

The  
**Maryland Agricultural  
Education &  
Rural Development  
Assistance Fund  
FY 2010 Annual Report**

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# FY 2010 Annual Report

## Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund

*Prepared by the Rural Maryland Council, July 2010*

**Overview:** Rural-serving nonprofit organizations and community colleges often lack access to the public and private sector philanthropic opportunities they need to obtain important programmatic and special project funding. Moreover, local governments, especially those in economically distressed rural regions, do not have the financial wherewithal to fully address these important developmental needs. Consequently, a serious resource deficit exists where the need has often been the greatest.

**The Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF)** was established by the Governor and General Assembly in 2000 to offer financial support to rural-serving nonprofit 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.

Funding for MAERDAF grants comes from a General Fund appropriation through the Governor and General Assembly, as well as Special Funds from Special Racing Fund revenues, which typically fluctuate from year to year. For FY 2010, the total grant pool from both sources was \$142,000. An additional \$2,962 was returned from a FY 2009 grantee and added to the grant pool. A total of just under \$145,000 was available for grants.

Grantees are selected by a six-member interagency Grant Review Board whose members are, as mandated by statute, appointed by the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and the Rural Maryland Council. The decisions of the Grant Review Board are binding.

MAERDAF is administered by the **Rural Maryland Council**, an independent state agency and federally designated State Rural Development Council under the USDA's National Rural Development Partnership. Its mission is to bring together federal, state, county and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to identify challenges unique to rural communities and to craft public policy, programmatic or regulatory solutions. As a collaborative partnership, the RMC operates under the guidance of a 40-member Executive Board, in a nonpartisan and nondiscriminatory manner. For more information, visit the RMC's website at: [www.rural.state.md.us](http://www.rural.state.md.us)

### The FY 2010 MAERDAF Grants Review Board

1. **Karen Fedor**, Senior Agricultural Marketing Specialist, Maryland Department of Agriculture;
2. **Glenda Odom**, Program Manager, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development;
3. **Vanessa Orlando**, Executive Director, Rural Maryland Council;
4. **Sarah Orth**, Acting Director, State Office of Rural Health, Office of Policy and Planning, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene;
5. **Lori Ratzburg**, Finance Specialist, Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development;
6. **Emily Wilson**, Senior Advisor, Maryland Department of Natural Resources.



## MAERDAF AF Program in FY 2010

Between FY 2001 and FY 2010, the MAERDAF program has awarded \$2,396,396 in grants to 47 rural-serving nonprofit organizations. The average MAERDAF grant over the life of the program has been \$17,681; however, in FY 2010, the average grant was \$13,000. During FY 2010, the MAERDAF Grants Review Board received 25 grant applications requesting \$463,184 in funding. The Board selected 11 rural-serving nonprofit organizations to receive the \$144,912 in available funding. All MAERDAF grants are administered as fiscal year grants. **All FY 2010 MAERDAF grantees are listed below.**

FY 2010 Grantees	Category	Area Served	Total Request	Amount Funded
Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Ctr	CommDev	Eastern Shore	\$ 24,177	\$ 17,962
Habitat for Humanity Talbot /Dorch	CommDev	Eastern Shore	\$ 15,263	\$ 12,000
LEAD Maryland	Ag/Forestry	Statewide	\$ 11,000	\$ 10,000
LEAD Maryland	Ag/Forestry	Statewide	\$ 17,000	\$ 2,000
MAC - Area Agency on Aging	CommDev	Eastern Shore	\$ 27,000	\$ 26,000
Maryland Forest Association	Ag/Forestry	Statewide	\$ 7,000	\$ 1,500
Maryland Rural Health Assn.	Health/EconDev	Statewide	\$ 32,240	\$ 18,000
MD Assn. of Soil Conservation Dist.	Ag/Forestry	Statewide	\$ 20,962	\$ 7,000
Maryland Dairy Shrine	Ag/Forestry	Statewide	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,750
MidShore Regional Council	Ag/Forestry	Eastern Shore	\$ 24,000	\$ 19,000
Center for Children	Health/EconDev	Charles/St. Mary's	\$ 19,875	\$ 14,700
Upper Shore Regional Council	Ag/Forestry	Eastern Shore	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
<b>TOTAL Request</b>			<b>\$ 218,517</b>	<b>\$ 144,912</b>

The MAERDAF Program has helped many rural-serving organizations establish or continue programs and projects that have had a significant and positive impact on Rural Maryland. In addition, the modest state investment in the MAERDAF program has helped the nonprofit sector leverage a substantial amount of private and federal financial support. (The MAERDAF Board is required to give preference to organizations that leverage non-state matching funds.) Moreover, MAERDAF has helped many of these nonprofit service providers develop institutional capacity, improve grant-writing skills, and enhance the internal development of volunteer boards and staff.

There was \$2,962 in returned grant funds from FY 2009 from the College of Southern Maryland due to a change in the protocol. The MAERDAF Review Board asked current grantees to submit proposals for these funds. Six requests were received, and the funds were rewarded to MAC, Inc (\$1,000) and The Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (\$1,962). The table above was adjusted to include these additional funds.

The following tables show the number of grantees, by region and by category, and the funds awarded.

FY 2010 MAERDAF Grantees By Region	# Grantees	Amount Requested	Total Awarded	% of grant funds awarded
Eastern Shore	5	\$105,440	\$89,962	62%
Southern Maryland	1	\$19,875	\$14,700	10%
Statewide	5	\$93,202	\$40,250	28%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>\$218,517</b>	<b>\$144,912</b>	<b>100%</b>

FY 2010 MAERDAF Grantees (by Category)	# Grantees	Amount Requested	Total Awarded	% of grant funds awarded
Agricultural and forestry	5	\$84,962	\$41,250	28%
Community Development	2	\$39,440	\$29,962	21%
Education and Health	4	\$94,115	\$73,700	51%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>\$218,517</b>	<b>\$144,912</b>	<b>100%</b>

## ***FY 2010 – MAERDAF Grantees***

### **Scopes of Work**

#### **Center for Children --**

Amount Awarded: **\$14,700**

(Amount Requested: \$19,875)

**Summary:** The mission of the Center for Children is the prevention and treatment of child abuse and promotion of positive mental health through crisis intervention, therapy, and education.

**Grant funds** were used to provide partial salary and fringe benefits of one full-time home visitor, covering Charles and St. Mary's counties in Southern Maryland. The Center was granted a no-cost extension through September 30, 2010 to complete its programming, which was behind schedule due to weather-related delays during the winter.

#### **Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center --**

Amount Awarded: **\$17,962**

(Amount Requested: \$24,177)

**Summary:** The Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC) /Business Development Fund is a collaborative effort to encourage and stimulate small and mid-size business growth in Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot counties.

**Grant funds** were used for the operational expenses of administering the Entrepreneurial Program, including travel, manuals, supplies and salaries (for both the Administrator and the Instructors). Of the total amount awarded, \$1,962 was granted late in the year as a result of returned funds from another grantee. These funds were used for program expansion to WorWic Community College, as well as administrative costs.

#### **Habitat for Humanity of Talbot and Dorchester Counties --**

Amount Awarded: **\$12,000**

(Amount Requested: \$12,330)

**Summary:** Habitat for Humanity works to eliminate substandard housing for families whose income falls between 40-50 percent of the median household income for Talbot and Dorchester counties, as determined by HUD, and who are unable to obtain mortgage financing from conventional bank sources due to their income level and/or credit history.

**Grant funds** were used to pay the salary and/or fringe benefits of a full-time construction supervisor who is responsible for coordinating construction volunteers, subcontractors and materials.

#### **Lead Maryland Foundation, Inc.**

**Summary:** LEAD Maryland identifies and trains a network of skilled leaders who take leadership responsibilities in policy decision-making roles and organizational service roles in Maryland's agricultural, natural resources, and rural communities. LEAD carries out its leadership training through a series of well planned and coordinated seminars and study tours.

**Grant #1:** Amount Awarded: **\$10,000**

(Amount Requested: \$10,000)

**Grant funds** were used to fund the full program evaluation to include input from leaders and decision-makers (focus groups) within Maryland's natural resources, rural, and agricultural sectors.

**Grant #2:** Amount Awarded: **\$2,000**

(Amount Requested: \$17,000)

**Grant funds** were used for education seminars and communications, including an upgrade to the LEAD Maryland website.

#### **MAC, Inc. – Maintaining Active Citizens --**

Amount Awarded: **\$26,000**

(Amount Requested: \$27,000)

**Summary:** MAC is the designated agency on aging for Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties, dedicated to offering older persons lives of independence, dignity, and choice.

**Grant funds** were used to continue and expand the Managing Chronic Pain for Arthritis program, a health promotion program that uses an innovative approach to pain management. Of the total amount awarded, \$1,000 was granted late in the year as a result of returned funds from another grantee. These



funds were used to help conduct a needs assessment to address lyme disease on the Eastern Shore.

**Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts --**

Amount Awarded: **\$7,000**

(Amount Requested: \$18,000)

**Summary:** MASCD promotes practical and effective soil, water and related natural resources programs to all citizens through individual conservation districts on a voluntary basis through leadership, education, cooperation and local direction.

**Grand funds** were used to help conduct the 2009 Maryland Envirothon, a statewide high school environmental education competition that uses the expertise of soil conservation districts and other natural resource professionals to teach students about their natural resources and expand the Envirothon into Wicomico County.

**Maryland Dairy Shrine --**

Amount Awarded: **\$1,750**

(Amount Requested: \$5,000)

**Summary:** The Maryland Dairy Shrine is the rural serving non-profit agency that provides educational training for farm businesses, conducts activities/programs that support dairy youth, supports all agricultural industries in Maryland.

**Grant funds** were used to pay for teachers and speakers to assist dairy farmers on key management decisions on their individual farming operations.

**Maryland Forest Association, Inc. --**

Amount Awarded: **\$1,500**

(Amount Requested: \$7,000)

**Summary:** The MFA promotes the maintenance of a healthy and productive forest in order to enhance the economic, environmental and social well being of Marylanders.

**Grant funds** were used to help MFA defray expenses related to its annual meeting which draws attendees from around the state. The grant supported publications, documentation and speaker expenses, including travel, meals and honorariums.

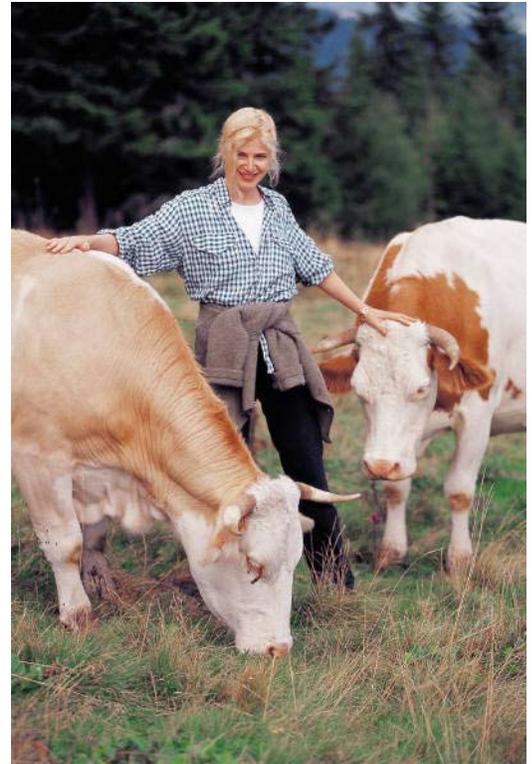
**Maryland Rural Health Association --**

Amount Awarded: **\$18,000**

(Amount Requested: \$30,000)

**Summary:** The MRHA's mission is to educate and advocate for the optimal health of rural communities and their residents.

**Grant funds** were used to develop a scholarship program for the MedBee which will be developed for the Eastern Shore Med Bee in 2010 and Western Maryland Med Bee in 2011.



**MidShore Regional Council --**

Amount Awarded: **\$19,000**

(Amount Requested: \$24,000)

**Summary:** The Mid-Shore Regional Council operates as a cooperative regional planning and development agency for Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties to foster physical, economic, and social development.

**Grant funds** were used to fund the Agricultural Economic Development Specialist position and programming. The MAERDAF grant was matched with a USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG).

**Upper Shore Regional Council --**

Amount Awarded: **\$15,000**

(Amount Requested: \$15,000)

**Summary:** The USRC, established in 2003, is a regional planning and development agency for Cecil, Kent and Queen Anne's Counties. It exists to foster the physical, economic and social development of the region and to develop the area's human and economic resources.

**Grant funds** were used to conduct the Rural Maryland Telehealth/Telemedicine Survey – a statewide survey that will identify rural facilities that are currently receiving or delivering telehealth/telemedicine services, whether it is direct clinical services or education and training programs. This grantee has been awarded a no-cost extension and will be completed by August 1, 2010.

## All MAERDAF Grantees -- FY 2001 to FY 2010

Grantee Organization	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2007	FY2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	Total
Allegany College					\$15,000					\$15,000
Arc Northern Chesapeake Region								\$5,700		\$5,700
Carroll Community College (AATC)	\$15,875	\$7,220								\$23,095
Cecil Community College					\$14,950					\$14,950
Center for Children						\$13,100			\$14,700	\$27800
Chesapeake Bay Tech Ctr of Excellence			\$15,000							\$15,000
Chesapeake College								\$5,000		\$5,000
Chesapeake Fields Insitute	\$15,000	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$10,000		\$11,300				\$111,300
Chester Bridge Foundation, Inc.					\$7,000	\$8,750				\$15,750
College of Southern MD			\$25,000	\$10,000	\$10,000			\$5,875		\$50,875
College of Southern MD								-\$2,962		\$47,913
Community Foundation of Eastern Shore								\$14,500		\$14,500
Delmarva Advisory Council	\$20,000									\$20,000
Delmarva Education Foundation						\$15,000	\$12,869	\$22,252		\$50,121
Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship						\$9,800			\$17,962	\$27,762
Friend of the Grape							\$20,000			\$20,000
Future Harvest, Inc.	\$20,000	\$18,500	\$20,000	\$5,000			\$2,330			\$65,830
Garrett Community College (AAATC)	\$20,000	\$22,000	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$9,500					\$81,500
Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay						\$10,000	\$5,000			\$15,000
Habitat for Humanity of Talbot County						\$32,000	\$21,500	\$30,000	\$12,000	\$95,500
LEAD Maryland	\$23,500	\$30,000	\$29,180	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$35,000	\$32,000	\$30,000	\$12,000	\$219,680
Lower Shore Broadband Cooperative						\$12,958	\$20,000			\$32,958
Lower Shore Child Care Resource Ctr						\$9,362				\$9,362
MAC, Inc.							\$13,105	\$25,000	\$26,000	\$64,105
MD Agricultural Education Fund	\$20,000	\$28,400	\$28,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$32,660				\$119,060
MD Association of Soil Conservation Districts (Environthon)	\$20,000	\$17,200	\$6,500	\$10,000	\$7,900	\$10,495	\$9,800	\$19,000	\$7,000	\$107,895
MD Capital Enterprises						\$19,000	\$21,625			\$40,625
MD Center for Community Development	\$20,000	\$20,000								\$40,000
MD Dairy Shrine									\$1,750	\$1,750
MD Eastern Shore RC&D Council	\$6,000									\$6,000
MD FFA Foundation, Inc.						\$6,500	\$8,000			\$14,500
MD Forests Association	\$20,000	\$20,000					\$5,000	\$5,000	\$1,500	\$51,500
MD Organic Food & Farming Assn	\$16,625									\$16,625
MD Rural Development Corporation	\$50,000	\$47,500	\$47,000	\$10,400	\$13,208	\$25,000	\$22,510	\$22,550		\$238,168
MD Rural Health Association	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$35,000	\$10,000	\$4,000	\$5,000		\$4,173	\$18,000	\$156,173
MD Rural Water Association	\$21,000									\$21,000
Medbank of MD						\$15,000				\$15,000
Microenterprise Council of MD			\$30,000	\$10,000	\$29,600	\$5,000	\$12,000	\$12,500		\$99,100
Mid-Shore Regional Council				\$10,000		\$24,000	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$19,000	\$101,000
Mountain Laurel Medical Center							\$44,000			\$44,000
Salisbury Univeristy - BEACON		\$24,320								\$24,320
Southern MD RC&D Council	\$6,000	\$21,000	\$15,000							\$42,000
Tri-County Council for Southern MD			\$30,000							\$30,000
Tri-County Council of Western MD	\$7,000				\$500	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$25,000		\$52,500
Tri-State Community Health Center			\$30,000	\$17,792						\$47,792
UMES - Rural Development Center			\$50,000		\$12,000					\$62,000
Upper Shore Regional Council				\$10,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$13,600	\$15,000	\$58,600
Western MD RC&D Council	\$6,000									\$6,000
<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>\$347,000</b>	<b>\$346,140</b>	<b>\$405,680</b>	<b>\$132,192</b>	<b>\$147,658</b>	<b>\$319,925</b>	<b>\$288,739</b>	<b>\$261,188</b>	<b>\$144,912</b>	<b>\$2,396,396</b>
<b>Average Grant Amount</b>	<b>\$19,278</b>	<b>\$26,626</b>	<b>\$27,045</b>	<b>\$10,169</b>	<b>\$10,547</b>	<b>\$15,235</b>	<b>\$16,041</b>	<b>\$16,509</b>	<b>\$13,000</b>	<b>\$17,681</b>

There was no MAERDAF Funding in 2006

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