

Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund FY 2009 – The Annual Report

Prepared by the Rural Maryland Council

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

The Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) was established in 2000 to offer financial support to rural-serving nonprofit organizations that promote statewide and regional planning, economic and community development, and agricultural and forestry education. In addition, MAERDAF offers financial assistance to community colleges that support small and agricultural businesses with enhanced training and technical assistance.

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

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

The FY 2009 MAERDAF Grants Review Board

1. **Michelle Clark**, Director, State Office of Rural Health, Office of Policy and Planning, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
2. **Karen Fedor**, Senior Agricultural Marketing Specialist, Maryland Department of Agriculture
3. **David Jenkins**,* Executive Director, Rural Maryland Council
4. **Glenda Odom**, Program Manager, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development
5. **Brenda Townsend-Milton**, Regional Development, Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development
6. **Emily Wilson**, Director of Government Relations, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

The MAERDAF Program in FY 2009

Between FY 2001 and FY 2009, the MAERDAF program has awarded \$2,251,484 in grants to 46 rural-serving nonprofit organizations. The average MAERDAF grant over the life of the program has been \$17,681; however, in FY 2009, the average grant was \$16,509. During FY 2009, the MAERDAF Grants Review Board received 26 grant applications requesting \$666,129 in funding. The Board selected 16 rural-serving nonprofit organizations to receive the \$264,150 in available funding. In 2009, all MAERDAF grants were administered as fiscal year grants.

All FY 2009 MAERDAF grantees are listed below.

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| FY 2009 Grantees | Category | Area Served | Total Request | Amount Funded |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Arc Northern Chesapeake Region | Health/EconDev | Eastern Shore | \$18,730 | \$5,700 |
| Chesapeake College | Ag/Forestry | Eastern Shore | \$5,000 | \$5,000 |
| College of Southern Maryland | Health/EconDev | Southern MD | \$43,503 | \$5,875 |
| Community Foundation of E.S. | Health/EconDev | Eastern Shore | \$21,000 | \$14,500 |
| Delmarva Education Foundation | CommDev | Eastern Shore | \$35,045 | \$22,252 |
| Habitat for Humanity Talbot /Dorch | CommDev | Eastern Shore | \$49,975 | \$30,000 |
| LEAD Maryland | Ag/Forestry | Statewide | \$25,000 | \$25,000 |
| LEAD Maryland | Ag/Forestry | Statewide | \$25,000 | \$5,000 |
| MAC - Area Agency on Aging | CommDev | Eastern Shore | \$25,000 | \$25,000 |
| Maryland Forest Association | Ag/Forestry | Statewide | \$7,000 | \$5,000 |
| Maryland Rural Development Corp. | CommDev | Eastern Shore | \$25,000 | \$22,550 |
| Maryland Rural Health Assn. | Health/EconDev | Statewide | \$4,173 | \$4,173 |
| MD Assn. Soil Conservation Dist. | Ag/Forestry | Statewide | \$19,000 | \$19,000 |
| Microenterprise Council of MD | Health/EconDev | Statewide | \$25,000 | \$12,500 |
| MidShore Regional Council | Ag/Forestry | Eastern Shore | \$24,000 | \$24,000 |
| Tri-County Council Western MD | Health/EconDev | Western MD | \$50,000 | \$25,000 |
| Upper Shore Regional Council | Ag/Forestry | Eastern Shore | \$16,400 | \$13,600 |

| | | | | |
|----------------------|--|--|------------------|------------------|
| TOTAL Request | | | \$418,826 | \$264,150 |
|----------------------|--|--|------------------|------------------|

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

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

| FY 2009 MAERDAF Grantees By Region | # Grantees | Amount Requested | Total Awarded | % of grant funds awarded |
|---|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Eastern Shore | 9 | \$220,150 | \$162,603 | 62% |
| Southern Maryland | 1 | \$43,503 | \$5,875 | 2% |
| Western Maryland | 1 | \$50,000 | \$25,000 | 9% |
| Statewide | 5 | \$105,173 | \$70,673 | 27% |
| Total | 16 | \$418,826 | \$264,150 | 100% |

| FY 2009 MAERDAF Grantees (by Category) | # Grantees | Amount Requested | Total Awarded | % of grant funds awarded |
|---|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Agricultural and forestry | 6 | \$121,400 | \$96,600 | 37% |
| Community Development | 4 | \$135,020 | \$99,802 | 38% |
| Agricultural Development | 6 | \$162,406 | \$67,748 | 25% |
| Total | 16 | \$418,826 | \$264,150 | 100% |

FY 2009 – MAERDAF Grantees
Scope of Work

The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region -- Amount Awarded: **\$5,700** (Amount Requested: \$18,730)

Summary: The mission of the Arc is to help people with developmental disabilities identify and pursue personally valued lives.

Grant funds were used to provide stipends (\$2,700) and local expert trainings (\$3,000) for workshops to assist in the sustainability of the Arc's Education Partnership Initiative.

Chesapeake Community College -- Amount Awarded: **\$5,000** (Amount Requested: \$5,000)

Summary: Chesapeake College is a public two-year regional community college serving Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot Counties.

Grant funds were used to pay for materials, supplies and meals for Annie's Project, which was taught from January to March 2009. The project helps empower farm women to manage information systems used in critical decision making processes and to build local networks throughout the state.

College of Southern Maryland -- Amount Awarded: **\$5,875** (Amount Requested: \$45,503)

Summary: The College of Southern Maryland is an open-admission regional college preparing students and the community to meet the challenges of individual, social and global changes.

Grant Funds were used for equipment (\$4,250), orientation packets (\$500) and course reviews (\$1,125) for the weekend college program.

Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore -- Amount Awarded: **\$14,500** (Amt Requested: \$21,000)

Summary: The mission of the Community Foundation is to strengthen the community by building charitable funds, maximizing benefits to donors, making effective grants and providing leadership to address community needs.

Grant funds were used for the professional development of health care professionals which supports implementation of programs targeted at the nursing profession.

Delmarva Education Foundation -- Amount Awarded: **\$22,252** (Amount Requested: \$35,045)

Summary: DEF's mission is to improve educational opportunities for residents of the lower Delmarva Peninsula using a regional approach to facilitate accessibility, quality and effectiveness of education for all ages.

Grant funds were used to pay for the salaries and wages and travel costs associated of DEF personnel who deliver two complimentary initiatives: a College/Career Access Program and a Financial Aid Clearinghouse, which are both designed to encourage and prepare at-risk students for higher education. Grant funds supported project directors: \$16,490; Manager/Advisor in schools: \$5,162; and travel: \$600.

Habitat for Humanity of Talbot and Dorchester Counties -- Amount Awarded: **\$30,000** (Amount Requested: \$49,975)

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

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

Lead Maryland Foundation, Inc.

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

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Grant #1: Amount Awarded: **\$25,000** (Amount Requested: \$25,000)

Grant funds were used to pay the salary and/or fringe benefits for an assistant director to help LEAD meet its capacity building goals. It is expected that, at the end of this grant period, LEAD will have sustained the assistant director's position with other funding. This grant is a continuation grant, awarded to help pay the salary of an assistant director for a third and final year.

Grant #2: Amount Awarded: **\$5,000** (Amount Requested: \$25,000)

Grant funds were used to fund Stage One of a program evaluation, to be conducted by the Scheaffer Center for Public Policy. This first stage will be used to help develop appropriate curriculum for the Fellows and to shape the overall effectiveness of the LEAD program.

MAC, Inc. – Maintaining Active Citizens -- Amount Awarded: **\$25,000** (Amount Requested: \$25,000)

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

Grant funds were used to continue and expand the Managing Chronic Pain for Arthritis program, a health promotion program that uses an innovative approach to pain management.

Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts -- Amount Awarded: **\$19,000** (Requested: \$19,000)

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

Grant funds were used to help conduct the 2008 Maryland Envirothon, a statewide high school environmental education competition that uses the expertise of soil conservation districts and other natural resource professionals to teach students about their natural resources.

Maryland Forest Association, Inc. -- Amount Awarded: **\$5,000** (Amount Requested: \$7,000)

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

Grant funds were used to help MFA defray expenses related to its annual meeting which draws attendees from around the state. The grant supported publications, documentation (\$3,000) and speaker expenses, including travel, meals and honorariums (\$2,000).

Maryland Rural Development Corporation -- Amount Awarded: **\$22,550** (Amount Requested: \$25,000)

Summary: The MRCD is the community action agency serving Cecil, Kent and Caroline counties and is the lead agency in Maryland for the national Rural Community Assistance Project. The organization provides resources that promote self-sufficiency in low income families and builds strong, sustainable communities throughout rural Maryland.

Grant funds were used to pay the salaries (\$18,500), benefits (\$2,550) and travel costs (\$1,500) necessary for MRDC to provide small town comprehensive planning services to rural low asset jurisdictions which are facing a pending state deadline to provide comprehensive updates to their master plans.

Maryland Rural Health Association -- Amount Awarded: **\$4,173** (Amount Requested: \$4,173)

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

Grant funds are being used to develop a scholarship program for the Statewide Rural Roundtable which will help defray the cost of attending for rural advocates who can not otherwise afford to attend or for whom attending would be a financial burden for them or their organizations.

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Microenterprise Council of Maryland -- Amount Awarded: **\$12,500** (Amount Requested: \$25,000)

Summary: MCM's mission is to ensure sustained small business development within the state by fostering and promoting enterprise activity through capacity building, education, training, technical assistance and resource development within our communities.

Grant funds were used to help fund a contractual staff person to work on four specific objectives: (1) Develop three local community development corporations; (2) Develop and complete a demonstration project surveying micro entrepreneurs in western Maryland; (3) Further resource development and population of data for website; and (4) Support a regional conference partnership with Frostburg State University Trident Entrepreneurship Initiative.

Mid-Shore Regional Council -- Amount Awarded: **\$24,000** (Amount Requested: \$24,000)

Summary: The Mid-Shore Regional Council serves the businesses and residents of Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot Counties by initiating and coordinating plans and projects for the development of human and economic resources.

Grant funds were used to fund an agricultural economic development specialist, who is responsible for planning, marketing and managing economic development strategies to attain, retain and grow ag businesses in the region. The ag specialist also develops and implements ag policies and programs that lead to the long-term economic viability of the industry in the region.

Tri-County Council for Western Maryland -- Amount Awarded: **\$25,000** (Amount Requested: \$50,000)

Summary: The Council promotes inter-jurisdictional coordination, cooperation and communication on issues affecting the region and provides local technical assistance. Its goal is to work with local governments, businesses and education institutions throughout the region in providing the programs and services most needed by the region.

Grant funds were used to pay the salary and/or fringe benefits of staff person(s) to migrate the organization's loan program to appropriate updated software and to train staff members on how to use it.

Upper Shore Regional Council -- Amount Awarded: **\$13,600** (Amount Requested: \$16,460)

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

Grant funds were used to increase and diversify the use of agricultural lands and business opportunities within the Upper Shore region by increasing the number of wine-quality vineyards within the area. The long term goal is to preserve farmland by providing diversified crop production, alternative markets, and creating an industry with the ability to expand into related areas of value added agricultural production such as the processing by the development of wineries, distribution through the creation of local markets, and tourism by the potential for opening wineries for public tours, and the development of tourist oriented wine trails.

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| All MAERDAF Grantees -- FY 2001 to FY 2009 | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Grantee Organization | FY 2001 | FY 2002 | FY 2003 | FY 2004 | FY 2005 | FY 2007 | FY2008 | FY 2009 | Total |
| Allegany College | | | | | \$15,000 | | | | \$15,000 |
| Arc Northern Chesapeake Region | | | | | | | | \$5,700 | \$5,700 |
| Carroll Community College (AATC) | \$15,875 | \$7,220 | | | | | | | \$23,095 |
| Cecil Community College | | | | | \$14,950 | | | | \$14,950 |
| Center for Children | | | | | | \$13,100 | | | \$13,100 |
| Chesapeake Bay Region Technical Center of Excellence | | | \$15,000 | | | | | | \$15,000 |
| Chesapeake College | | | | | | | | \$5,000 | \$5,000 |
| Chesapeake Fields Institute | \$15,000 | \$50,000 | \$25,000 | \$10,000 | | \$11,300 | | | \$111,300 |
| Chester Bridge Foundation, Inc. | | | | | \$7,000 | \$8,750 | | | \$15,750 |
| College of Southern MD | | | \$25,000 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | | | \$5,875 | \$50,875 |
| Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore | | | | | | | | \$14,500 | \$14,500 |
| Delmarva Advisory Council | \$20,000 | | | | | | | | \$20,000 |
| Delmarva Education Foundation | | | | | | \$15,000 | \$12,869 | \$22,252 | \$50,121 |
| Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship | | | | | | \$9,800 | | | \$9,800 |
| Friend of the Grape | | | | | | | \$20,000 | | \$20,000 |
| Future Harvest, Inc. | \$20,000 | \$18,500 | \$20,000 | \$5,000 | | | \$2,330 | | \$65,830 |
| Garrett Community College (AAATC) | \$20,000 | \$22,000 | \$20,000 | \$10,000 | \$9,500 | | | | \$81,500 |
| Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay | | | | | | \$10,000 | \$5,000 | | \$15,000 |
| Habitat for Humanity of Talbot County | | | | | | \$32,000 | \$21,500 | \$30,000 | \$83,500 |
| LEAD Maryland | \$23,500 | \$30,000 | \$29,180 | \$14,000 | \$14,000 | \$35,000 | \$32,000 | \$30,000 | \$207,680 |
| Lower Shore Broadband Cooperative | | | | | | \$12,958 | \$20,000 | | \$32,958 |
| Lower Shore Child Care Resource Ctr | | | | | | \$9,362 | | | \$9,362 |
| MAC, Inc. | | | | | | | \$13,105 | \$25,000 | \$38,105 |
| MD Agricultural Education Fund | \$20,000 | \$28,400 | \$28,000 | \$5,000 | \$5,000 | \$32,660 | | | \$119,060 |
| MD Association of Soil Conservation Districts (Environthon) | \$20,000 | \$17,200 | \$6,500 | \$10,000 | \$7,900 | \$10,495 | \$9,800 | \$19,000 | \$100,895 |

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| Grantee Organization (Continued) | FY 2001 | FY 2002 | FY 2003 | FY 2004 | FY 2005 | FY 2007 | FY2008 | FY 2009 | Total |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| MD Capital Enterprises | | | | | | \$19,000 | \$21,625 | | \$40,625 |
| MD Center for Community Development (Rural Training) | \$20,000 | \$20,000 | | | | | | | \$40,000 |
| MD Eastern Shore Resource Conservation & Development Council | \$6,000 | | | | | | | | \$6,000 |
| MD FFA Foundation, Inc. | | | | | | \$6,500 | \$8,000 | | \$14,500 |
| MD Forests Association | \$20,000 | \$20,000 | | | | | \$5,000 | \$5,000 | \$50,000 |
| MD Organic Food & Farming Assn | \$16,625 | | | | | | | | \$16,625 |
| MD Rural Development Corporation | \$50,000 | \$47,500 | \$47,000 | \$10,400 | \$13,208 | \$25,000 | \$22,510 | \$22,550 | \$238,168 |
| MD Rural Health Association | \$40,000 | \$40,000 | \$35,000 | \$10,000 | \$4,000 | \$5,000 | | \$4,173 | \$138,173 |
| MD Rural Water Association | \$21,000 | | | | | | | | \$21,000 |
| Medbank of MD | | | | | | \$15,000 | | | \$15,000 |
| Microenterprise Council of MD | | | \$30,000 | \$10,000 | \$29,600 | \$5,000 | \$12,000 | \$12,500 | \$99,100 |
| Mid-Shore Regional Council | | | | \$10,000 | | \$24,000 | \$24,000 | \$24,000 | \$82,000 |
| Mountain Laurel Medical Center | | | | | | | \$44,000 | | \$44,000 |
| Salisbury University - BEACON | | \$24,320 | | | | | | | \$24,320 |
| Southern MD Resource Conservation and Development Council | \$6,000 | \$21,000 | \$15,000 | | | | | | \$42,000 |
| Tri-County Council for Southern MD | | | \$30,000 | | | | | | \$30,000 |
| Tri-County Council of Western MD | \$7,000 | | | | \$500 | \$10,000 | \$10,000 | \$25,000 | \$52,500 |
| Tri-State Community Health Center | | | \$30,000 | \$17,792 | | | | | \$47,792 |
| UMES - Rural Development Center (Distressed Community Econ Dev) | | | \$50,000 | | \$12,000 | | | | \$62,000 |
| Upper Shore Regional Council | | | | \$10,000 | \$5,000 | \$10,000 | \$5,000 | \$13,600 | \$43,600 |
| Western MD Resource Conservation and Development Council | \$6,000 | | | | | | | | \$6,000 |
| Total Grants | \$347,000 | \$346,140 | \$405,680 | \$132,192 | \$147,658 | \$319,925 | \$288,739 | \$264,150 | \$2,251,484 |
| Average Grant Amount | \$19,278 | \$26,626 | \$27,045 | \$10,169 | \$10,547 | \$15,235 | \$16,041 | \$16,509 | \$17,681 |

(Note: There was no MAERDAF Appropriation for FY 2006)