations
- Regional councils
- Community colleges
- Libraries



Habitat for Humanity Choptank



MAERDAF Eligible Expenditures

What MAERDAF Funds

- Construction & renovation projects
- Equipment and vehicles
- Consultant services
- Meals (*with justification*)

Key Guidelines

- No ongoing staff positions
- Indirect costs capped at **15%**
- Staff time allowed as indirect
- Quotes required for major purchases
- Project readiness



Pickering Creek, Talbot County

RMPIF Grant Program

Investing in Rural Maryland's Growth

WHAT IT IS

Authorized in 2006 by the Maryland General Assembly
State-funded grant program supporting rural communities

PURPOSE

Provides **targeted investments** to regional, nonprofit, and educational partners

GOAL

Bring rural living standards closer to **statewide averages**

Amount: \$6M funding secured for FY2027

With support from Governor Moore and the Presiding Officers of the Maryland General Assembly

FY2026 IMPACT

- **78 applications** | \$19.2M requested
- **\$4.8M awarded** to 38 organizations

PRIORITY AREAS

Infrastructure

Entrepreneurship Development

- **Agricultural Development**
- **Cooperative Development**
- **Workforce Development**
 - **Agricultural Apprenticeship**

Rural Health

Regional Councils

RMPIF Focus Area - Infrastructure

Strengthening essential systems that support rural communities and economic growth

Eligible Projects

- Must be **intergovernmental** (2+ government partners)
- Shovel-ready preferred

Purpose

Supports up to **25% of total project costs** for:

- Broadband, water & wastewater
- Transportation
- Workforce housing
- Commercial/industrial facilities

Match Requirement

- **75% match required** (non-state funds)
- Federal funds may be used

Timeline

- August 1 – June 30

Funding

- No maximum grant amount
- **\$981K available**
- **5–8 projects funded**

Eligible Applicants

- Local Governments
- Regional Councils
- Nonprofits (501c3)
- Community Colleges
- Career Tech Centers
- Institutions of Higher Education
- Libraries

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RMPIF Focus Area

Entrepreneurship, Agriculture, Workforce & Cooperative Development

Eligible Projects

- Regional (2+ counties)
- Intergovernmental (2+ government partners)

Match Requirement

- 25% cash match required
- Federal funds may be used

Funding

- No maximum grant amount
- \$981K available
- ~10 projects funded

Timeline

- August 1 – June 30

Who Can Apply

- Nonprofit organizations
- Local governments
- Regional councils
- Community colleges
- Institutes of Higher Learning



The Rural Maryland Flower Cooperative

Eligible Project Areas

Entrepreneurship, Agriculture, Workforce & Cooperative Development



Entrepreneurship

Supports small business **growth** through training, technical assistance, and job creation



Agriculture Development

Strengthens agricultural **production** and supports agritourism



Cooperative Development

Helps communities start and grow **cooperative** owned businesses



Workforce Development

Expands apprenticeships and **training** to build the rural workforce

★ *Building the agricultural workforce through apprenticeships, hands-on training, and partnerships.*



RMPIF Guidelines - Rural Health

Improving access, workforce, and health outcomes in rural communities

Eligible Projects

- Regional (**2+ counties**)
- Intergovernmental (**2+ government partners**)

Match Requirement

- 50% cash match required**
- Federal funds may be used

Timeline

- August 1 – June 30

Funding

- No maximum grant
- \$981K available**
- 10–15 projects funded**

Focus Areas

- Access to care (medical, dental, behavioral)
- Workforce recruitment & retention
- Behavioral & mental health
- Chronic disease prevention
- Oral health
- Maternal & child health

Eligible Applicants

- Local Governments
- Regional Councils
- Nonprofits (501c3)
- Health Centers & Clinics
- Institutions of Higher Education
- Other rural-serving health organizations

RMPIF Program Eligibility & Requirements

Infrastructure

Eligible Projects

- Must be **intergovernmental** (2+ government partners)

Who Can Apply

- Local Governments
- Regional Councils
- Nonprofits (501c3)
- Community Colleges
- Career Tech Centers
- Institutions of Higher Education
- Libraries

Match Requirement

- **75% match required** (non-state funds)
- Federal funds may be used

Entrepreneurship

Eligible Projects

- Regional (**2+ counties**)
- Intergovernmental (**2+ government partners**)

Who Can Apply

- Nonprofit organizations
- Local governments
- Regional councils
- Community colleges
- Institutes of Higher Learning

Match Requirement

- **25% cash match required**
- Federal funds may be used

Rural Health

Eligible Projects

- Regional (**2+ counties**)
- Intergovernmental (**2+ government partners**)

Who Can Apply

- Local Governments
- Regional Councils
- Nonprofits (501c3)
- Health Centers & Clinics
- Institutions of Higher Education
- Other rural-serving health organizations

Match Requirement

- **50% cash match required**
- Federal funds may be used

RMPIF Focus Area – Rural Regional Councils

Supporting coordinated regional planning and development across rural Maryland

Who Can Apply

- Regional Councils (5 statewide)
- Multi-county partnerships in unserved areas

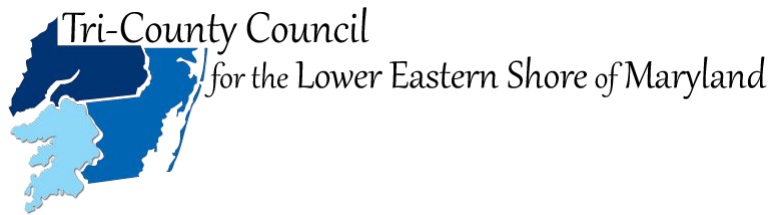
Purpose

- Funds projects led by regional planning & development councils
- Supports **regional coordination and strategic growth**

Funding

- Up to **\$385K per regional council**
- Supports regional & multi-county efforts

Regional Partners



Tri County Council
For Western Maryland



RMPIF Grant Program – Expenditures

Know what can - and cannot - be funded

✓ Eligible Expenses

- Salaries & wages (*with sustainability plan*)
- Construction & renovation (*no land purchase*)
- Equipment & vehicles
- Permitting costs
- Indirect costs (*up to 15%*)

★ Must include quotes for major purchases and construction projects

✗ Not Eligible

- Donations, sub-awards, or gift cards
- Fundraising or capital campaigns
- Advocacy or lobbying
- Supplanting existing funding



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THANK YOU

QUESTIONS? We're here to help!

RMC Grant Contacts

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