

~~(2) To applicants on a statewide basis as provided by the priority ranking system established under § 2-510(e) of this subtitle; and~~

~~(3) Only after the expiration of the period allowed for acceptance of offers to buy under allotted general and matching purchases.~~

2-512.

(a) The foundation may not approve matching allotted purchases of easements for land located in any county which has not secured approval from the foundation for a local program of agricultural land preservation.

(b) The foundation may approve a local program of agricultural land preservation upon request of a county, provided that:

(1) The county shall agree to make payments up to a specified aggregate amount to the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Fund to equal at least 40 percent of the value of any easement acquired by the foundation as a result of a matching allotted purchase, made during the ensuing fiscal year; and

(2) The county shall show evidence that any county program for the acquisition of agricultural land for preservation, or easements for purposes of preservation of agricultural land, will not result in preservation of land which does not meet the minimum standards set by the foundation under § 2-509 of this subtitle; and

(3) The request for approval of a local program must be submitted to the foundation, together with any necessary agreements not later than 90 days prior to the beginning of the fiscal year for which approval is being sought.

(c) Approval of a local program by the foundation is valid only during the next fiscal year following the fiscal year of the request for approval by the county.

(d) Local programs shall be approved upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the foundation members at-large, and upon approval of the Secretary and the State Treasurer.

(E) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, "DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS" MEAN THE POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVEMENT OF A PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY THAT IS MEASURED IN DWELLING UNITS OR UNITS OF COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL SPACE AND THAT EXIST BECAUSE OF THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF THE PARCEL.