

FY 2011 Annual Report of the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund

*Prepared by the Rural Maryland Council
July 2011*

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 grants to community colleges that support small and agricultural businesses with enhanced training and technical assistance.

Funding for MAERDAF grants comes from a General Fund appropriation through the Governor and General Assembly, as well as Special Funds from Racing Fund revenues, which typically fluctuate from year to year. For FY 2011, the total grant pool from both sources was \$130,000. (See details below.)

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 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 2011 MAERDAF Grants Review Board

1. **Jennifer Kelley**, Acting 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. **Vanessa Orlando**, Executive Director, Rural Maryland Council
4. **Glenda Odom**, Program Manager, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development
5. **Lori Ratzburg**, Acting Program Manager, Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development
6. **Emily Wilson**, Director of Government Relations, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

The MAERDAF Program in FY 2011

Between FY 2001 and FY 2011, the MAERDAF program has awarded \$2,574,309 in grants to 52 rural-serving nonprofit organizations. The average MAERDAF grant over the life of the program has been \$15,027; however, in FY 2011, the average grant was \$8,666. During FY 2011, the MAERDAF Grants Review Board received 28 grant applications requesting \$491,422 in funding. The Board selected 15 rural-serving nonprofit organizations to receive the \$130,000 in available funding. In 2011, all MAERDAF grants were administered as fiscal year grants.

All FY 2011 MAERDAF grantees are listed below.

FY 2011 Grantees	Category	Area Served	Total Request	Amount Funded
Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship	CommDev	Eastern Shore	\$ 25,000	\$ 10,000
Evergreen Heritage Foundation	Health/EconDev	Western	\$ 20,240	\$ 16,200
Habitat for Humanity Choptank	CommDev	Eastern Shore	\$ 17,653	\$ 13,000
Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology	Ag/Forestry	Statewide	\$ 4,550	\$ 3,000
LEAD Maryland	Ag/Forestry	Statewide	\$ 25,000	\$ 8,000
Maryland Capital Enterprises	Health/EconDev	Eastern Shore	\$ 24,920	\$ 15,000
MAC - Area Agency on Aging	Health/EconDev	Eastern Shore	\$ 25,000	\$ 3,200
Maryland Forest Association	Ag/Forestry	Statewide	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,500
Maryland Rural Health Assn.	Health/EconDev	Statewide	\$ 18,000	\$ 8,000
Maryland Rural Devel. Corporation	Health/EconDev	Statewide	\$ 11,200	\$ 8,200
MidShore Regional Council	Ag/Forestry	Eastern Shore	\$ 18,000	\$ 13,215
Rural Maryland Foundation	CommDev	Statewide	\$ 6,550	\$ 4,600
Southern Maryland TCCAC	CommDev	Southern	\$ 25,000	\$ 3,685
Tri-County Council Western MD	Health/EconDev	Western	\$ 25,000	\$ 7,500
Upper Shore Regional Council	Health/EconDev	Eastern Shore	\$ 19,956	\$ 12,900
TOTAL Request			\$ 271,069	\$ 130,000

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 2011 MAERDAF Grantees By Region	# Grantees	Amount Requested	Total Awarded	% of grant funds awarded
Eastern Shore	5	\$110,573	\$54,415	42%
Southern Maryland	1	\$25,000	\$3,685	3%
Western Maryland	2	\$45,240	\$23,700	18%
Statewide	7	\$90,256	\$48,200	37%
Total	15	\$271,069	\$130,000	100%

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FY 2011 MAERDAF Grantees (by Category)	# Grantees	Amount Requested	Total Awarded	% of grant funds awarded
Agricultural and forestry	4	\$52,550	\$27,715	21%
Community Development	7	\$135,323	\$61,985	48%
Education and Health	4	\$83,196	\$40,300	31%
Total	15	\$271,069	\$130,000	100%

**FY 2011 – MAERDAF Grantees
Scopes of Work**

Eastern Shore Entrepreneurs -- Amount Awarded: **\$10,000** (Amount Requested: \$25,000)

Summary: The mission of the organization is to build business diversity on the Eastern Shore of Maryland by both providing below market rate loans to startup and new business endeavors and granting access to entrepreneurial education.

Grant funds were used for the Shore Venture program, which will serve five rural counties with classes held in the county seat of each of Kent County, Queen Anne County, Talbot County, Caroline County and Dorchester County (the same five counties as its partner Chesapeake College serves). Through discussions led by Chesapeake College, Wor-Wic Community College and other partners serving the residents Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset Counties are strategizing on how to expand this valuable entrepreneurship training program.

Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation, Inc. -- Amount Awarded: **\$16,200** (Amount Requested: \$20,240)

Summary: The Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation is dedicated to utilizing indoor/outdoor learning to provide rural Maryland's young people with the knowledge and practical experience to compete in today's economy.

Grant funds were used for the contractor/ facilitator for the Evergreen Environmental Education program for the spring 2011 (March through June) session of the 2010/2011 academic year. This grantee has been awarded a no-cost extension and will be completed by August 1, 2011.

Habitat for Humanity Choptank -- Amount Awarded: **\$13,000** (Amount Requested: \$17,653)

Summary: Habitat for Humanity Choptank works in partnership with all people to transform communities and the lives of qualifying families in Dorchester and Talbot counties by building simple, decent and affordable homes.

Grant funds were used to pay partial salaries of the LEED-certified Construction Supervisor.

Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology-- Amount Awarded: **\$3,000** (Amount Requested: \$4,550)

Summary: The mission of the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology is to promote environmentally and economically sustainable agriculture and forestry in the State of Maryland. Our approach to this goal is three-pronged: funding unbiased applied scientific research, impacting policy, and educating the public through programs and other outreach efforts.

Grant funds are to be used for Facility Rental for the Eastern Shore Local Government Exchange: The \$1,500 rental figure is based on an estimate received from Chesapeake Community College for the rental of one large room, two small breakout rooms, and audio visual equipment for one day. Facility Rental for the Western Maryland Local Government Exchange: The \$1,500 rental figure is based on previous experience as well as an estimate received from Hagerstown Community College. The rental would include use of one large room, two small breakout rooms, and use of the college's audio visual equipment for one day.

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Lead Maryland Foundation, Inc. -- Amount Awarded: **\$8,000** (Amount Requested: \$25,000)

Summary: LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to identifying and developing leadership for agriculture, natural resources, and rural communities.

Grant funds The LEAD Maryland Foundation will begin work with a new class of Fellows. The Fellows will be enrolled into a two-year program to increase their assurance, skills, and knowledge for mobilizing people to address the above mentioned examples of change, and other relevant issues. The grant funds will be used for seminar three in Western Maryland.

MAC, Inc. – Maintaining Active Citizens -- Amount Awarded: **\$3,200** (Amount Requested: \$25,000)

Summary: The mission of Mac Inc. (Maintaining Active Citizens) is to offer older persons lives of Independence, Dignity and Choice. MAC Inc. is committed to preserving the quality of life for our seniors and “Maintaining Active Citizens” in our community.

Grant funds will allow for implementation of a comprehensive program called “Living Well in Your Rural Environment” that addresses individual needs of persons diagnosed with environmental illnesses, which include Lyme disease, Anaplasmosis, Ehrlichiosis, Babesiosis, Bartonellosis, and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. The funds will be used for tick testing, focus groups, and workshop. This grantee has been awarded a no-cost extension and will be completed by December 31, 2011.

Maryland Capital Enterprises -- Amount Awarded: **\$15,000** (Requested: \$24,920)

Summary: The mission of the organization is to help economically disadvantaged residents of Maryland’ Eastern Shore become self-sufficient through entrepreneurship by aiding in the creation and expansion of micro-businesses owned by minorities, women, and others with low incomes and limited assets.

Grand funds will assist with the increased entrepreneurial assistance services to at least 100 existing and potential business persons. The funds will be used for partial salaries of the Training Coordinator, Business Coordinator, and Executive Director.

Maryland Forest Association, Inc. -- Amount Awarded: **\$3,500** (Amount Requested: \$5,000)

Summary: The mission of Maryland Forests Association is to conserve and enhance forests in Maryland by: increasing awareness of the diverse, public benefits of forests; supporting the sustainable use of forest resources; promoting economic opportunity for forest landowners; and maintaining a viable local forest products industry.

Grant funds would be used to assist with the educational sessions that are part of its 2010 Annual Conference, which will be held November 5 and 6 at the Gaylord National in Prince George’s County, Maryland. The funds are to be used for speaker costs and meals and student scholarships.

Maryland Rural Development Corporation -- Amount Awarded: **\$8,200** (Amount Requested: \$11,200)

Summary: Providing the resources that promote self-sufficiency in low-income families and build strong, sustainable communities throughout Maryland.

Grant funds were used to provide participating small governments within the six rural counties currently served in with acquisition and installation of new computer equipment, along with the specific and appropriate training to allow the local governments to make the best use of this equipment. Funds are to be used to purchase computer equipment, as described in your grant application.

Maryland Rural Health Association -- Amount Awarded: **\$8,000** (Amount Requested: \$18,000)

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

Grant funds MRHA hired an Executive Director for the first time in the organization’s history in February 2010. The funds will be used for her salary.

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MidShore Regional Council -- Amount Awarded: **\$13,215** (Amount Requested: \$18,000)

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

Grant funds were used to fund the Shore Gourmet, which is a business development initiative of the Mid-Shore Regional Council (MSRC). Collaborating with the Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center, Shore Gourmet offers distribution and consulting services to the local agricultural community to market their value-added agricultural and gourmet food products. The funds are to be used to partially purchase a refrigeration truck to acquire as well as distribute product from the warehouse to Shore Gourmet vendor/distribution outlets, which span throughout the Eastern Shore and Annapolis areas.

Rural Maryland Foundation -- Amount Awarded: **\$4,600** (Amount Requested: \$15,000)

Summary: The Rural Maryland Foundation's mission is to identify challenges unique to rural communities and to work in a cooperative and collaborative fashion with relevant stakeholders to develop and implement solutions.

Grant funds were used to fund a portion of a professionally facilitated strategic planning process that is being undertaken by the Rural Maryland Foundation and Rural Maryland Council and intended to result in a sustainable rural policy and service infrastructure that uses the best of both organizations to meet the needs of rural Marylanders and improves the quality of life in rural Maryland communities. The funds will be used for salary and wages, fringe benefits, travel, and food and rental.

Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee, Inc. -- Amount Awarded: **\$3,685** (Amount Requested: \$25,000)

Summary: To provide services for eligible citizens that alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty, promote upward mobility, and enrich the quality of life.

Grant funds were used for salaries and fringe benefits of the Housing Counseling Manager.

Tri-County Council for Western Maryland -- Amount Awarded: **\$7,500** (Amount Requested: \$25,000)

Summary: The mission of the organization is to serve the constituent counties and to promote inter-jurisdictional communication on issues affecting the region and to provide local technical assistance and community development.

Grant funds were used to contract with Allegany County HRDC for the Retired Senior Volunteer Center. This grantee has been awarded a no-cost extension and will be completed by August 30, 2011.

Upper Shore Regional Council -- Amount Awarded: **\$12,900** (Amount Requested: \$19,956)

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 assist USRC in following hospitals, county health offices, and other medical resources will come together to collaborate, explore specific telemedicine applications, and develop a strategy for implementing telemedicine programs to provide better services to our patients and a greater level of information for our patients to understand and best treat their medical conditions. The funds will be used for salary, fringe benefits, travel, consultant services, and community meetings.

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All MAERDAF Grantees -- FY 2001 to FY 2011											
Grantee Organization	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2007	FY2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	Total
Allegany College					\$15,000						\$15,000
Arc Northern Chesapeake Region								\$5,700			\$5,700
Carroll Community College (AATC)	\$15,875	\$7,220									\$23,095
Cecil Community College					\$14,950						\$14,950
Center for Children						\$13,100			\$14,700		\$27,800
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
College of Southern MD								-\$2,962			\$47,913
Community Foundation of the ES								\$14,500			\$14,500
Delmarva Advisory Council	\$20,000										\$20,000
Delmarva Education Foundation						\$15,000	\$12,869	\$22,252			\$50,121
Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship						\$9,800			\$17,962	\$10,000	\$37,762
Evergreen Heritage Foundation										\$16,200	\$16,200
Friend of the Grape							\$20,000				\$20,000
Future Harvest, Inc.	\$20,000	\$18,500	\$20,000	\$5,000			\$2,330				\$65,830
Garrett Community College (AAATC)	\$20,000	\$22,000	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$9,500						\$81,500
Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay						\$10,000	\$5,000				\$15,000
Habitat for Humanity of Talbot County						\$32,000	\$21,500	\$30,000	\$12,000	\$13,000	\$108,500
Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology										\$3,000	\$3,000
LEAD Maryland	\$23,500	\$30,000	\$29,180	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$35,000	\$32,000	\$30,000	\$12,000	\$8,000	\$227,680
Lower Shore Broadband Cooperative						\$12,958	\$20,000				\$32,958
Lower Shore Child Care Resource Ctr						\$9,362					\$9,362
MAC, Inc.							\$13,105	\$25,000	\$26,000	\$3,200	\$67,305
MD Agricultural Education Fund	\$20,000	\$28,400	\$28,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$32,660					\$119,060

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MD Association of Soil Conservation Districts (Environthon)	\$20,000	\$17,200	\$6,500	\$10,000	\$7,900	\$10,495	\$9,800	\$19,000	\$7,000		\$107,895
MD Capital Enterprises						\$19,000	\$21,625			\$15,000	\$55,625
MD Center for Community Development (Rural Training)	\$20,000	\$20,000									\$40,000
MD Dairy Shrine									\$1,750		\$1,750
MD Eastern Shore RC&D Council	\$6,000										\$6,000
MD FFA Foundation, Inc.						\$6,500	\$8,000				\$14,500
MD Forests Association	\$20,000	\$20,000					\$5,000	\$5,000	\$1,500	\$3,500	\$55,000
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		\$8,200	\$246,368
MD Rural Health Association	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$35,000	\$10,000	\$4,000	\$5,000		\$4,173	\$18,000	\$8,000	\$164,173
MD Rural Water Association	\$21,000										\$21,000
Medbank of MD						\$15,000					\$15,000
Microenterprise Council of MD			\$30,000	\$10,000	\$29,600	\$5,000	\$12,000	\$12,500			\$99,100
Mid-Shore Regional Council				\$10,000		\$24,000	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$19,000	\$13,215	\$114,215
Mountain Laurel Medical Center							\$44,000				\$44,000
Rural Maryland Foundation										\$4,600	\$4,600
Salisbury University - BEACON		\$24,320									\$24,320
Southern MD RC&D Council	\$6,000	\$21,000	\$15,000								\$42,000
Southern MD TCCAC										\$3,685	\$3,685
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		\$7,500	\$60,000
Tri-State Community Health Center			\$30,000	\$17,792							\$47,792
UMES - Rural Development Center			\$50,000		\$12,000						\$62,000
Upper Shore Regional Council				\$10,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$13,600	\$15,000	\$12,900	\$71,500
Western MD RC&D Council	\$6,000										\$6,000
Total Grants	\$347,000	\$346,140	\$405,680	\$132,192	\$147,658	\$319,925	\$288,739	\$261,188	\$144,912	\$130,000	\$2,574,309
Average Grant Amount	\$19,278	\$26,626	\$27,045	\$10,169	\$10,547	\$15,235	\$16,041	\$16,509	\$13,000	\$8,666	\$15,027

There was no MAERDAF Funding in 2006