

~~(I) AT LEAST \$200,000 TO BE USED TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THE GENERAL OPERATIONS OF THE COUNCIL; AND~~

~~(II) AT LEAST \$500,000 FOR THE SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM AUTHORIZED UNDER THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER § 2-206 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE, OF WHICH NOT MORE THAN 10% MAY BE USED TO COVER ADMINISTRATIVE, TRAINING, AND OTHER EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE COUNCIL.~~

~~(2) IN ADDITION TO THE AMOUNT SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (1)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION, EACH YEAR THE RURAL MARYLAND COUNCIL SHALL INCLUDE IN ITS BUDGET REQUEST TO THE GOVERNOR A TOTAL OF \$1,300,000 FOR THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING TARGETED SUPPORT TO THE STATE'S FIVE RURAL REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS ESTABLISHED UNDER ARTICLES 20, 20A, 20B, 20C, AND 20D OF THE CODE, TO BE ALLOCATED AS FOLLOWS:~~

~~(I) IN SUBACCOUNT A, \$250,000 TO BE USED SOLELY TO PROVIDE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING SUPPORT TO AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE BASED BUSINESSES WITHIN A RURAL REGION;~~

~~(II) IN SUBACCOUNT B, \$800,000 TO BE USED SOLELY TO SUPPORT ACTIVITIES RELATED TO TRANSPORTATION PLANNING WITHIN A RURAL REGION; AND~~

~~(III) IN SUBACCOUNT C, \$250,000 TO BE USED FOR ACTIVITIES RELATED TO DEFENSE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT RETENTION, SOCIAL SERVICES AND HEALTH CARE ACCESS, AND MAJOR ECONOMIC DISLOCATION WITHIN A RURAL REGION.~~

~~(3) (I) THE SUBACCOUNT FUNDS DISTRIBUTED TO THE RURAL REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE AWARDED ON A COMPETITIVE BASIS BY THE INTERAGENCY GRANTS SELECTION BOARD ESTABLISHED UNDER § 2-206 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.~~

~~(II) THE BOARD MAY DECLINE TO AWARD A GRANT IF IN ITS JUDGMENT THE GRANT APPLICATION IS INCOMPLETE OR LACKS MERIT.~~

~~(III) IF IN ANY GIVEN YEAR FUNDS REMAIN TO BE DISPERSED IN A SUBACCOUNT AFTER THE GRANT AWARDS ARE MADE, THOSE FUNDS SHALL BE RETAINED IN THE FUND FOR FUTURE DISTRIBUTION.~~

~~(4) (I) EACH YEAR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN ITS BUDGET REQUEST TO THE GOVERNOR:~~

~~(I) AT LEAST \$250,000 FOR THE MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT RIDER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN EFFORTS IN EXISTING CIRCUITS AND TO ADD NEW CIRCUITS IN AREAS OF NEED ACROSS THE STATE; AND~~