



Fiscal Year 2019

Annual Report

**A yearly report on the Rural Maryland Council,
an independent state agency located within the
Maryland Department of Agriculture**



To Our Fellow Marylanders:

As an independent state agency, the Council must report each year to the Governor and the Maryland General Assembly on its activities and grant expenditures. We are pleased to share with you the Rural Maryland Council’s Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report. The State’s Fiscal Year began on July 1, 2018 and ended on June 30, 2019. This report documents the grant expenditures as well as the activities of the Council during this time.

Thanks to the support of Governor Hogan and the Maryland General Assembly, the Rural Maryland Council experienced a successful year during FY2019. The Council received full funding of the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund in the amount of \$6,167,000 in the Fiscal Year 2019 State’s Operating Budget. Along with the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund which received an additional \$167,000, these programs are investing in our state’s rural communities creating economic opportunities and improving the quality of life. A full list of grant awards is included within this report.

We also successfully advocated for state action to support rural broadband expansion with the inclusion of almost \$10 million for local government broadband projects in the State’s Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2020. We supported legislation that authorizes our state’s rural electric cooperatives to utilize their rights-of-way for broadband service delivery. The Task Force for Rural Internet, Broadband, Wireless and Cellular Service, chaired by the RMC Executive Director, continues to meet and examine strategies and policies that will facilitate increased connectivity to our rural areas.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Council will submit a report to the State Budget leaders on measurements for success for RMC grant programs. This important examination will allow the Council to evaluate the programs’ effectiveness and ensure that taxpayer dollars are expended appropriately. We look forward to hosting the Rural Summit in December 2019 and adopting the Council’s new updated Strategic Plan.

As always, everyone is welcome to join us at our meetings and gatherings. Thanks for all that you do to help us meet our vision of the future where all of Rural Maryland is prosperous with thriving resources, vibrant economies and healthy connected communities!

For our continued success,



Scott Warner
Chair



Charlotte Davis
Executive Director

Josh Hastings, Charlotte Davis, US Senator Chris Van Hollen and Scott Warner



The Rural Maryland Council's (RMC) 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. The RMC is an independent state agency located within the Maryland Department of Agriculture. We provide a venue for members of agriculture and natural resource-based industries, health care facilities, educational institutions, businesses, economic and community development organizations, nonprofit entities and government agencies to cross traditional boundaries, share information and address in a holistic way the special needs and opportunities in rural Maryland.

OUR VISION

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

OUR GOALS

Encourage healthy, connected communities throughout Rural Maryland through convening of stakeholders, education, public relations and advocacy

Support the development and growth of vibrant economies in Rural Maryland

Foster stewardship of Maryland's natural resources

Maximize RMC outreach, resources and mission through financial and organizational development

RMC Officers

Chair

**Scott Warner, Executive Director
Mid-Shore Regional Council**

First Vice Chair

**John Hartline, Executive Director
Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland**

Second Vice Chair

**Erroll Mattox, Farm Management Specialist
University of Maryland Extension**

Immediate Past Chair

**Josh Hastings, Deputy Director
Lower Shore Land Trust**



RMC Executive Director Charlotte Davis, Jerry McLarin, Sandy Pruitt, RMC staff Sam Biddle, Governor Larry Hogan, RMC Chair Scott Warner, RMC Board members Chris Benzing and Matt Teffeau



RMC Staff

**Charlotte Davis, Executive Director
Meredith Donaho, Program
Administrator**

**Samuel Biddle, Program Coordinator
Amanda Clevenger, Administrative and
Communications Assistant**

RMC staff Amanda Clevenger at the Baltimore Farmers Market

RMC Executive Board

Representing District 1 Garrett, Allegany and Washington Counties

Rodney Glotfelty

Representing District 2 Frederick, Carroll and Harford Counties

Angela Spencer, Frederick County Sheriff's Office

Representing District 3 Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Chris Kaselemis, St. Mary's County Office Department of Economic Development

Representing District 4 Cecil, Kent and Queen Anne's Counties

Loretta Lodge, Kent County Chamber of Commerce

Representing District 5 (Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot Counties)

Josh Hastings, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy

Representing District 6 (Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset Counties) & RMC Representative on Governor's Intergovernmental Commission on Agriculture

Erroll Mattox, Farm Management Specialist

University of Maryland Extension

Representing District 7 (Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Howard, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties)

Chris Benzing, Maryland Rural Development Corporation

Representing Nonprofit Organizations & RMC/RMF Joint Planning Committee Chair

Mr. Michael Thielke, Executive Director

Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (Easton)

Representing For-Profit Organizations

Renee Sheehy

Delmarva Power

The Honorable Wilbur Levensgood

Vice President, Board of Commissioners, Caroline County

Representing the Maryland Municipal League

The Honorable John Kinnaid

Mayor, Town of Thurmont

The Honorable Jamie Windon

Commissioner, St. Michaels, Talbot County

Representing the Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators

Sharan Marshall

Southern Maryland Regional Library Association

Santo Grande

Delmarva Community Services

Representing the Governor's Office

The Honorable Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio

Director, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Representing the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

Cindy Stone, Director, Community Development Block Grants

Representing the Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Donald VanHassent

Acting Director of Forestry

John Hartline, Executive Director

Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland

Susan O'Neill, Executive Director

Upper Shore Regional Council

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF)

Committee Chair

Scott Warner, Executive Director

MidShore Regional Council

Co-Chair for Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund

Greg Padgham, Executive Director

Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland

James Hanson, Associate Dean and Associate Director

University of Maryland Extension

Trish Hildebrand Bucci, Eastern Shore Regional Manager

Maryland Farm Bureau

Representing the Rural Maryland Foundation

Daniel R. Rider, Forest Stewardship & Utilization Program Manager

Maryland DNR Forest Service

Representing LEAD Maryland Foundation

Vanessa A Finney, CPA, President

Quercus Management, Inc.

Steve McHenry, Executive Director

Maryland Agricultural & Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO)

Lindsay Thompson, Executive Director

Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts,

Thompson Ag Consultants

Denise Lovelady, State Director, Delaware & Maryland USDA Rural Development

Legislative Members

The Honorable Sheree Sample-Hughes, Delegate, District 37A

The Honorable Michael W. McKay, Delegate, District 1C

The Honorable George C. Edward, Senator, District 1

The Honorable Katie Fry Hester, Senator, District 9

The Honorable Douglas J. J. Peters, Senator, District 23

WHERE IS RURAL MARYLAND?

State statute designates the following counties as rural:

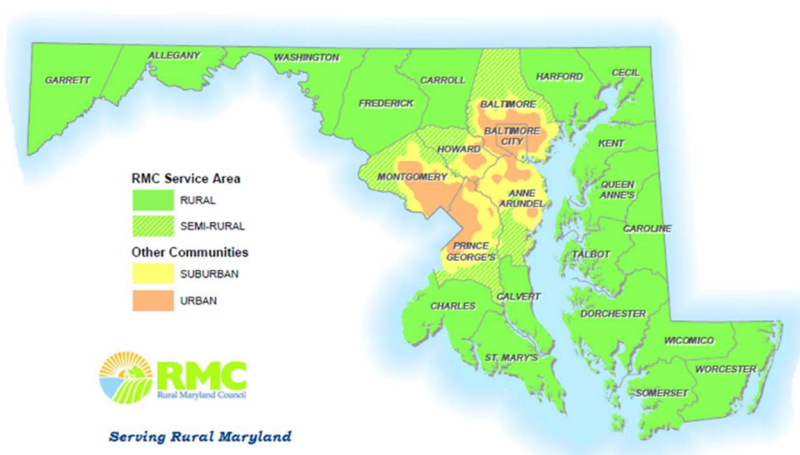
Allegany
Calvert
Caroline
Carroll
Cecil
Charles
Dorchester
Frederick
Garrett
Harford
Kent
Queen Anne's
Somerset
St. Mary's
Talbot
Washington
Wicomico
Worcester

Serving Rural Communities

In the September and December 2018, the RMC hosted two regional Community Reinvestment Act and Broadband Roundtables; one on September 5, 2018 at SMECO headquarters in Hughesville and another on Monday, December 10, 2018 at Allegany College in Cumberland, Maryland. Our intent for these events were to educate rural lenders, service providers and other interested parties on the requirements of the CRA and the use of these investments on broadband as a creative and innovative possibility to push more investment into broadband networks.

Also in September 2018, the Council partnered with USDA Rural Development to host the Small Business Lending Forum in Hagerstown. This event highlights the different government funding and programs that are available to help with small business development.

The Grow and Fortify Value- Added Agriculture Summit was held on Thursday December 6, 2018 at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club in Stevensville, Maryland. Presented by Grow & Fortify, in partnership with the Rural Maryland Council and Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit, the 2018 Summit focused on supporting and promoting Maryland's value-added agricultural producers, growers, agritourism operations and small food businesses. During the day, breakout sessions were held and AgPitch - a Shark Tank-style business competition, was held for entrepreneurs to present their agriculture business ideas before an audience to compete for cash and business related services.





From left, Mid- Atlantic Farm Credit's Tom Truitt, Charlie Taylor, Zach Marnane, Eric Peterson and Tom Marnane accept first place for MADTECH'S agricultural drone concept.

Rural Impact Awards

Recognized on at the RMC Annual Meeting held on November 29, 2018, the RMC recognizes individuals and organizations that have made an impact in rural Maryland.

RURAL COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

Ms. Cathy and Mr. Rick Schwab from the Town of Ridgely

OUTSTANDING RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

For All Seasons

RURAL CHAMPION

Dr. Joseph Ciotola, Jr.

RURAL SUPPORTER AWARD

Susan Lawrence

RURAL DEDICATION AWARD

Mike Pennington

RURAL LEGACY AWARD

The Honorable Thomas McClain Middleton

Advocating on Behalf of Rural Maryland

While the Session ended silently in tribute to Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates Michael Erin Busch, the 2019 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session was positive overall for rural communities. Highlights for the RMC included FULL FUNDING for the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) in the State's Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget.

The Rural Maryland Council (RMC) thanks Governor Hogan and the Maryland General Assembly for their support of the RMC and rural communities. This includes the funding of both the RMC's RMPIF and Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF). Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO) will receive its core funding, as well as \$2.5M for the Next-Gen Farmland Program. The Regional Councils received their continued funding through FY2020. Further, the budget committees approved funding for rural land preservation, including Program Open Space, the Rural Legacy Program, and the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Program. Program Open Space's Stateside initiatives received \$50.1M and its Local programs will have \$56.6M.



Lindsay Thompson, Matt Tefteau, Josh Hastings recognize former Senator Thomas Mac Middleton

This year, Governor Hogan proclaimed February 14, 2019 as Rural Maryland Day. As part of Rural Maryland Day, the RMC welcomed more than 100 rural advocates to meet with dozens of elected officials and staff. The RMC was officially recognized during floor sessions in the State House and, in partnership with the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts and the Maryland Dairy Industry Association, hosted a luncheon with over 250 attendees.



Lt Governor Boyd Rutherford presents a Rural Maryland Day Proclamation

FY2020 Budget Breakdown

The State’s Fiscal Year 2020 Operating and Capital budget were passed with bipartisan support. The Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Bill, HB100, includes \$46.6 billion in appropriations, a growth of 4.0% over Fiscal Year 2019. The FY2020 budget met the Spending Affordability Committee’s FY2020 recommendations, leaving \$1.1 billion in the Rainy Day Fund (6% of general fund revenues) and \$105.1 million in the General Fund. State aid to local government will total \$8.2 billion, with direct aid increasing by \$490.4 million. State support for public schools totals a record \$7.0 billion. Direct aid to local school systems will increase an estimated \$434.4 million, or 7.5%. \$516.1 million total was put towards school facilities, with \$418.8 million for local school construction. Unfortunately, these provisions do not signal secure footings for these priorities. Per the Department of Legislative Services, a cash shortfall of approximately \$900 million is forecast in fiscal 2021, alongside a structural deficit of nearly \$1.0 billion, projected to rise in later years.

RMC Legislative Highlights:

SB634 - Electric Cooperatives - Powers - Conducting or Communications Facilities
 Sponsor: Senator Eckardt
 Passing both chambers and signed into law, this bill authorized an electric cooperative to construct, maintain, or operate or allow others to construct, maintain, or operate conducting or communications facilities for telecommunications and broadband Internet services along its rights-of-way.

SB581/HB1260 - Transparency in Reporting Opportunity Zones; Senate Bill 756 – Investment in Rural Opportunity Zones
 Sponsors: Senator Ferguson/Delegate Lierman; Senator Hester
 Signed into law as SB 581, carrying the Governor’s Opportunity Zone Bill, SB756’s articles, and other items.

SB507/HB886 - Angel Investor Tax Credit
 Sponsors: Senator Eckardt, Delegate Palakovich Carr
 This legislation would create tax credits for more investment in entrepreneurial enterprises. This legislation did not advance this year.

SB178/HB570 - Outpatient Mental Health Centers – Medical Directors – Telehealth
 Sponsors: Senator Eckardt, Delegate Sample-Hughes
 This bill, passed into law, permits the use of telehealth by behavioral health clinics to satisfy regulations governing medical directors of outpatient mental health centers, which experience workforce retention issues in rural areas.

SB944/HB1122 - Behavioral Health Programs – Outpatient Mental Health Centers – Medical Directors
 Sponsors: Senator Eckardt, Delegates Hornberger; Buckel; Kipke et al.
 This bill, passed into law, permits psychiatric nurse practitioners to serve as medical directors of outpatient health centers.

Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund

Administered by the Rural Maryland Council, the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) offers financial assistance to rural 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.

Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund in Fiscal Year 2019 awarded 42 grants for a total \$1,093,930 distributed across rural communities.

The Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) was established in 2000 to offer financial assistance to rural nonprofits 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. Between 2001 and 2019, the MAERDAF program has awarded more than \$5.4 million in grants to 145 rural-serving nonprofit organizations. During Fiscal Year 2019, a total of 109 applications were submitted with a total of \$3,256,990.93 requested. 39 organizations were awarded the following distribution of a total of \$1,093,930 in available funds.

MAERDAF funded through RMPiF
Adkins Arboretum
Amount Awarded - \$8,100

Program: Adkins Arboretum is a 400-acre native garden and preserve, and is a model for environmental land management that strives to engage all people in conservation, appreciation, and enjoyment of the Chesapeake region's native landscapes through education, recreation, art and community events. Adkins Arboretum seeks to provide a robust training and recruitment program to engage new volunteers to be part of the Arboretum's essential work in teaching environmental awareness, land stewardship and engaging volunteers

as part of the education team. Working with the Arboretum's full-time Visitor Services & Volunteer Coordinator, the Volunteer Maryland Coordinator (VMC) would be charged with enhancing the existing volunteer program. The VMC will provide additional volunteer support to improve the effectiveness of the existing volunteer program, enhance volunteer satisfaction and continuing education and increase the organizational capacity to manage the volunteer program.

Summary: MAERDAF funds provided for the match stipend for the Volunteer Maryland Coordinator.

LEAD Maryland Foundation
Amount Awarded - \$38,000

Program: The LEAD Maryland Foundation (LEAD) works to identify and develop leaders to serve rural Maryland, and provides a leadership development fellowship. Selected program applicants, called LEAD Fellows, complete a two-year educational program to increase their skills and knowledge for mobilizing people to address issues and community needs. Fellows learn to consider issues from local to global perspectives, giving them a greater understanding of public issues. Fellows create a network of resourceful, diverse leaders to call on to solve problems.

Summary: MAERDAF funds were used to build the long-term capacity of the organization and to help deliver the Fellowship Program. LEAD Fellows (Classes X and XI) will directly and immediately benefit from the funding. The LEAD Program is a "train the trainer" program where many others benefit—whole communities and industries benefit—after initially training each LEAD Fellow.

Maryland Agriculture Education Foundation
Amount Awarded - \$12,355

Program: The Maryland Agriculture Education Foundation, Inc. (MAEF), which strives to promote the understanding and appreciation of the importance of agriculture in our daily lives, would like to help teachers develop the skills and confidence necessary to teach agriculture to students in a factual and interactive way. Each year, MAEF offers a 5-day elementary teacher Ag in the Classroom workshop (fee \$250 per participant) open to teachers across the state of Maryland. The purpose of the workshop is to provide

background information and enable teachers to develop a comfort level with agriculture concepts in order for them to integrate concepts learned into the basic curriculum in language arts, science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Hands-on activities, farm field trips, lesson plan development, and three Maryland State Department of Education credits are woven into the workshop.

Summary: MAERDAF funds were used to provide for equipment, materials, teacher registrations, and book tote bags for the Ag in the Classroom program. MAERDAF funds provided for the costs to purchase equipment including a laptop and LCD projector; costs to purchase single copies of eleven different age appropriate agriculture books for each teacher and provide sets of ten (10) books for use with classroom reading groups for all teachers attending the workshop (total teacher enrollment approximately 55); and, up to twenty-five (25) registration reimbursements for teachers from rural, under-resourced counties across the state to attend the workshop.

Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Science
Amount Awarded - \$9,400

Program: The Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) fosters Maryland's environmental stewards, and young people who will understand, protect and care for the environment and natural resources where they live.

Summary: MAERDAF funds provided for consultation services to include for the creation and distribution of publications to include on-line volunteer policies, online website page for "Green Leaders", and website support, and provided for costs for rural-based students and teachers to attend the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) annual conference.

Maryland Association of Soil Conservation - Farmer Suicide Prevention Program
Amount Awarded - \$14,550

Program: The Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCSD) aims to educate technical service providers working with farmers in hopes of curbing the devastating

trend of farmer suicide and addiction in Maryland's rural communities.

Summary: MAERDAF funds will be used to host four regional trainings around the state to educate those who are out in the field working with the farmers about early detection signs and actions that can be taken to prevent these dire outcomes. MASCSD's goal is to educate 200 individuals that work with farmers by strengthening existing partnerships with the University of Maryland Extension, Maryland Farm Bureau, local soil conservation districts, and agricultural lenders and agribusinesses to identify participants for the trainings.

Maryland Association of Soil Conservation - Envirothon Program
Amount Awarded - \$4,808

Program: The Maryland Envirothon is a series of environmental competitions held throughout the State of Maryland, in which teams of students move beyond the classroom in order to solve real-life environmental problems in a natural setting. Envirothon team members interact with resource professionals and learn first-hand about the many ways all living things are connected and the complex environmental issues affecting the world today.

Summary: MAERDAF funding provided meals for approximately 160 students, teachers, and resource professionals who will attend the 2019 Maryland State Envirothon, scheduled to be held June 18-20, 2019 at St. Mary's College in Southern Maryland.

Maryland Dairy Industry Association
Amount Awarded - \$40,000

Program: The Maryland Dairy Association, in partnership with the Carroll County Agricultural Center, will use MAERDAF funds to develop a feasibility study of a dairy processing facility that would serve the dairy industry across the state. The facility would allow dairy farmers to transport milk to the Carroll County Agricultural Center for processing, followed by direct sale to customers at the producers' own farms, at farmers' markets and from other venues as Maryland-branded fluid milk or processed dairy products. Farmers would pay to have their product processed into pasteurized milk and other products, such as ice cream mix,

then bring the product back to sell at a retail price versus the wholesale price they are currently paid by large dairy cooperatives. Having a central facility available would eliminate the high cost to build individual on-farm processing plants, and with the state's dairy farmers already strapped for funds and borrowing at higher levels to keep their farm operations afloat, eliminate adding more costs to an individual farm operation is not feasible.

Summary: MAERDAF funds provided for consultant services costs to conduct a Maryland dairy processing plant feasibility study.

Maryland Forestry Foundation
Amount Awarded - \$30,000

Program: The Maryland Forestry Foundation will continue to build the momentum successfully created by the MAERDAF grants which funded a Mel Fellowship position to promote Natural Resources Careers. The Natural Resources Careers fellowship position will be made available to a Maryland college student currently enrolled in a natural resource career field.

Summary: MAERDAF funds covered the cost of a 10-month fellowship, and costs associated with directly supporting the matriculation of a well-qualified student in a field of Natural Resources; develop a more detailed articulation of a new relationship between the Maryland Green Schools Program, Natural Resources Careers Camp (NRCC) and the fellowship; continue focused recruitment efforts for NRCC, working with corporate and environmental partners, schools, county Forestry Boards and DNR; enable the Fellow to share with selected high school students, in a variety of forms, the enthusiasm and story of why he/she chose this career path, what high school students can expect from their college experience and how NRCC provides them the unique opportunity to explore career options that exist in the field of natural resources; and, create enhanced NRCC promotional tools at the school and local Forestry Board level.

St. Martin's Ministries
Amount Awarded - \$10,007

Program: Saint Martin's Ministries (SMM) has provided a compassionate safety net to families living in poverty on Maryland's Eastern Shore for the past 34 years. SMM works

with families in four Mid-Shore agricultural counties - Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot.

Summary: MAERDAF funds were used to purchase a new eight-passenger vehicle to allow SMM to transport residents of the shelter program (families with young children) to the towns of Denton and Easton for doctor, and other providers, appointments, and to handle their regular shopping and errand needs.

Allegany College
Amount Awarded - \$40,000

Program: Allegany College of Maryland is dedicated to excellence and is responsive to meeting the present and future needs of its students, the community, and local business and industry. The "Supporting and Strengthening Business Development through Advanced Manufacturing Training in Rural Western Maryland" project is a workforce development training program using state-of-the-art technological tools that will assist with recruiting, training, retaining, and developing more skilled employees, while also addressing certification requirements of employees in area businesses and industries.

Summary: MAERDAF funding provided for the purchase of equipment to include: Two (2) Lathes 8027J, Clousing/Colchester 13" X 40" Geared Head Lathe, and 3-Phase-8027J; Two (2) Knee Mills 3VS08 and VS Mill, 10" x 54" Variable Speed Mill; One (1) Handwheel Grinder Manual CSG618H; One (1) Cylindrical Grinder GM8-20; One (1) Universal Workhead (GUM-8-20); One (1) CMM 4.5.4 Shop Floor CMM w/PC-DMIS (New); and, miscellaneous supplies and materials.

Bishop Walsh School
Amount Awarded - \$34,000

Program: The Bishop Walsh School computer/STEM curriculum offers a hands-on learning experience where students can exhibit their mastery of new skills. Students are able to experiment with STEM/computer concepts via analysis in a classroom conducive to learning. The upgrade of the STEM/computer lab will allow opportunities for students in Allegany and Garrett Counties, who would like to pursue higher education and career paths associated with these fields, to learn in an environment with technology that is

conducive to advancing their STEM skills. The program will serve over 320 students of all ages, from Allegany and Garret Counties, and enable access to curriculum created to help them to succeed in the 21st century job market.

Summary: MAERDAF funding provided for the purchase of equipment to include: One (1) Laser Cutter, Fifteen (15) Raspberry Pi, One (1) Wood Lathe, and One (1) Greenhouse, and provided for the costs for the upgrade and installation of the current wi-fi equipment and service contracted by Advanced Computers in Cumberland, Maryland.

Cambridge Main Street
Amount Awarded - \$26,500

Program: Cambridge Main Street is leading a collaborative initiative program by the Tourism Arts and Downtown Development (TADD) group, which launched in the early 2000s as a way to help collaboratively promote and market the collective Eastern Shore communities, including arts and downtown destinations. Eastern Shore Communities that will benefit from a regional marketing campaign to promote the "Eat Drink Buy Art" campaign include Elkton, Chestertown, Centreville, Stevensville, Easton, Denton, Cambridge, Salisbury, Princess Anne, Crisfield, Berlin, Snow Hill, and Ocean City. The regional marketing campaign will help solidify the partnership across each of these communities, and potentially develop increased tourism and economic development.

Summary: MAERDAF funds provided for printing costs for rack cards; communications consultant services to: implement campaign and creative marketing development strategy, and hold at least one (1) facilitated collaborative co-op strategy discussion and development meeting; paid advertising and placement, including professional graphic design and updated campaign materials; and costs for graphic design associated with digital marketing and printed material design, and re-work of the "Eat Drink Buy Art" landmark.

Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center
Amount Awarded - \$10,000

Program: As the immigrant population on the Eastern Shore of Maryland continues, it is essential for service providers,

businesses, and community groups to have access to language services and opportunities for professional development in cultural competency. Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center will expand and implement the same program model as the Talbot County Language and Cultural Competency project to serve Caroline and Queen Anne's Counties.

Summary: MAERDAF funding created Language and Cultural Competency steering committees for Caroline and Queen Anne's counties, host quarterly meetings with each steering committee, provided cultural competency training to 300 individuals in Caroline and Queen Anne's counties associated with at least 15 agencies or businesses, and to create a pool of at least 40 trained interpreters for the Mid-shore region. Additional goals include creating a sustainable interpreter training program in collaboration with Chesapeake College and Cross-Cultural Communications, and create a sustainable business model for local interpreters and translators.

Community Foundation of Southern Maryland
Amount Awarded - \$19,000

Program: The Community Foundation of Southern Maryland's vision is to make Southern Maryland the best place to live and give. The Foundation provides a vehicle to capture and return local investments for local purposes with the goal of increasing the quality of life in the region for all.

Summary: MAERDAF funds were used to increase the operational capacity of the Community Foundation to respond to needs and align philanthropic efforts for a positive change in the community to expand awareness and increase investments to the foundation through partnerships with estate planners, investors, asset lawyers, tax attorneys and CPA's; and creation of a marketing video that will educate the citizens and organizations on the benefits of the Community Foundation.

Compass Regional Hospice
Amount Awarded - \$20,000

Program: Compass Regional Hospice is the sole provider of in-home (including service at nursing homes and assisted living facilities), residential and in-patient hospice care for more than 100,000 residents living in Queen Anne's, Kent, and Caroline Counties. Compass Regional Hospice will add

four additional residential hospice patient suites and create a state-of-the-art grief center at the Comet Drive location. The Hope and Healing Center will include: private counseling rooms, conference rooms for group programs, expanded practitioner spaces to provide therapies such as Yoga, Reiki, and Acupuncture, a children's play therapy space, and a family counseling and interaction suite.

Summary: MAERDAF funds provided for Phase 1 of the project to include overall project oversight by Hammond-Wilson architectural firm, engineering by Gipe Associates, and interior work on the Hope and Healing wing by Harper & Sons from Easton, MD.

Dove Pointe
Amount Awarded - \$2,900

Program: Dove Pointe and Worcester County Developmental Center are the two largest providers of day services to individuals with Developmental Disabilities in Wicomico and Worcester Counties, Maryland. Both agencies are licensed and regulated through the Maryland Department of Health to support adults with disabilities in a variety of settings including community involvement and competitive, integrated employment.

Summary: Dove Pointe and Worcester County Developmental Center assigned staff to two training sessions to increase collaboration between local agencies and increase the quality of community supports to all individuals with disabilities throughout the Lower Eastern Shore region. The trainings were provided by Dove Pointe in Salisbury, MD to local Direct Support Professional (DSP) staff.

Fair Hill Foundation
Amount Awarded - \$29,600

Program: Fair Hill Foundation is supporting the master planning and preliminary engineering phase of the Fair Hill Equestrian Center.

Summary: MAERDAF funds provided critical programmatic needs for the second phase of project development including creating a high-quality website, instituting marketing programs to spread awareness of equestrian events occurring at Fair Hill, producing and implementing media engagement strategy, as well as community and government

relations engagement strategies, and building capacity for member organizations and Fair Hill Foundation for improved performance. Individuals and businesses located in Cecil and Harford counties will benefit from new and enhanced equestrian events at Fair Hill through tourism and by attracting equestrian based businesses to Maryland.

Fort Ritchie Community Center
Amount Awarded - \$30,000

Program: The Fort Ritchie Community Center will pilot a new job skills training program for teens living in Frederick and Washington Counties. The Community Center will provide instruction on how to complete applications, prepare for interviews, and be professional in the workplace.

Summary: MAERDAF funding supported a Junior Staff training program targeting 13 to 16-year old's primarily from areas near Emmitsburg, Thurmont, Sabillasville, Cascade, and Smithsburg. A program director position was created to lead the program and serve as an ambassador to link local schools, businesses, and other organizations together to support community-wide initiatives to teach job training skills to teens. The program had three main components: Education, Practice, and Evaluation.

Friends of the Grape
Amount Awarded - \$30,000

Program: The Chesapeake Culinary Center has partnered with the Mid-Shore Regional Council to promote the Shore Gourmet Project. The objective of the program is to assist farmers in producing value-added products in addition to what they are growing, and to also assist food-based entrepreneurs to either begin a business or grow an existing business.

Summary: MAERDAF funds were used for a full-time professional staff person to act as the project coordinator for Shore Gourmet, and to provide for the expenses necessary to develop niche and new products from regional producers. The Project Coordinator reached out to entrepreneurs and local farmers to assist in creating value added products that can be developed in the health approved kitchen at the Culinary Arts Center. Other rural development includes help diversifying products through researching and developing niche crops from germination to distribution, and being a

conduit for economic development by assisting in products getting to entrepreneurs, consumers and institutions in the Mid-Shore region.

Garrett College - Mountain Top Driving Institute
Amount Awarded - \$36,300

Program: Garrett College operates the Mountaintop Truck Driving Institute (MTDI), a division of Continuing Education and Workforce Development, which provides students with preparatory training to pursue a Class A or Class B Commercial Driver's License (CDL). MTDI is housed at the College's Northern Outreach Center, which is conveniently located at the intersection of two major highways: US Route 219 and Interstate 68. This prime location serves as an excellent marketing opportunity to potential students and to employers in Garrett and Allegany Counties who are in need of new drivers.

Summary: MAERDAF funds allowed Garrett College to purchase a new dump truck for the Class B program. The college anticipates increasing the number of students participating in Class B training to up to 40 students annually, over a three-year period.

Garrett College - Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) Program
Amount Awarded - \$16,440

Program: The Stand Up Paddleboarding (SUP) training program, associated with the Garrett College's existing 2-year Adventure Sports Management Associate's Degree and 1-year Certificate programs, will allow students to pursue an advancement of skills that strengthen technical proficiency and improve employability.

Summary: MAERDAF funds aided both Garrett College's 2-year Associates in Applied Science Degree in Adventure Sports Management and Frostburg State University's Bachelor's Degree in Adventure Sports Management. Students enrolled in either of these degree programs had the opportunity to advance their practical field skills by becoming an American Canoe Association (ACA) certified SUP instructor. Local Maryland business whom benefited included High Mountain Sports in Garrett County, where patrons can rent and purchase SUPs, and Wisp Resort, and Allegany County, Rocky Gap Resort, where patrons can rent SUPs.

Habitat for Humanity Choptank - AmeriCorps Volunteer
Amount Awarded - \$23,760

Program: Habitat for Humanity Choptank works in Dorchester and Talbot Counties to create new homeownership opportunities in partnership with qualifying low-income individuals and families who cannot secure conventional financing.

Summary: MAERDAF funds provided operational support for the expansion of Habitat's Neighborhood Revitalization (NR) program which serves Low to Moderate Income (LMI) homeowners by responding to community aspirations with an expanded array of products, services and partnerships including whole house weatherization and critical home repairs. The NR Program assists qualifying Dorchester and Talbot home owners to safely and affordably stay in their homes. MAERDAF funds provided two AmeriCorps members to leverage the expertise of a contract administrator to establish policies and procedures that will become part of staff operations in the Neighborhood Revitalization program, and to increase the capacity of the program.

Habitat for Humanity Choptank - Direct Repair Costs
Amount Awarded - \$40,000

Program: Habitat for Humanity Choptank works in Dorchester and Talbot Counties to create new homeownership opportunities in partnership with qualifying low-income individuals and families who cannot secure conventional financing.

Summary: MAERDAF funds were used to fill the gaps between available resources, leverage existing programs to provide a repair solution that will reduce asthma triggers, eliminate lead and asbestos hazards, and protect the home from the damage and mold caused by water leaks. The holistic approach to repair services reduced overall costs to abate safety issues by coordinating work, reduce duplication of efforts, and improve the efficiency of construction. MAERDAF funds directly served 18 low to moderate income families in 4 communities across Talbot and Dorchester Counties.

Habitat for Humanity Tuckahoe
Amount Awarded - \$14,780

Program: Habitat For Humanity Tuckahoe's mission is to develop housing solutions for deserving low-income families in Caroline and Queen Anne's Counties.

Summary: MAERDAF funds supported the Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative in the Town of Denton by expanding the capacity of the program with a Volunteer Maryland Coordinator, and purchase of scaffolding equipment to mitigate injury risks for construction volunteers. Habitat for Humanity Tuckahoe's goal is to engage 300 volunteers, serve 18 families with affordable housing, and increase the quality of life for 4,500 residents in the Town of Denton.

Hagerstown Community College
Amount Awarded - \$38,072

Program: Hagerstown Community College's (HCC) mission of fostering regional development prompted the adoption of two new programs in substance abuse counseling to begin in 2018-2019. Following requirements established by the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors, an Associate of Applied Science degree will prepare students for a Maryland license as a Certified Supervised Counselor - Alcohol and Drug (CSC-AD). A second, certificate-level program will assist students in becoming alcohol and drug trainees.

Summary: MAERDAF funds provided significant assistance to HCC's new substance abuse counseling programs by providing a part-time Outreach/Academic Assistant with experience in the substance abuse field, as well as outreach materials, curriculum resources, and guest speakers.

Health Partners
Amount Awarded - \$40,000

Program: The mission of Health Partners is dedicated to delivering quality healthcare in a respectful and compassionate environment to the citizens of Charles County and the surrounding area who are economically disadvantaged by utilizing the skills and resources of the community.

Summary: MAERDAF funds provided need for access to dental care for the underserved populations in the three

Southern Maryland Counties including Charles, Calvert, and St Mary's. MAERDAF funds increased Dentist coverage at both the Waldorf and Nanjemoy Dental Clinics. The increase in dental coverage resulted in a 30% increase in clients served within a year, or a total of 1,475 patient visits per year.

Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area
Amount Awarded - \$40,000

Program: The Heart of the Civil War Visitor Center at the historic Newcomer House, near Keedysville, provided an exhibit update to best serve the heritage tourism economy in Carroll, Frederick and Washington counties, and to respond at the highest level to a visitor service gap at the Battlefield that will exist starting in late 2019 or early 2020 when the main Antietam National Battlefield Visitor center will be closed for a major renovation. Along with the exhibit update, volunteer staff were trained to use new exhibit content in their visitor interactions, and programs will be expanded and enhanced to animate themes and visitor experiences illustrated in the displays.

Summary: MAERDAF funding supported the creation of a Visitor Experience Plan for the Newcomer House and Phase I exhibit development/research, planning/writing, design, fabrication and installation.

Jessie Klump Memorial Fund
Amount Awarded - \$19,000

Program: The Jesse Klump Memorial Fund, through the Jesse Klump Suicide Awareness and Prevention Program, led an education campaign to reach farmers and farm families with the goal of preventing farm suicides on the lower Eastern Shore.

Summary: MAERDAF funds enabled the Jesse Klump Memorial Fund (JKMF), in concert with many partners, to reach the agricultural community to teach those working with farmers to recognize the risk factors and warning signs that might lead to suicide, conduct a media campaign designed to reach farmers and farm families directly, break down the stigma that prevents those in rural communities from facing suicidality and seeking help, provide access to assistance resources, and teach the next generation of farmers ways to recognize suicidality in themselves and

others, how to intercede in a suicidal situation, and how to safely advance the farming vital occupation.

Maces Lane Community Center
Amount Awarded - \$40,000

Program: The Maces Lane Community Center will provide vital resources and activities for youth and adults, in Dorchester County and the Mid-Shore region, while preserving a cultural landmark. The Center will provide space for a museum, public and private events, liberal arts programs, after school programs, educational activities and experiences for adults, senior programs and space for startup enterprises and non-profit offices. The Center will include opportunities for visitors participating in organized tours at Stanley Institute and The Harriett Tubman Museum, both historical sites in the county. Maces Lane Community Center will also be added as an additional stop on the Tubman Trail, giving a mid-twentieth Century perspective on the struggle for civil rights on Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore.

Summary: MAERDAF funds were used to assist in securing consultant services, materials, display cabinets, signs, frames, social media, website, brochures, and itemized items to distribute. Equipment and supplies were purchased to organize and preserve items collected for display in the historical areas and the museum in the center.

Maryland Small Business Development Center - Northern Region
Amount Awarded - \$22,574

Program: Maryland's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Harford Community College is a state- and nationwide leader in promoting economic prosperity and entrepreneurship. Services provided by Maryland's SBDC include one-on-one counseling, business planning, market research, management consulting, finance packaging, and more, typically at no- or low-cost to the recipient.

Summary: MAERDAF funding will assist Maryland's SBDC at Harford Community College to develop and implement the Rural Innovation Incubator & Entrepreneurship Roadshow, a two-part regional initiative that will create opportunities for networking, mentorship, and collaboration between

entrepreneurs of all ages, with a particular emphasis on industries related to agriculture and individuals in rural communities. The counties served by this project include Carroll, Northern Baltimore, Harford and Cecil Counties.

Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
Amount Awarded - \$19,400

Program: The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) mission is to provide comprehensive library services to the eligible blind and physically handicapped residents of the State of Maryland. Children and families in rural Maryland increasingly look to libraries as a resource for quality STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) learning, but rural library branches often have limited access to the same quality technologies, staff specialists, visiting experts and enrichment programs as libraries in suburban areas. Library staff provide STEAM resources, programs and activities for all youth patrons and their families, but may not have the understanding of how to make those resources, programs and activities accessible to those with blindness, low vision and physical impairments. FutureMakers, a LBPH service partner, is a team of visiting experts that facilitate design thinking and STEAM learning with creative technologies in libraries and schools.

Summary: With support from MAERDAF, LBPH collaborated with FutureMakers to plan, develop and present a series of five (5) innovative accessible public STEAM workshops, create accompanying curricula and offer accessible STEAM trainings for library staff in five rural regional library consortia - Frederick County libraries, Western Maryland Library (Allegany, Garrett, Washington), Southern Maryland Libraries (Calvert, Charles & St. Mary's County), and the Eastern Shore Library (Kent, Queen Anne's, Caroline, Talbot, Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset, Worcester).

Maryland Telehealth Alliance
Amount Awarded - \$20,000

Program: The Maryland Telehealth Alliance's (MTel) fundamental purpose and goal is to increase understanding of what telehealth is, its proven usages, innovations in usage

and how it benefits patients, providers and payers alike. There is a critical need for education and technical support about telehealth that is easy to find and to understand. MTel was created to leverage the breadth of telehealth knowledge and expertise existing within Maryland into a collective resource.

Summary: MAERDAF funds were used to hire the services of a professional web developer with the goal of having a fully functioning Maryland Telehealth Alliance website.

MidShore Pro Bono
Amount Awarded - \$40,000

Program: Mid-Shore Pro Bono (MSPB) became the first regional pro bono referral agency in the state of Maryland and remains the Eastern Shore's only such agency.

Summary: MAERDAF funds supported the development of MidShore Pro Bono's new Salisbury office to provide Restorative Justice services to Lower Eastern Shore youth. These include methods to divert youth from the juvenile justice system and resolve crime and conflict for at-risk youth. The two main components of the program include Community Conferencing and Restorative Dialogue Circles. Community Conferencing is a holistic, powerful social justice approach that has been found to be especially successful in preventing youth from further engaging in illegal activities. Restorative Dialogue Circles are proven effective when executed by trained professionals. They can be a lifeline for youth living in rural areas, who are vulnerable to the effects of crime, poverty, abuse and trauma. Through open dialogue circles, cooperative games and introspective art projects, youth build self-esteem, identify issues of concern and learn how to communicate with peers and adults.

People for Change Coalition
Amount Awarded - \$22,500

Program: People for Change (PFC) Coalition will partner with the Southern Maryland Chapter, Top Ladies of Distinction, whose mission is to enhance and enrich the lives of youth and adults through national and community based programs and projects.

Summary: MAERDAF funds will be used to implement a "Successful Teens and Nonprofit Database Design" (STANDD)

program that teaches teens skills in database design, programming, and reporting using Microsoft Access in Southern Maryland communities. The program will address a need in Charles, Calvert and Prince George's Counties for nonprofit organizations with budgets under \$250,000 who are not able to afford a database.

Preservation Maryland
Amount Awarded - \$40,000

Program: Preservation Maryland is dedicated to preserving Maryland's historic buildings, neighborhoods, landscapes, and archeological sites which are irreplaceable resources that instill pride of place, attract new investment, stimulate employment and economic activity as well as create livable towns and communities.

Summary: MAERDAF funding continued the historic preservation tax credit education and outreach program to rural communities; conducted workshops and presentations using the MAERDAF funded resource guide created in 2017; work with rural downtown organizations; work with local coalitions to stimulate investment; provide technical assistance on preservation issues; expand Preservation Maryland's reach with conference calls and webinars; use podcasts to reach new audiences; hold pop-up offices in rural communities to provide in-person assistance; create professional development sessions that address rural issues at the Old Line State Summit; and, give rural Marylanders member-discount pricing for registration at the Old Line State Summit.

SHORE UP!
Amount Awarded - \$40,000

Program: SHORE -UP Inc. (SUI) will develop a two generation, whole family (children, parents, and families) approach to assist families in combating intergenerational poverty by promoting and supporting two-generation approaches to help families charter a path to economic security and mobility. SUI will operate a Family Engagement and Workforce Development Program for twenty (20) young adults, ages 16-29, who reside in the rural counties of Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester.

Summary: MAERDAF funding was used to assist in implementing occupational skills training in one of several

high demand employment areas, including Certified Nursing Assistants/Geriatric Nursing Assistants (CNA/GNA) training, Introduction to Air Conditioning and Refrigeration, Commercial Bus Drivers License (CDL), class B, including commercial Bus Driver (School and Passenger Bus Endorsement); weekly stipends during the occupational skills training phase of the program; funds for supportive services to include transportation, uniforms, on-the-job training, books, medical examinations and fee associated with occupational skill certification.

Telamon Corporation

Amount Awarded - \$10,800

Program: Telamon Corporation's mission is to provide educational services that lead to better jobs, better lives, and better communities. The Food and Service Training (FAST) program provides focused on-the-job training, job and life skills, financial coaching and computer literacy that empowers people to obtain stable employment, become effective advocates for themselves and their families, and ultimately achieve financial stability.

Summary: MAERDAF funds provided eight (8) additional training slots to the FAST program, housed within the One Stop Café, to participants from the Lower Eastern Shore. Rural participants received a full "training slot" for program fees, and wraparound services including transportation assistance. Participants received customized and individually tailored educational support: tutoring, GED prep, and English as a Second Language; work readiness training: resume prep, interviewing skills, and soft skills; computer literacy skills: using email, online job applications, and online job search; and, financial education, budgeting and financial coaching. MAERDAF funds also provided a full-time, 16-week job training program with educational and supportive services to a new cohort of 8 individuals from the rural Lower Eastern Shore.

Tri-County Council Foundation

Amount Awarded - \$15,284

Program: To serve individuals seeking employment in the lower eastern shore, Tri-County Foundation supports the Lower Shore Workforce Alliance which uses the American Job Center/One Stop Job Market mobile unit to provide the same economic development services found at the American

Job Center / One Stop Job Market facility located in Salisbury, Maryland. The American Job Center/One Stop Job Market mobile unit targets those rural job seekers who lack the necessary transportation and time to travel to Salisbury.

Summary: MAERDAF funding purchased a replacement electrical generator to supply off-grid power to the mobile unit, and to upgrade the outdated computer hardware and software used to deliver employment services to job seekers. The American Job Center/One Stop Job Market mobile unit is expected to serve 1,200 clients a year.

Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art

Amount Awarded - \$29,500

Program: The Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art is a crucial interdisciplinary learning resource for the Delmarva Peninsula, one of the last remaining rural and maritime strongholds in the Mid-Atlantic megalopolis and a laboratory to study the overlap of environment, culture, and art as concepts lived and experienced in a unique setting.

Summary: MAERDAF funding provided for a new technological need for a robust learning environment, including purchase of mobile documentation and recording devices. This technology and equipment will support a wide range of services at the museum.

Western Maryland Resource Conservation and Development

Amount Awarded - \$36,300

Program: The Western Maryland Food Council (WMFC) was created to help make connections with new regional partners to help expand the local food system in a sustainable and profitable way.

Summary: MAERDAF funds were used to hire a part time coordinator who will work with the council on developing a specific plan for providing financial stability for the WMFC; establish a "Food Systems Conference", a one-to two-day event rotated annually between the three Western Maryland counties with the idea of bringing together all the players in the food system for education and collaboration; and, provide seed funding for WMFC County Workgroup Project Work. This project will increase the WMFC's capacity to support all aspects of the regional food system in Garrett, Allegany and Washington Counties.

WISP Ski Patrol

Amount Awarded - \$40,000

Program: Wisp Ski Patrol's (WSP) mission is to provide the highest level of emergency medical care to the outdoor recreation and surrounding community and transport patients to the next level of emergency medical care, either through the local Ambulance service or Helicopter transport. WSP is a critical component of the Garrett County Emergency Management System.

Summary: MAERDAF funding achieved the following goals: purchase much needed first aid equipment, supplies and supplement uniforms not otherwise provided by the Wisp Resort; expand community-based programs to include CPR, AED and basic first aid training; expand continuing education programs for WSP members and incentives for instructors; and, recruit and retain ten (10) new members to sustain membership to replace members due to natural attrition loss.

YMCA of the Chesapeake

Amount Awarded - \$40,000

Program: The YMCA of the Chesapeake works side-by-side with our neighbors to address critical community needs that help kids develop into smart, resilient adults; for people to improve their health and build a sense of community; and for our most vulnerable young people to get the care and support they need. The YMC of the Chesapeake serves all nine counties of the Eastern Shore.

Summary: MAERDAF funding supported the construction costs to repair the Lower Shore Family YMCA's indoor pool including repairs to the surrounding building structure (i.e. new drywall, roof, etc.) so the pool can be operational. Once repaired, the Lower Shore Family YMCA will ramp up its aquatics programming to teach approximately 400 swim lessons over the course of the next year.

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund

The Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund supports the Rural Maryland Council's activities and the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF), which provides capacity-building funds to rural nonprofit service providers. It also supports the states' five regional councils, regional infrastructure projects, rural entrepreneurship development, rural community development, and rural health care organizations.

In Fiscal Year 2019:

Total Requested: 163 grants requesting \$10,520,515

Total Awarded: 79 grants awarding \$5,980,343

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund Entrepreneurship

Allegany County and Town of Hancock

Amount Awarded - \$250,000.00

Program: Western Maryland Works will encourage regional innovation, workforce development, and economic growth by providing basic infrastructure needs, connection and training opportunities, and acceleration programming to launch successful businesses in Western Maryland communities. Western Maryland Works will serve the population of Washington County, Allegany County, and Garrett County.

Summary: RMPPIF funds will provide support for Phase One of the development project to include assistance with direct costs to repurpose existing government-provided facilities, and provide start-up funds to plan and execute a robust training and mentorship program to assist regional programming. Allegany County and the Town of Hancock will leverage RMPPIF funds through available partners.

Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center

Amount Awarded - \$111,805.00

Program: The mission of the Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center is to stimulate and support entrepreneurship in Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties, and to collaborate with other service providers or organizations in support of

regional entrepreneurship within adjacent state and county jurisdictions of the Delmarva Peninsula.

Summary: RMPPIF funding expanded upon the FY2018 RMPPIF funding awarded to Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC) for the F3 Tech Accelerator program. ESEC has engaged two rural Maryland historically black universities (HBUs): University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) and Bowie State University. UMES and Bowie State both have chapters of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS), a national society that promotes academic and professional advancement by empowering ethnic minorities in agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences. ESEC engaged minority students and faculty involved in MANRRS into F3 Tech programs and activities. It is through a targeted and deliberate outreach effort that ESEC seeks to concentrate extra resources and efforts aimed at helping more minorities develop new ideas, create new startups, and commercialize the innovations and technologies they establish.

Frederick Innovative Technology Center, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$250,000

Program: Frederick Innovative Technology Center's (FITCI) mission is to encourage technological innovation and accelerate the development of commercially viable technology based businesses by providing the necessary resources needed to build successful high growth businesses.

Summary: RMPPIF funds were utilized for the construction and operation of a new shared tech makerspace in the FITCI Frederick facility. FITCI launched a premier Tech Shop, a technology makerspace to further support the development of the Frederick community. The makerspace will be a unique location for creative, hands-on design, experiments and inventions, engaging science, thinking and engineering, all conveniently available to FITCI clients and visitors. The mission of the Tech Shop is to create a collaborative environment for the Internet of Things innovation and cultivate a "maker-mindset" that enables members to make, learn, explore and share. The Internet of Things (IOT) is a network of devices that are embedded with sensor technology that allow for connectivity among devices to share data. The goal is for up to fifty (50) individuals and local leaders to partner with FITCI within the first year of the development and implementation of the FITCI Tech Shop.

Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Amount Awarded - \$30,000.00

Program: The mission of the Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is to promote the establishment, growth, prosperity and retention of Hispanic businesses, and those entities, and persons that support them in the State of Maryland. The Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce proposed to develop a census of Hispanic companies throughout Maryland.

Summary: RMPiF funding was utilized for connecting businesses in rural counties (Allegany, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, St. Mary's, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico and Worcester Counties) with the goal of serving these business owners and providing a link to community resources. This information is needed to expand outreach efforts and invitations for Hispanic businesses to participate in existing business programs and events sponsored by the Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and related partners and entities, that are important to minority and disadvantaged businesses and tailored to Hispanic entrepreneurs. The Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce sought to identify at least 5,000 Hispanic businesses while routinely updating this database.

Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Board, Inc.
Amount Awarded - \$40,000.00

Program: The Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Board will relocate and expand the North St. Mary's County Farmers' Market to meet the growing demand for access, parking and restroom facilities for users of the Three Notch Trail. The market relocation is an important component of the overall strategy to support agriculture and value-added cottage industry in the five southern Maryland counties.

Summary: RMPiF funds were used specifically to help support renovation and construction of the value added farmers' market building that is proposed as part of Phase I and off-set a small portion of Resource and Conservation Development Board's time for payroll to process the grant funds and prepare the required reporting. There are two (2)

buildings planned for Phase I of the project. The two buildings will consist of one (1) 4,800 SF enclosed structure complete with kitchen, bathrooms, walk-in freezers, a pantry, storage areas, porches, and common areas for market vendors & customers; and one (1) 3,520 SF enclosed structure with 26 stalls for vendors and bathrooms.

University of Maryland Eastern Shore MANRRS
Amount Awarded - \$76,300.00

Program: The University of Maryland Eastern Shore - MANRRS (Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences) is a chapter of a national society that welcomes membership of people of all racial and ethnic group participation in agricultural and related science careers. The University of Maryland Eastern Shore - MANRRS Chapter is uniquely positioned to address major issues through the Junior MANRRS Leadership Institute and a new "Agriculture, Technology, Innovation" (ATI) Initiative. This initiative has four major goals: enhancement and expansion of the Junior MANRRS Leadership Institute; create a cohort of young entrepreneurs with interest in supporting Rural Maryland; increase the awareness, understanding and interest level in food and agricultural careers to underserved or low-income students in Maryland; and, generate increased financial commitment levels from MANRRS national agribusiness and federal partners to invest in supporting future Junior MANRRS programming that will benefit rural Maryland youth.

Summary: RMPiF funding was used for three major tasks: fortify and expand the Junior MANRRS Leadership Institute; launch Agriculture, Technology and Innovation (ATI) Scholars Pilot; and, establish a new partnership with F3 (Farm-Fish-Food) Tech. An estimated 500 students will be impacted from this program ranging from the high school to collegiate level. Twelve Maryland county school districts have been identified as high priority areas including but not limited to: Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester, Dorchester, Talbot, Charles, Frederick, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Caroline, Kent, Montgomery and Prince George.

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund Infrastructure

City of Crisfield

Amount Awarded - \$250,000.00

Program: The City of Crisfield is experiencing major failing infrastructure issues, including an aging wastewater collection system. RMPIF funds assisted with Closed Circuit Television (CCTV), lining, and repair of the sewer lines served by the Cove Street pumping station. This funding was matched by Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and Maryland Water Quality Financing Administration (MWQFA) funds for the replacement of the Cove Street pumping station.

Summary: RMPIF funds provided for consultation services and subcontracts for the Cove Street wastewater pumping station replacement.

Kent County Economic Development

Amount Awarded - \$200,000.00

Program: Kent County Economic Development is continuing to explore opportunities to assist with the infrastructure of the Chestertown Business Campus project. The Chestertown Business Campus project is an \$80 million, 80 acre development that will potentially generate \$46 million in economic development. It is critical for growth, especially in rural areas to have property that has existing infrastructure in place.

Summary: RMPIF Funds provided for the Phase Two construction of roads for the Chestertown Business Campus.

Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Board, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$40,000.00

Program: The Three Notch Trail located in southern Maryland, is becoming a significant recreation, tourism and transportation facility in the region, and the existing colocation of the Charlotte Hall Farmer's Market and trail access have enhanced the popularity of each. The market relocation and expansion of the trail are important

components of the overall strategy to support recreational enjoyment, tourism, education, and agriculture in the five southern Maryland counties.

Summary: RMPIF funds were used to purchase and construct the trail, wooden bridges over wetlands, the educational platforms, signs along the trail, and site amenities, and to provide for costs associated with site preparation, installation, and 2' mulch / grass edges.

Springdale Preparatory School

Amount Awarded - \$52,506.00

Program: The mission of Springdale Preparatory School is to guide young people to create, think critically, cultivate global literacy, and shape purpose-filled lives. Springdale Preparatory School will establish a greenhouse operation on its New Windsor campus for use as a hands-on teaching tool for environmental science courses, specifically the "Environmental Stewardship" and "Blue Ridge to Bay" courses. With a growing operation on campus, students will have the opportunity to apply classroom learning to an ongoing project and reinforce the content they learn and skills they gain through their science courses.

Summary: RMPIF funding will provide for the materials and supplies for freight and installation of a 26'W x 11'H x 41'L greenhouse, and for the construction of a foundation of the greenhouse. The greenhouse will also culminate in the creation of the New Windsor Farmers Market, providing fresh local produce and crafts from the community. The Frederick County municipalities of New Market and Woodsboro will provide support for marketing of the New Windsor Farmers Market.

Talbot County Council

Amount Awarded - \$250,000.00

Program: Talbot County and the Town of Easton are working together to develop a much-needed industrial park at an 83-acre, Town-owned property called Mistletoe Hall Farm. To support the increased heavy-duty truck traffic this industrial park will generate, the County road system that provides access to the property must be improved.

Summary: RMPIF funds were used to complete Phase IA, which includes the frontage improvements involving the

widening of Goldsborough Neck Road to 36 feet of pavement width. The plan also calls for adding acceleration and deceleration lanes on each side of the entrance to the proposed industrial park on the Town property.

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund Health Care

Bay Area Center for Independent Living, Inc.
Amount Awarded - \$60,000.00

Program: Bay Area Center for Independent Living, Inc. (Bay Area CIL) promotes access to community resources and support for children and adults with disabilities and their families through programs which offer choices, preserve dignity and increase independence for an improved quality of life in all nine counties of the Eastern Shore.

Summary: Bay Area CIL opened a Community Transition and Recreational Center for those with disabilities and their families. The recreational center has an indoor Olympic-sized therapeutic pool, basketball court and a performance stage. At least 100 families will benefit from the recreational and therapeutic activities offered in a 95-degree indoor therapeutic pool. RMPHF funds provided for the costs for the pool utilities to keep the pool at a constant 95 degrees fahrenheit, and a pool operator responsible for the lifeguard services and maintenance of the pool chemicals.

CalvertHealth Foundation
Amount Awarded - \$60,000.00

Program: The mission of CalvertHealth Foundation is a catalyst that brings together the needs of the CalvertHealth Medical Center with a generous community of supporters dedicated to the fulfillment of the mission to make a difference in every life touched.

Summary: The CalvertHealth Oncology Navigator Program funded four navigator positions in the CalvertHealth oncology services department – a Breast Nurse Navigator, a Financial Navigator, a Urologic Nurse Navigator and a Thoracic Nurse Navigator – who will serve a minimum of three hundred (300) oncology patients and engage a minimum of twenty-five (25) partnering organizations from across southern Maryland. These four professionals will

assist with the region’s most urgent oncology needs while providing enhanced levels of patient-centered care. The Navigators will also provide education to a minimum of thirty-five (35) southern Maryland providers on the available navigation services and establish a clear referral pathway for patients to quickly and easily access these services.

Caroline County Health Department
\$40,000.00

Program: The Caroline County Health Department, a State & County Government Health Department Agency office of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is dedicated to communicable disease prevention, wellness promotion, and environmental protection for all residents and the county in which they live.

Summary: RMPHF funds were utilized to continue education for prescribers and pharmacists on how to prevent, identify, and access tools available to treat opioid addiction; create a guidance that will help rural communities on the Eastern Shore on how to undertake comprehensive approaches that address the supply of, and demand for prescription opioids in their locales; and, continue the program started with fiscal year 2018 funding without interruption to assure residents that current and future public education campaigns about prescription opioids are going to continue and provide a clear and consistent guidance on Opioid Overdose Prevention.

Channel Marker, Inc. - Regional Wellness Center
Amount Awarded - \$8,000.00

Program: Channel Marker is a mental health support services organization that provides support services to mentally ill persons in Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot Counties. The priority populations of those served by Channel Marker, Inc. are those individuals with severe and persistent mental illness characterized by impaired role functioning on a continuous basis.

Summary: Channel Marker, Inc. has established a Regional Wellness Center in Easton for its clients. Caroline and Dorchester County clients will have access to a wider array of valuable resources in the Regional Wellness Center facility.

RMPIF funds furnished the new Fitness/Exercise Room in the Regional Wellness Center with low impact exercise equipment, benches and floor mats. The Fitness/Exercise Room in combination with Channel Marker's Health Home Program will promote healthy life styles.

Chesapeake Charities
Amount Awarded - \$15,000.00

Program: Chesapeake Charities' mission is to provide innovative leadership and quality services that encourage charitable giving, build community resources, and enable donors to achieve their charitable purposes, making lasting investments in the Chesapeake Bay region.

Summary: RMPIF funding harnessed the skills and knowledge of the members of the Maryland Association of Prevention Professionals & Advocates (MAPPA) and the expertise of Chesapeake Charities Grants & Evaluation Office to create a customizable training module to be used in rural counties and across the state to deter young people from experimenting with prescription and non-prescription opioid and opioid-related drugs. MAPPA is a statewide professional organization comprised of substance abuse prevention experts concerned with addressing the challenges of alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) use and abuse in each jurisdiction in Maryland. The Opioid Awareness and Education Program (OAEP) will incorporate research-based strategies that align with Maryland's education standards and the Governor's Opioid Operational Command Center's mandate to increase awareness of the dangers of opioid misuse, promote cross agency efforts and bring various sectors of the community together to address this issue on a local level. The OAEP will meet a critical need to help stem the flow of potential "abusers" of opioid and opioid-related drugs before addiction occurs.

Choptank Community Health System, Inc.
Amount Awarded - \$75,000.00

Program: Choptank Community Health System, Inc. (CCHS), a private, non-profit Community Health Center network, provides access to quality health care through the delivery of comprehensive medical, dental and behavioral health care services in Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Summary: RMPIF funding supported a feasibility study focused on behavioral health services and an overarching goal to develop and implement an Integrated Behavioral Health model of care into the Choptank Community Health scope of services. This model of care may include various levels of partnership with local behavioral health organizations.

Corsica River Mental Health Services, Inc.
Amount Awarded - \$20,000.00

Program: Corsica River Mental Health Services provides caring, effective, and highly accessible psychiatric treatment and therapy to all residents seeking care in Queen Anne's, Kent, Talbot, Caroline and Dorchester Counties.

Summary: RMPIF funds provided for the salary for a full-time Psychiatrist to allow Corsica River Mental Health Services to rebuild the necessary capacity, demonstrate substantial value for the community, lasting impact for rural Marylanders, support important referral partnerships in the medical community, and increase the efficiency of service delivery that will ensure access to essential behavioral health service for the region.

County Commissioners of Caroline County
Amount Awarded - \$78,338.00

Program: The Caroline County Detention Center and Sheriff's Office are housed in an historic building located on the banks of the Choptank River, in Denton, Maryland. Wastewater from the facility is collected and conveyed via on-site pump station to the Town of Denton's wastewater treatment system. The Detention Center's collection/conveyance system design is antiquated and includes a holding tank located in close proximity to the Choptank River and its flood plain. The construction project includes the retrofit and upgrade of the Center's wastewater treatment system to avoid the discharge of contaminants and/or nutrients that pose health or environmental threats.

Summary: RMPIF funding supported the electrical upgrade portion of the construction. The new control panel was designed and constructed using the most current engineering practices. The panel included the installation of a programmable logic controller, a level transducer for pump control, and cellular-based alarming to provide fully

automated, redundant protections of the overall system. County staff are able to interface with the new control panel via their smartphones. The proposed electrical control and alarm systems will provide much greater prevention of releases to the Choptank River related to malfunction of pump station equipment.

For All Seasons, Inc.
Amount Awarded - \$72,725.00

Program: For All Seasons is a licensed behavioral health and rape crisis center serving the five rural counties of Maryland's Mid-Shore.

Summary: RMPHF funds implemented an electronic health record system for efficiency, to meet federal mandates, and to improve patient care. RMPHF funds were used to purchase the electronic health system, Credible, which will ensure better care to patients by: providing accurate, up-to-date and complete information about patients at the point of care; enabling quick access to patient records for more coordinated and efficient care; securely sharing electronic information with patients and other clinicians; helping providers more effectively diagnose patients, reduce medical errors; improving patient and provider interaction and communication; enabling safer, more reliable prescribing; helping promote legible documentation and accurate, streamlined coding and billing; enhancing privacy and security of patient data; helping improve our productivity and meet business goals; and, reducing costs through decreased paperwork, improved safety and health. The number of individuals that will be served by this new system is 3,000.

Go-Getters, Inc.
Amount Awarded - \$40,000.00

Program: Go-Getters, Inc. provides services for members aged 55 and older who suffer from a severe and persistent mental illness, in a program called Friendship Network. Friendship Network provides high quality mental health rehabilitation services in Somerset, Wicomico, & Worcester counties. The goals of the program are to advocate for and encourage Seniors to develop self-sufficiency, interdependence, and maximized potential while maintaining good physical and mental health.

Summary: RMPHF funds supported the cost associated with acquisition, design, renovation, and site improvement for the Go-Getters Day Program for Seniors with Disabilities located at 403 East Main Street in Salisbury, Maryland. The program will be able to expand to serve 50 seniors within the program over the next two years. RMPHF funds provided for purchase of materials and supplies to include roller blind, acoustical tiles, cushions for bench, and awnings for the front of the building.

Habitat for Humanity of Wicomico County, Inc.
Amount Awarded - \$50,000.00

Program: Funds helped Habitat for Humanity Wicomico (HFHWC) build capacity to serve up to twenty-seven (27) homeowners with roof replacements, 'aging in place' home modifications, kitchen rehabs, and full bathroom handicap accessible modifications.

Summary: RMPHF funds provided for expansions for the Aging in Place modifications and critical repairs program currently serving older adults in Somerset and Wicomico Counties. RMPHF funds provided for salary and wages for Social Work intern, and for part-time carpenter, and construction costs to include labor and construction materials, including: roofing shingles, kitchen flooring, subfloor installation, plumbing, ramp materials.

Life Crisis Center, Inc. for the Lower Eastern Shore Suicide Prevention Coalition
Amount Awarded - \$20,000.00

Program: Life Crisis Center, Inc. (LCC), as a partner agency in the Lower Eastern Shore Suicide Prevention Coalition (LESSPC) is an American Association of Suicidology accredited suicide prevention program, serving as the suicide and crisis hotline for the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The mission of Life Crisis Center, Inc. is to improve the quality of life in the communities of the Lower Eastern Shore through crisis intervention and violence prevention. LESSPC was formed to address the rising suicide rates in rural populations in the three counties of the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland: Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester.

Summary: RMPHF funding provided training for primary healthcare workers, i.e., physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician's assistants and medical social

workers, to identify patients who are at imminent risk of suicide and information on how to make a referral to agencies who are equipped to intervene. RMPiF funding provided outreach to the community about accessing 2-1-1 to find available behavioral health referral sources in the community and to update the database with additional behavioral health resources. The LESSPC proposed to train up to 125 health care professionals at 5 training sessions, at Atlantic General Hospital and at Peninsula Regional Medical Center, including urgent care centers.

Mental Health Association Eastern Shore
Amount Awarded - \$15,000.00

Program: The Mental Health Association of the Eastern Shore (MHAES) serves the 9 counties on Maryland's Eastern Shore: Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester. MHAES' mission is to promote mental health and behavioral wellness with education and advocacy.

Summary: RMPiF funds provided support for six (6) mental/behavioral health trainings to be conducted on different topics to Eastern Shore residents and health care workers.

Southern Maryland Community Network, Inc.
Amount Awarded - \$34,050.00

Program: Southern Maryland Community Network, Inc. currently provides Adult Crisis Services for mentally ill adults in Calvert, St. Mary's, Charles, Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties. The Crisis program provides 1,285 bed nights per year for Consumers who are experiencing a mental health crisis or who need step down after a hospitalization. The program links residents to other services that help address their economic, social, mental health and medical needs.

Summary: RMPiF funds assisted Southern Maryland Community Network (SMCN) in major repairs to a long term Community Bond property operated as a Residential Crisis Facility. The repairs will address major exterior repairs such as: roof replacement/repair, fascia and trim, gutters, and windows. Interior repairs will include kitchen remodel/replacement, bathroom remodel, hot water heater and HVAC replacement. RMPiF funds also addressed

deficiencies in code during the repairs, and put a sprinkler/fire alarm system in place.

The Arc of Southern Maryland
Amount Awarded - \$37,500.00

Program: The Arc of Southern Maryland will address several significant transportation issues facing seniors and individuals with disabilities in the Tri-County Southern Maryland Region (Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties). Specifically, while individuals may have health and medical coverage they do not have ready access to these services due to a severe limitation in transportation options. This project will increase transportation opportunities for seniors and the disabled thru: utilizing a Medical Mobility Manager to administer and coordinate the project; using software both online and through a mobile app to allow coordination and scheduling of services.

Summary: RMPiF funds provided for the purchase of two (2) new wheelchair accessible vans.

The Benedictine School for Exceptional Children
Amount Awarded - \$100,000.00

Program: The Benedictine School for Exceptional Children's mission is to help children and adults with developmental disabilities achieve their greatest potential. The Benedictine School for Exceptional Children owns and maintains 19 group homes on Maryland's Mid-Shore, and two homes in Anne Arundel County.

Summary: RMPiF funds provided necessary capital improvements to address health, safety and handicap-accessibility concerns in seven (7) group homes for adults and children with severe developmental disabilities. These seven group homes are in the Town of Easton as well as Talbot and Caroline counties. Currently, 21 adults with developmental disabilities live in six of these homes, and four children with disabilities live in one of the homes in Easton.

Town of Denton
Amount Awarded - \$20,000.00

Program: The Town of Denton, seat of Caroline County, is on the Choptank River and generally near the geographic center of the county and the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Summary: RMPiF funds were used to replace a 4-inch waterline in the 500 block of Lincoln Street in the Town of Denton. The expansion of the water lines to 8-inches will allow for current and future dwellings to have the proper water pressure in the case of a fire where their sprinklers would activate. The waterline is currently undersized for the new requirements of sprinkler systems for new homes.

University of Maryland Extension
Amount Awarded - \$27,951.55

Program: The University of Maryland Extension (UME) offers research-based programs to increase nutritional health literacy. The UME Family and Consumer Sciences educators are a combination of registered dietitians, nutritionists, and public health practitioners. UME nutrition education is currently taught via face to face delivery; however, no nutrition education is delivered via distance technology. The study will allow UME to determine a) the ability of each delivery method to increase nutritional health literacy and b) determine which delivery method has the greatest impact on nutritional health literacy. The proposed project integrates four of the recommended approaches to improving rural health: telehealth (distance) programming and services, health literacy education, integration of plain language principles and creating/expanding healthy lifestyle education.

Summary: RMPiF funds will be used to employ a graduate student (10 hours/week) to assist in the day to day program management and data processing; provide participant incentives and raffle for completing the program; purchasing of media, software and distance delivery equipment for use; securing a graphic designer to create visuals and advertising materials; and, funding for a technologist to assist in creating the online program. Target communities included Garrett, Allegany, Washington, St. Mary's, Calvert, Charles, Cecil, Queen Anne's, Kent, Somerset, Worcester, and Wicomico counties.

Worcester County Health Department
Amount Awarded - \$51,000.00

Program: The Addiction in the Workplace (AIW) Initiative is a low cost, highly replicable project (to other counties and other industries), which capitalizes on the strengths of the Worcester County Health Department (WCHD) and the

numerous partners in the tri-county area. The current AIW project focuses on educating those in the hospitality industry and those studying to be in the industry about the signs and symptoms of addiction and local resources for help. The hospitality industry is one of the main employers in Worcester County (which includes individuals working in restaurants, food service, maintenance, and hotels/motels).

Summary: RMPiF grant funding supported new collaborative relationships with the Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association (OCHMRA), Wor-Wic Community College, University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), and the Worcester County Technical High School. These collaborations will provide education, prevention, and knowledge of resources to future hospitality workers.

YMCA of the Chesapeake
Amount Awarded - \$17,160.00

Program: The YMCA of the Chesapeake works side-by-side with neighbors to address critical community needs that help kids develop into smart, resilient adults; for people to improve their health and build a sense of community; and for the most vulnerable young people to get the care and support they need.

Summary: RMPiF funds supported the training and staff-time of fifteen (15) new Diabetes Prevention Program Lifestyle Coaches to work throughout the Eastern Shore, and expand the Diabetes Prevention Program at all YMCA locations from Rising Sun, Maryland to Pocomoke City, Maryland. The YMCA's Diabetes Prevention Program helps adults at risk for type 2 diabetes reduce their risk for developing the disease by taking steps to improve their overall health and well-being. The program provides a supportive environment where participants work together to reduce individual weight by 7% and build up to 150 minutes of moderate (the equivalent of brisk walking) physical activity per week. The program is delivered over a 12-month period in a classroom setting.

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund Regional Councils

Mid-Shore Regional Council
Amount Awarded - \$411,133.00

Program: The Mid-Shore Regional Council operates as a cooperative regional planning and development agency within Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot Counties to foster physical, economic and social development. The Council initiates and coordinates plans and projects for the development of human and economic resources.

Summary: RMPIF funds was used to implement nine (9) projects, including:

- Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC).
- Shore Gourmet/Chesapeake Culinary Center – Provide a Program Director and Product Development Manager that will develop and diversify the market through niche crops, provide assistance in getting products approved through government agencies, and promote local, value added merchandise with farmers, entrepreneurs, and consumers.
- Agricultural GIS Extension - Work with the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore (TCCLES) and the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) to maintain and expand a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Initiative for family farms to develop mapping and spatial analysis projects driven by their needs and requiring little to no additional effort on the part of the farmers.
- DelMarVa (Eastern Shore) Index - Work with the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore (TCCLES) and the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) to create an online repository and visualization tool that will function as a comprehensive data source for demographic, economic, geographic, and social data, pertaining to the DelMarVa Peninsula (or if datasets for the 3 states are not consistently available, the focus will be on the nine (9) counties of Maryland's Eastern Shore). The DelMarVa Index will receive guidance from the economic development professionals in each County to determine those datasets that are of the highest priority. This project subsumes the two previous dashboard projects (Healthcare and Education), rolling their results into a larger tool.
- Housing Quality Study – Responding to the successful data collection effort of housing challenges within the City of Cambridge and twelve (12) additional jurisdictions in the

summer of 2017, this project will again partner with Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) to collect housing data for Easton, Denton and additional jurisdictions in the Mid Shore. This data will be used by town planners, local elected officials, and the public to make decisions about priority remediation, potential solutions, and neighborhood comparisons of disrepair.

- GIS Circuit Rider – Responding to the need for on-site assistance with GIS-related tasks, the Circuit Rider position will be available to travel to jurisdictions throughout the Mid Shore and provide specialized solution to data analysis needs. Funding will provide the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) with funds to help pay for a dedicated GIS Technician to attend to the requests for assistance by local jurisdictions.
- Annie’s Project – Annie’s Project focuses on the many aspects of farm management and is designed to empower women in overall farm decision making and to build local networks throughout the state. Topics for the sessions cover the five areas of Risk Management – Production, Marketing, Financial, Legal Risk, Human Resources.
- Regional Marketing Project – Support a collaborative effort by Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot Counties to design a regional marketing effort.
- CEDS Economic Resiliency Element – the Mid Shore Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is designed to bring together the public and private sectors in the creation of an economic development roadmap to diversify and strengthen the regional economy. A consultant will be hired to assist with the development of this activity.

Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore
Amount Awarded - \$411,133.00

Program: The Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland was formed by an Act of the Maryland General Assembly in 2001. The purpose of the Council is to facilitate regional planning and development in Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties.

Summary: RMPIF funds will be used to implement ten (10) projects:

- Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center: Mentor and coach fifty-eight (48) entrepreneurs during project period and solicit as many as seventy (70) submissions to Grow & Fortify Ag Business competition; solicit as many as ten (10) startups to participate in Business Model Mapping program; solicit as

many as ten (10) startups to participate in Investor Pitch training program; solicit as many as five (5) students/faculty/entrepreneurs to participate in workshops; and, provide technical assistance and investor pitch training to as many as fifteen (15) participants in the Shore Hatchery.

- Agricultural GIS Extension: Complete at least two (2) separate agricultural mapping/database/dashboard projects for farmers in the middle and lower Eastern Shore.
- DelMarVa Index: Launch the beta version of the website by 3rd quarter 2019. Assemble advisory committee to provide input; develop mock-up and solicit feedback from stakeholders; gain approval of final mock-up; and, initiate development of the repository based approved mock-up.
- Summer Youth Employment: Placement of seventy (70) youth in summer employment programs in Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties.
- Project Opportunity: Develop marketing materials including brochures and purchasing display items. Hold three (3) seminars for veteran business owners.
- Worcester County Step Up and Reach for the Stars STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Camp, Leadership Cohort, and Internship Program: Placement of five (5) additional youth in STEM Program.
- Tri-County Council's Skipjack Loan Fund: Increase capitalization of a regional Revolving Loan Fund (RLF).
- Regional Marketing/Branding: Continuation of part-time marketing position.
- Economic Development Support: Train twenty (20) individuals in One Stop Café Food and Service Training Program (FAST) to receive certification in Food Safety and Preparation. Hold nine (9) summer programs, ten (10) adult manufacturing technology classes, and ten (10) Community Open Houses for the M4 Reactor program. Provide at least 1,000 hours for adults to practice manufacturing technology skills, and participate in twelve (12) public venues or events.
- Executive Director Transition: Provide for orderly six month transition for the position of Executive Director for the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore.

Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland
Amount Awarded - \$411,133.00

Program: The mission of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland is to serve as a forum for the discussion and resolution of issues affecting the Southern Maryland Region.

Summary: RMPiF funds will be implemented for sixteen (16) projects, including:

- Southern Maryland Meats and Seafood Guide: This project will enable the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC) to develop, update and print a new Meats and Seafood Guide to be fully inclusive and representative of Southern Maryland's farm-raised meats industry and locally produced and/or harvested seafood sourced from the five county region's waterways and Chesapeake Bay (including Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's Counties).
- Oyster Trail Website and Brochure: This project will enable the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC) to develop and update the Southern Maryland Oyster Trail Website and companion brochure beyond the two counties currently showcased. Eight (8) Southern Maryland oyster aquaculture/producers will be showcased throughout the five Southern Maryland counties.
- Maryland FarmLINK Website and Database Redesign: Increase the number of property exchange listings by 15%, and develop at least two new components to the website to make the site more user-friendly. At least five hundred (500) informational FarmLINK brochures will be printed and distributed throughout the state to highlight website upgrades, online tools and resources.
- Southern Maryland Meats Marketing/Promotion: Design, develop and distribute Southern Maryland Meats labels and signage for all producers to use on their products at point of sales. Develop in print and online marketing campaigns.
- Value-Added Building at the North St. Mary's Farmers Market: Increase agricultural entrepreneurs and small businesses by building a commercial kitchen space where farmers and producers can rent space to create value-added products.
- Southern Maryland Mobility Management Healthcare Transportation Pilot Project: Create a readily available operational pilot program healthcare transportation system in Southern Maryland.

- Coordination and Expansion of Regional Multimodal Transportation Infrastructure: Provide administrative and technical support to Regional Infrastructure Advisory Committee (RIAC) and Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure Advisory Committee (BIAC), and expand regional multimodal transportation planning.
- Project Open DOORS: Leverage existing workforce and small business development resources to create a pipeline of future entrepreneurs in Southern Maryland communities.
- Eighth Annual Regional Hiring Event: Support the 8th Annual Regional Hiring event to be held in spring 2019.
- Mobile Career Center Upgrades: Provide IT upgrades, including laptops and software, and “wrap” or exterior signage on the Mobile Career vehicle to provide accurate information.
- American Job Center Updated Promotional Materials and Signage: Create identity for the new Prince Frederick American Job Center, update the Southern Maryland JobSource collateral material, and improve outreach to promote understanding of the value of the public workforce system.

Tri-County Council for Western Maryland
Amount Awarded - \$411,133.00

Program: The mission of the Tri-County Council for Western Maryland is to provide a forum for local governments and citizens throughout Western Maryland to identify the issues and opportunities that are facing the region.
Summary: Tri-County Council for Western Maryland will build upon existing financing tools accessible to entrepreneurs and businesses in the Western Maryland region, and the other rural parts of the State, so that they may start or grow their businesses, and develop new financing tools for entrepreneurs and growing businesses where there is currently not any viable option for funding. This project will impact the entire Western Maryland region, including twenty-four (24) municipalities across three (3) counties, as well as the other fifteen (15) rural counties across the State. RMPIF funding will be used to enhance the operation of the loan fund programs to better serve the needs of the business and entrepreneurial community, including increased marketing of programs to reach targeted audiences, technical assistance of professional services, and access to capital to help businesses succeed and ultimately retain and create jobs in the region. Marketing will include public

outreach, direct marketing to banks, and sponsorship of events.

Upper Shore Regional Council
Amount Awarded - \$411,133.00

Program: The Uppers Shore Regional Council is a regional planning and development organization serving Cecil, Kent and Queen Anne's counties.
Summary: RMPIF funding will be used to support five goals, including: business retention, development and expansion within the Upper Shore region; address the workforce needs of the Upper Shore region; marketing the region to tourists while assisting small businesses located in Upper Shore communities; regional planning; and, Upper Shore Regional Council advocacy and coordination. Funding will be used to increase current programs and create new opportunities to enhance business development and retention in the Upper Shore Region, including continued support of the Upper Shore Agricultural Equity Incentive Matching Fund with the Maryland Agricultural Resource Based Industry and Development Corporation (MARBIDCO); Eastern Shore Entrepreneurial Center (ESEC); Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC); Cecil County Tourism video; Queen Anne's County Quality of Life video; Cecil Cares senior transport program; Queen Anne's County partnership with Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce to connect students with manufacturing jobs; Susquehanna Workforce Network warehouse/distribution job training pilot program – second run; and, EMSI (local medical service center) database for Cecil, Kent, and Queen Anne's Counties. Other projects include updating the Harvest Directory website, ShoreVines website, and coordination of Queen Anne's County and Kent County “Trade Liaison” and a regional school of technology.

Rural Maryland Foundation

The Rural Maryland Foundation continued its efforts to educate community foundations, rural charities and other interested parties in the Transfer of Wealth (TOW) opportunity. TOW is an estimate of American household wealth from which charitable giving could be realized. The final report identified:

- 2016 Household Current Net Worth for Rural Maryland at \$530 Billion
- 10-year TOW opportunity of \$64 Billion
- 50-year TOW opportunity of \$703 Billion
- Capturing 5% of the 10-year TOW opportunity could result in \$3.2 Billion in new community investments
- Sustained annual payouts could equal \$160 million a year in perpetual grant making

The Foundation has spoken to groups about creating a Rural Economic Development Philanthropy Network and identified potential models to replicate.

The Foundation also issued a Request for Proposals to identify a new filmmaker to follow up on the successful Rural Aspirations project. Production is slated to begin in the Fall of 2019.

The Foundation has been instrumental in supporting the RMC's goals and projects. For

example, when the RMC identified a lack of credit for young and beginning farmers, the RMC with Foundation support helped create the Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation, also known as MARBIDCO.

The Rural Maryland Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization formed in 2001 to support the work of the Rural Maryland Council. All contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible and may be sent to: Rural Maryland Foundation, Post Office Box 1544, Annapolis, Maryland 21404. More information can be found at: ruralmdfoundation.org.

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