

Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF)

FY17 Annual Report

Photo courtesy of Tri-County Council Foundation, Project Opportunity, 2016 Fall Graduation Ceremony



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Overview

The Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) is funded through the state of Maryland's Annual Operating Budget. MAERDAF provides small grants to nonprofit organizations and community colleges located in the State's rural areas. In Fiscal Year 2016, MAERDAF received \$167,000 in appropriations and awarded 16 grants to rural-serving organizations.

Nonprofit organizations and community colleges in our State's rural regions often lack the access to 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.

History

The Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) was established in 2000 to offer 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.



FY 2017 Program

The Rural Maryland Council was pleased to receive \$167,000 in a General Fund Appropriation for MAERDAF in Fiscal Year 2017. At the end of Fiscal Year 2016, there were \$0.00 in remaining funds from FY 2016 projects.

FY 2017 MAERDAF Grant Review Board

- **Mindie Burgoyne**, Regional Development Representative, Maryland Department of Business & Economic Development - Upper Shore
- **Karen Fedor**, Senior Agricultural Marketing Specialist, Maryland Department of Agriculture
- **Temi Oshiyoye**, Director, State Office of Rural Health, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- **Dan Rider**, Maryland DNR Forest Service, Forest Stewardship & Utilization Program Manager
- **Dona Sorce**, Project Manager, Division of Neighborhood Revitalization, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development
- **Angela Spencer**, Correctional Classification Specialist, Frederick County Sheriff's Office

MAERDAF Coordinator

- **Charlotte Davis**, Executive Director, Rural Maryland Council

MAERDAF Grant Awards

MAERDAF grants supports small and agricultural businesses with enhanced training and technical assistance, and rural nonprofit organizations that promote statewide and regional planning, economic and community development, and agricultural and forestry education. In FY 2017, the average grant amount awarded was \$13,236.12. **During FY 2017, a total of 95 applications were submitted with a total of \$2,026,212.28 requested.** A total of 42 grants totaling \$555,917.00 were distributed to 42 organizations. Of the total awarded grants, 27 were supported by RMPIF funds. The remainder of the grant awards were funded from FY17 MAERDAF funds appropriated through a separate line-item in the State's Operating Budget.

FY 2017 MAERDAF Grantees (RMPIF Funded)				
Applicant	Category	Region	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Allegany College of Maryland	Community College	Western	\$9,000.00	\$7,185.00
Allegany Health Right	Health	Western	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 9,580.00
Asian American Center of Frederick	Health	Western	\$13,880.00	\$13,297.00
Bay Area Center for Independent Living	Economic/Community Development	Eastern	\$15,100.00	\$6,227.00
Chesterwye Center, Inc./Benedictine School	Health	Eastern	\$26,500.00	\$15,807.00
Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust	Ag/Forestry	Southern	\$29,020.00	\$22,513.00
Crossroads Community, Inc.	Health	Eastern	\$5,330.00	\$3,682.70
Delmarva Community Services, Inc.	Health	Eastern	\$30,000.00	\$14,370.00
Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center	Health	Eastern	\$30,000.00	\$21,555.00
Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation	Ag/Forestry	Western	\$30,000.00	\$11,304.40
Farming 4 Hunger	Economic/Community Development	Southern	\$30,000.00	\$14,370.00
For All Seasons, Inc.	Health	Eastern	\$30,000.00	\$21,788.75
Frederick CTC/FFA Alumni	Ag/Forestry	Western	\$30,000.00	\$14,370.00
Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology	Ag/Forestry	Eastern	\$15,000.00	\$8,143.00
Heart of the Civil War Heritage Center	Econ/Community Dev	Western	\$13,355.00	\$12,794.09
LEAD Maryland Foundation	Ag/Forestry	Statewide	\$30,000.00	\$19,160.00
MAC, Inc.	Health	Eastern	\$15,040.00	\$5,786.32
Maryland Business Incubation Association	Economic/Community Development	Statewide	\$17,800.00	\$11,496.00

Maryland Farmers Market Association	Economic/Community Development	Statewide	\$17,675.00	\$16,932.65
Maryland Forest Association	Ag/Forestry	Statewide	\$5,700.00	\$5,460.60
MedStar St. Mary's Hospital	Health	Southern	\$30,000.00	\$23,950.00
Preservation Maryland	Economic/Community Development	Statewide	\$30,000.00	\$19,160.00
SHORE UP!	Economic/Community Development	Eastern	\$16,313.80	\$15,628.62
Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Board, Inc.	Ag/Forestry	Southern	\$30,000.00	\$22,034.00
Spring Dell Center, Inc.	Economic/Community Development	Southern	\$30,000.00	\$14,370.00
Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art	Economic/Community Development	Eastern	\$30,000.00	\$14,370.00
Western Maryland Resource Conservation and Development, Inc.	Ag/Forestry	Western	\$20,000.00	\$19,160.00
TOTAL			\$589,713.80	\$384,495.17

MAERDAF Grant Awards– Scopes of Work

Allegany College of Maryland

– Award Amount: \$7,185

Summary: Allegany College of Maryland is a lifelong learning community dedicated to excellence in education and responsive to the changing needs of the communities served.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding provided matching funds for a Volunteer Maryland Coordinator member position to assist with the founding efforts of a two-county Volunteer Center that will serve citizens in Allegany & Garrett Counties. The Volunteer Maryland Coordinator has built a volunteer website platform that will be used to train organizations on how to support their missions in their communities.

In addition, the Volunteer Maryland Coordinator has collected 118 pounds of food for the Western Maryland Food Bank, which has been distributed to 20-25 families. The Volunteer Maryland Coordinator member has also organized and recruited 20 community volunteers to clean-up a local city park (five acres) that included an abandoned cemetery.

Allegany Health Right

– Award Amount: \$9,580

Summary: Allegany Health Right's mission is to increase access to health care services for low-income adults in Allegany and Garrett Counties.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding has supported the Dental Access Program serving Allegany and Garrett Counties. The Dental Access Program provides urgent dental treatment for adults in the target population, delivers oral health education through presentations and appointments, and provides

follow up with project participants via meetings, phone and email.

106 individuals have agreed to participate in one on one oral health improvement follow-ups with a Community Health Worker. The Community Health Worker has also conducted ten community presentations, reaching 191 vulnerable adults and their caregivers. The Community Health Worker also participated in larger outreach events, such as a Senior Fair. In a four month time, 1,955 people were reached out to through these larger events. Allegany Health Right provided urgent dental care to over 162 low income adults in 236 dental visits for a total of \$100,237 worth of services.

Asian American Center of Frederick

– ***Award Amount: \$13,297.04***

Summary: The mission of the Asian American Center of Frederick (AACF) is to support ethnic minorities and immigrants in their pursuit of the American dream. AACF works to eliminate barriers to health care, employment, and human services.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding partially supported the coordination of the Community Health Worker (CHW) program and Retired and Senior Volunteer (RSVP) program, as part of the Minority Outreach and Technical Assistance program to address health disparities. Funding supported the development of an integrated service and outreach model to improve access to preventive care for Frederick and neighboring county residents by the newly developed CHW program, a coordinated plan for using Community Health Workers in partnership with Frederick Memorial Hospital, Frederick County Health Department and other providers, and delivery of three Health Disparity slideshow programs to ethnic minority business/community non-health leadership groups.

The October 2016 Health Fair collected 172 Health Disparity surveys and provided direct health services to 811 attendees. The first official Community Health Worker cohort has been developed, with participants having accomplished 160 hours of training.

Bay Area Center for Independent Living

– ***Award Amount: \$6,227***

Summary: Through innovative services, Bay Area Center for Independent Living empowers and inspires people with disabilities to build a better tomorrow.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported the Vocational Training Program to allow students with disabilities to gain employment skills in Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties. The funding provided for the purchase of four touch screen computers for the vocational demonstration lab.

Chesterwye Center, Inc. and Benedictine School

– ***Award Amount: \$15,807***

Summary: The mission of the Chesterwye Center, Inc. is to enhance the lives of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to explore their possibilities toward informed choice and personal independence. The Benedictine School helps children and adults with developmental disabilities to achieve their greatest potential.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding provided training to direct support professionals to meet the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) Community Rule that requires that people with intellectual/developmental disabilities must live in community settings and work or volunteer in community businesses. Chesterwye and Benedictine contracted with the National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (NADSP) to conduct two days of training with the Direct Support Professionals.

Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust

– Award Amount: \$22,513

Summary: Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust (CPNHT) is a non-profit Trust located in Calvert County. Their mission is to preserve and protect ecologically sensitive sites in Southern Maryland through land conservation, acquisition, scientific research, and environmental education.

Program Funds: MAERDAF provided a portion of a living and travel stipend for a Volunteer Maryland Coordinator for training. Funding was used to hire a part-time teacher to develop long-term regional support partnerships to ensure program longevity, present education trainings for Southern Maryland teachers and conduct student service learning. The Volunteer Maryland Coordinator has assisted with recruiting 20 students to plant native plants to increase visibility and attractiveness of trail map signs.

In addition, eight Girl Scouts and four Scout Leaders have been recruited to assist with marking trails. The first Maryland Master Naturalist program in St. Mary’s County has been established and consulted with Calvert County’s American Chestnut Land Trust on Master Naturalist program for best practices and lessons learned. 20 volunteer candidates from Calvert and St. Mary’s have been accepted into the Master Naturalist training program. 10 experts from Central and Southern Maryland region have been recruited to present Master Naturalist training.

Crossroads Community, Inc.

– Award Amount: \$3,682.70

Summary: The mission of Crossroads Community, Inc. is to teach skills and to access resources that empower people with behavioral health needs to live satisfying and productive lives. Crossroads promotes community acceptance through advocacy and community education.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding helped to establish "natural supports" in the community for individuals managing mental illness. Funds supported a Volunteer Maryland Coordinator placement and associated expenses to recruit community volunteers and cultivate partnerships. To date, the Volunteer Maryland Coordinator has recruited four individuals to volunteer for Crossroads Community as Companions to consumers or in an administrative capacity.

Delmarva Community Services, Inc.

– Award Amount: \$14,370

Summary: Delmarva Community Services, Inc. (DCS), is a multi-service, nonprofit agency dedicated to helping people who wish to maintain dignity, and an independent lifestyle within their community on the Delmarva Peninsula.



Horticulture Training Center participants, Photo Courtesy of Delmarva Community Services

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding increased access to the local community for DCS individuals and developed new partnerships and opportunities for job skills training. In addition, funding increased the number of Horticultural Training Center clients with community-centered goals. Funds supported the purchase of a vehicle for the Horticulture Training Center, capable of carrying 12 passengers and handling a large volume of sales products.

Individuals in the program have learned how to care for plants, how to volunteer in the community in horticulture and agriculture-related activities, and how to sell products that they have worked hard on. For the third year in a row, the Horticulture Training Center sold handmade, fresh Fraser Fir wreaths during the

holiday season. Sales for the wreaths were the highest ever with a total of \$3,000.00 sold, an increase of \$800.00 from the previous year.

Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center

– Award Amount: \$21,555

Summary: Through collaborative partnerships, the Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center (AHEC) will become a leader in providing educational services and programs to assist rural communities in the retention and recruitment of health care professionals.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding has trained a cohort of 15 Community Health Workers (CHWs) to meet demands of current health care deficit on the Eastern Shore. Assistance in job placement was provided for all trained CHWs upon training completion.



Evergreen Barn Project, Photo Courtesy of Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation

Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation

– Award Amount: \$11,304.40

Summary: The Evergreen Heritage Center (EHC) Foundation is dedicated to utilizing experiential learning to provide rural Maryland's citizens with the knowledge and practical experience to compete in today's economy. To achieve that goal, the Foundation has partnered with the region's academic and business communities to collaborate in leveraging the resources of the EHC, as well as its partners' expertise, to develop an outdoor learning center that provides hands-on education for children, youth, and adults.

Program Funds: The purpose of the Evergreen Barn Project is to repair and renovate the Evergreen Barn, originally built in the late 1700s and now part of Federal Hill/Evergreen which is listed on both the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties and the National

Register. Repairs and renovations resulted in the preservation and repurposing of an historic Maryland structure that will serve as both a farm museum and venue for education and events while exemplifying the story of sustainable agriculture and forestry.

Beginning in the fall 2016 (and continuing throughout the school year), visiting early childhood, middle, high school, and college students learned about the Barn and the Barn Project. 612 students learned how the Barn supported farming at the Evergreen Heritage Center, its role on the farm, and the farm's soil and water resources. 104 college students and other adults gained knowledge focused on the Project itself including the design, use of heritage technology, and the Barn's role in the history of the farm.

Farming 4 Hunger

– Award Amount: \$14,370

Summary: Farming 4 Hunger's mission is to feed the hungry and help feed the soul. Farming 4 Hunger serves the Southern Maryland community, as well as the State through partnerships with the Maryland Food Bank.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding prepared incarcerated men in Pre-Release for living in the outside world by developing skills, including agricultural education. Funding assisted inmates and supported the development of business relationships for employment opportunities in Southern Maryland. The program has been successful in recruiting three guest mentors to discuss financial literacy, banking, math and English remediation skills to eight inmates currently serving on the Farm in individual and group sessions. In 2016, Farming 4 Hunger exceeded their goal of recruiting 5,000 volunteers and visitors by recruiting 16,000

volunteers, and held a successful Taste of the Farm event to promote awareness in the community.

For All Seasons, Inc.

– Award Amount: \$21,788.75

Summary: For All Season’s mission is to provide trauma-certified mental health services, including 24-hour crisis hotlines, in Spanish and English, psychiatric and medication management, psychotherapy, school-based mental health services, group/therapy/support groups, and crisis response and support services for rape and sexual assault victims.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported the costs to become accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). Accreditation allows For All Seasons, Inc. to build institutional capacity to serve citizens of the five Mid-Shore counties with the highest quality of services.

Frederick CTC/FFA Alumni

– Award Amount: \$14,370

Summary: The mission of the Frederick Career and Technology Center (CTC) and Future Farmers of America (FFA) Alumni Association is to support and advocate for agricultural education and the Future Farmers of America (FFA) through gifts of time, talent and financial resources at the local, state and national levels.



*Frederick CTC Student with Bee Smoker,
Photo Courtesy of Frederick CTC*

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported the entrepreneurial agriculture program for Career and Technology Education students and promoted community-based agricultural enterprises in Frederick, Carroll and Washington Counties. Three nucs have been purchased for the spring, in addition to hive supplies. In addition, items were also purchased to help the honeybees survive the winter.

Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology at the University of Maryland

– Award Amount: \$8,143

Summary: The mission of the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology is to promote the economic viability and environmental sustainability of Maryland’s farms and forests. The Center accomplishes this mission by funding applied research that is used to create policies and new management practices, as well as promote policy change and educate the public.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding increased the understanding of the poultry industry in Maryland by providing a platform for learning new technologies and solutions, creating a dialogue among diverse stakeholders and determining areas that need additional education and research among planners of the Eastern Shore’s nine counties. Funding supported a Poultry 101 Symposium and Planners' Meeting in May 2017.

Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area

– Award Amount: \$12,794.09

Summary: The mission of the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area is to promote stewardship of the historic, cultural and natural Civil War resources of Carroll, Frederick and Washington Counties.



Program Funds: MAERDAF funding created a historical geocache trail to inspire geocache enthusiasts to learn about Civil War history, as well as encourage economic development by encouraging eating, drinking, shopping and lodging along the trail in Carroll, Washington, and Frederick Counties.

*Heart of the Civil War GeoTrail Kick-Off Event,
Photo courtesy of Heart of the Civil War*

200 geocoins were claimed within one month of the trail month. 25 teams completed the geotrail between November 2016 to January 2017. Of the 180 participants who completed the trail, 54% were Marylanders, 79% lives outside of the boundaries of the Heritage Areas, 89% reported purchasing a snack/meal, 71% reported purchasing gas, and 8% reported spending a night in a hotel in a Heritage Area.

LEAD Maryland Foundation

– Award Amount: \$19,160

Summary: LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc. is dedicated to identifying and developing leadership to serve agriculture, natural resources, and rural communities.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding increased the overall capacity of the LEAD Maryland training program, to build the capacity of rural Maryland. Funds were implemented for four in-state multi-day seminars and to purchase the necessary equipment for Class IX Seminar 9 and Class X Fellows Seminars 1-3.

Maintaining Active Citizens, Inc. (MAC, Inc.)

– Award Amount: \$5,786.32

Summary: MAC, Inc. is the area agency on aging and disability resource center for Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties. Its mission is to preserve a dignified quality of life for older adults through serves that maintain healthy independent living, and help them manage challenges as they become frail.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported The Life After Breast Cancer program that serves women in rural communities on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, primarily Wicomico, Somerset and Worcester Counties. The project addresses the significant health issue of breast and gynecological cancer survivorship and particularly the correlation between weight gain and cancer recurrence of women in these communities who are underserved, underinsured and often financially vulnerable. To date, six breast cancer survivors were successfully recruited into the weight loss program.

Maryland Business Incubation Association

– ***Award Amount: \$11,496***

Summary: The Maryland Business Incubation Association (MBIA) was founded in 2002 to advance business incubation in Maryland. Representing 25 incubators, MBIA supports nearly 550 companies across the state in both urban and rural areas. Since its inception, our incubators have generated 11,800 jobs, making it equivalent to one of the state's largest employers.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding facilitated greater attendance by rural entrepreneurs, especially those who are underserved, at Maryland TEDCO's Entrepreneur Expo, an annual statewide conference highlighting entrepreneurs and new startup businesses. 58 participants from rural Maryland communities attended the TEDCO Entrepreneur Expo in November 2016. The breakout session presented on rural entrepreneurship was successfully executed, and several attendees commented on its value to panel members post-session.

Maryland Farmers Market Association

– ***Award Amount: \$16,932.65***

Summary: The mission of the Maryland Farmers Market Association (MDFMA) is to cultivate a vibrant and sustainable farmers' market community in Maryland as a means of supporting local agricultural producers, providing access to fresh, nutritious foods for all, and cultivating positive community spaces.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported Maryland's farmers markets by increasing the capacity of rural market farmers to effectively market directly to consumers through farmers markets thereby increasing their profits and the markets' capacity to provide sustainable community benefit. Funding provided 40 hours of technical assistance to market managers, hosted two in-person trainings to 45 attendees, and developed a *Guide to Selling at Maryland Farmers' Markets* publication.

Maryland Forest Association

– ***Award Amount: \$5,460.60***

Summary: The mission of the 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.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding increased awareness of value-added products and services opportunities associated with forest products. The Maryland Forests Association also increased knowledge of forestry organizations that exist in the State and that serve as resources to private landowners and forestry professionals; enhance Maryland's forestry community; improved communication and awareness of forestry-related resource organizations; and, strengthened and forged relationships between Maryland Forest Association and other rural and natural resources-based organizations.

Funding supported three educational workshops during the fall 2016 in Allegany, Baltimore, and Wicomico Counties to offer maximized opportunity for individuals from across the State to attend, as well as to address region-specific issues. A total of 120 attendees, including 14 forestry students, attended the three workshops.

MedStar St. Mary's Hospital

– ***Award Amount: \$23,950***

Summary: MedStar St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown, Maryland is a community hospital that upholds its tradition of caring by continuously promoting, maintaining and improving health through education and services while assuring quality care, patient safety, and fiscal integrity.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding expanded education, outreach, and basic health screenings across Southern Maryland. Funding supported the purchase and customization of a mobile resource vehicle and equipment for outreach events. To date, MedStar St. Mary's Hospital has reached 2,200 residents in Charles and St. Mary's Counties at 30 various community events and programs. 198 patients have received follow-up calls and referrals for services based on outcomes of screenings and assessments.

Preservation Maryland

– ***Award Amount: \$19,160***

Summary: Preservation Maryland works to protect the historic places, stories, and communities in Maryland that matter, and dedicated to preserving Maryland's historic buildings, neighborhoods, landscapes, and archeological sites through advocacy, funding, and outreach.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding helped rural homeowners of historic properties in the nine counties of the Eastern Shore become aware of the tax credit program for historic preservation and help them access resources to preserve their houses.

Preservation Maryland conducted four in-person educational workshops for owners of historic properties, two in-person workshops for preservation commission members and preservation professionals, and two educational webinars for property owners. Preservation Maryland successfully contacted a total of 8,465 individuals as a part of the workshops and outreach.

SHORE UP!

– ***Award Amount: \$15,628.62***

Summary: SHORE UP! Inc. is dedicated to building communities, changing lives, and empowering individuals and families to maintain long-term independence and achieve economic self-sufficiency, through a comprehensive system of services and resources on the Eastern Shore.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported the Out-of-School Youth (OSY) Services Program, which is intended to ensure youth ages 16-24 have the education they need to succeed on the job, while providing them with specific occupational skills training, work experiences, and supportive services so that they may become and remain gainfully employed, especially in professions in high demand. Funds created a computer work lab for students, including the purchase of computers, educational software and computer lab furniture.

Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Board, Inc.

– ***Award Amount: \$22,034***

Summary: The mission of the Southern Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Board, Inc., is to accelerate the conservation, education, development and utilization of natural resources, improve the general level of economic activity, and enhance the environment and standard of living.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported the 2017 National Conservation Foundation Envirothon Competition at Mount St. Mary's University in Frederick County. Funding provided for the rental facilities for the Competition participants. 385 students and teachers from across the United States and Canada

participated in the Competition.

Spring Dell Center, Inc.

– Award Amount: \$14,370

Summary: Spring Dell Center, Inc. is dedicated to assisting individuals with disabilities in achieving their highest level of independence by providing support, opportunities, and employment for the quality of life they desire within their community.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding provided support for wheelchair-bound individuals in St. Mary’s, Charles, and Calvert Counties to increase the number of non-ambulatory individuals receiving education, employment and skills training in the community. Funding was used to purchase a used wheel-chair lift vehicle.

Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art

– Award Amount: \$14,370

Summary: The Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art is dedicated to exhibiting, collecting, and promoting wildfowl art and wildfowling heritage.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported outfitting of the new John A Luetkemeyer Sr. and Thomas F. Mullan Jr. Legacy Center as a state-of-the-art learning space to meet the growing demand for educational programs. Funding was used to purchase a visual display and audio equipment.

Western Maryland Resource Conservation and Development, Inc.

– Award Amount: \$19,160

Summary: The mission of the Western Maryland Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. is to build and sustain resource conservation programs, raising the quality of social, economic and environmental development in our region.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding provided building and equipment needs to further expand educational and operational activities at Frostburg Grows. Funding supported the purchase of a compact tractor with front-end loader, and construction of a 24’ x 40’ multi-purpose building site on Frostburg Grows.



*Volunteer Maryland Coordinators,
Photo Courtesy of Crossroads
Community*

FY 2017 MAERDAF Grantees By Region (Total)			
	# Grantees	Total Awarded	% of grant funds awarded
Eastern Shore (9 Counties)	18	\$215,147.78	39%
Southern Maryland (3Counties)	8	\$134,483.08	24%
Western Maryland (5Counties)	8	\$106,850.53	19%
Statewide	8	\$ 99,435.61	18%
Total	42	\$555,917.00	100%

FY 2017 MAERDAF Grantees by Category (Total)			
	# Grantees	Total Awarded	% of grant funds awarded
Health Care	10	\$138,766.64	23%
Regional Council	2	\$20,692.80	3.70%
ATC/Community College	3	\$21,108.57	3.80%
Economic/Community Development	14	\$185,797.20	33%
Ag/Forestry Education	13	\$189,551.79	34%
Total	42	\$555,917.00	100%



Remainder of MAERDAF Awards

The following list contain the scope of work of the remainder of the MAERDAF grant awards which were funded from FY17 MAERDAF funds appropriated through a separate line-item in the State’s Operating Budget. In addition to the \$2,167,000.00 received for RMPIF, the RMC also received an additional \$167,000.00 in a separate line-item for MAERDAF funds.

FY 2017 MAERDAF Grantees (Non-RMPIF Funded)				
Applicant	Category	Region	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Chesapeake College Foundation	Community College	Eastern	\$23,200.00	\$8,526.20
Compass Regional Hospice	Health	Eastern	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 16,286.00
Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc.	Economic/Community Development	Western	\$30,000.00	\$19,160.00
Historic St. Mary’s City Foundation	Ag/Forestry Education	Southern	\$30,000.00	\$14,370.00
Lifestyles of Maryland Foundation	Economic/Community Development	Southern	\$9,779.00	\$9,368.28
Lower Shore Land Trust	Ag/Forestry Education	Eastern	\$19,320.76	\$9,262.90
Maryland Forestry Foundation	Ag/Forestry Education	Statewide	\$22,000.00	\$18,297.80
Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts	Ag/Forestry Education	Statewide	\$30,000.00	\$4,790.00
Queen Anne’s County/ Allegany County Public Library System	Economic/Community Development	Statewide	\$4,320.00	\$4,138.56
Tri-County Council Foundation	Regional Planning	Southern	\$15,000.00	\$7,185.00
Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland	Regional Planning	Southern	\$14,100.00	\$13,507.80
True Oyster Restoration Initiative, Inc.	Ag/Forestry Education	Southern	\$21,593.00	\$20,686.09
Tuckahoe Habitat for Humanity, Inc.	Economic/Community Development	Eastern	\$28,000.00	\$13,412.00
Women Supporting Women	Health Care	Eastern	\$7,342.20	\$7,033.83
Wor-Wic Community College	Community College	Eastern	\$21,834.00	\$5,397.37
TOTAL			\$290,388.96	\$171,421.83



Hoop House and Flower Sale, Photo Courtesy of Chesapeake College Foundation

MAERDAF Grant Awards– Scopes of Work

Chesapeake College Foundation

– Award Amount: \$8,526.20

Summary: The Foundation’s mission is to enhance student learning through the support of scholarships, technology and programs for Chesapeake College. Chesapeake College prepares students from diverse backgrounds to excel in further education and employment in a global society.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported the establishment of a high tunnel operation on campus for use as a hands-on teaching tool in the agriculture degree program. Funds developed a high tunnel

management student internship program for implementation summer 2017, and developed a strategy with specific activities and a timeline for collaboration with high schools for implementation fall 2017. 15 students received hands-on learning, and 90% of participating students responded positively to a survey of their experience with the high tunnel and its connection to their coursework.

Compass Hospice Regional

– Award Amount: \$16,286.00

Summary: Compass Hospice Regional team offers individuals, families and the community “care on your terms” through comprehensive, professional and compassionate end-of-life care and grief support.

Program Funds: Funding supported the existing Hope & Healing Centers in Queen Anne's, Kent and Caroline Counties. Specifically, MAERDAF funds were used to support Camp New Dawn, an annual camp for children and families, and to provide grief support services not covered by insurance. To date, a total of 26 elementary school children, 49 middle school and 32 high school students participated in grief support services. A total of 19 adults participated in grief support services.

Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc.

– Award Amount: \$19,160.00

Summary: The mission of Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc. is to improve the quality of life for people in need by empowering them to become more self-sufficient and by providing essential services in collaboration and cooperation with partners.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding was used to build the capacity to create greater family economic security in Allegany and Garrett Counties by enabling career coaching services and career ladder opportunities. This included attainment of a families’ identified Career Advance Pathway Plan goal(s) reflective in creating greater economic security and wealth building, families pursuing education/career advancement, parents completing certifications, families increasing stability and economic security, and families completing the Crisis to Thrive (C2T) Family Wellness Composite.

Historic St. Mary's City Foundation

– Award Amount: \$14,370.00

Summary: The mission of the Historic St. Mary's City is to preserve and protect the archeological and historical record of Maryland's first colonial capital and to appropriately develop and use this historic and scenic site for the education, employment, and general benefit of the public.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported the construction of a wooden, timber-frame pavilion with flexible enclosures (sliding wooden slides) to provide covered space for the comfort and convenience of museum visitors.

Lifestyles of Maryland Foundation

– Award Amount: \$9,368.28

Summary: Lifestyles of Maryland Foundation's mission is to support people in crisis by providing emergency assistance through partnerships and provide referrals for health and human services.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding improved the mobility of the targeted population in accessing employment opportunities and increased the capability to provide more efficient transportation services. Funding supported the purchase of web-based transportation dispatch software, set-up fees, and training to enable more effective transportation services for Southern Maryland citizens.

Lower Shore Land Trust

– Award Amount: \$9,262.90

Summary: Lower Shore Land Trust is dedicated to preserving rural lands, to promoting vibrant towns, and to building a more healthy and connected Eastern Shore.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported the production of materials necessary to promote the new location of the Lower Shore Land Trust and create an environment to present programs, thus building capacity to conduct outreach. Funding supported the purchase of business cards, organizational brochures, and conference room equipment including a computer work station, table and chairs. Lower Shore Land Trust hosted five First Friday events to date with 50 attendees and 20 new names were added to the mailing distribution list.



Photo Courtesy of Maryland Forestry Foundation

Maryland Forestry Foundation

– Award Amount: \$18,297.80

Summary: The Maryland Forestry Foundation's mission is to promote the stewardship, conservation, and sustainable use of Maryland's forest resources—urban, suburban and rural.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported the expansion of the Natural Resources Career Camp by creating a fellowship to be made available to a college student currently enrolled in a natural resource career field. The NRCC Fellow will work with Forestry Boards, high schools, forestry operators, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and other partner organizations to promote the NRCC and encourage enrollment. To date, the Fellow has attended seven Forestry Board meetings around the State of Maryland, presenting a wide range of promotional ideas specific to each county, and has documented each county's recruitment process and challenges.

Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts

– Award Amount: \$4,790.00

Summary: The mission of the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts is to promote practical and effective soil, water and related natural resources programs to all citizens. The Maryland Envirothon mission is to stimulate the interest of high school students in natural resources and have them grow as well-rounded learners and action-oriented adults.

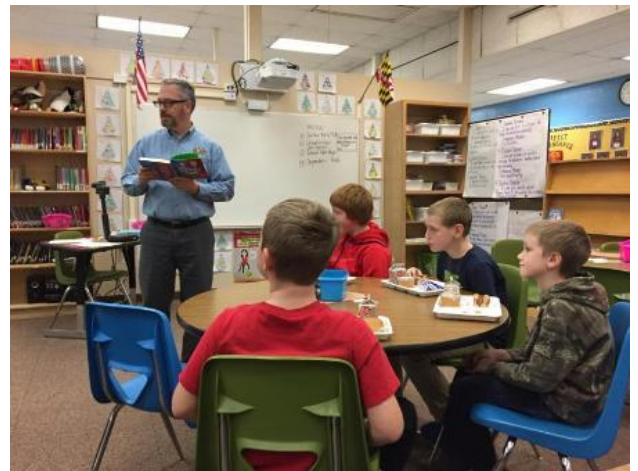
Program Funds: MAERDAF funding provided support for the purchase of equipment for the Maryland Envirothon Program, including the purchase of an off road utility vehicle and trailer to be used at the Maryland Envirothon competition.

Queen Anne’s County/Allegany County Public Library System

– Award Amount: \$4,138.56

Summary: Queen Anne's County Public Library educates and enriches the community through free access to resources. Allegany County Library System enriches people's lives by providing information, materials, services, and entertaining programs to promote the community, lifelong learning, and opportunity for all.

Program Funds: MAERDAF provided support for the Allegany and Queen Anne's County libraries Guys Read program for 4th and 5th grade boys, specifically the purchase of books for 5th grade boys in the coming school year. By the end of the school year, Queen Anne’s County volunteers made 58 visits to the school and Allegany County volunteers made 16 visits.



Guys Read Program, Photo Courtesy of Allegany County Public Library

Tri-County Council Foundation, Inc.

– Award Amount: \$7,185.00

Summary: The Tri-County Council Foundation will support economic development, job growth and retention and social development of the region by providing administrative and payroll services that will effectively utilize the public and private assistance provided to government agencies, nonprofits, and businesses.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported Project Opportunity, a program which provides entrepreneurship classes to veterans seeking employment in the Southern Maryland region. Funding provided consultant services, materials and supplies for the Project Opportunity entrepreneurship training classes for veterans. In November 2016, eight veterans completed the entrepreneurship course and graduated.

Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland

– Award Amount: \$13,507.80

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

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported the Mobile Career Center (MCC), a resource for providing employment and training services in the rural and remote areas in Southern Maryland where transportation is difficult or non-existent for individuals to attend “brick and mortar” career centers. Support included replacing a cracked windshield, updating the vehicle’s wrapping exterior, and purchasing monitors, routers and printers for information technology (IT) upgrades.

True Oyster Restoration Initiative, Inc.

– Award Amount: \$20,686.09

Summary: The mission of True Oyster Restoration Initiative, Inc. is to become a leading oyster aquaculture organization in the Chesapeake Bay region.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported the creation of an agri-tourism oyster trail to capture markets from tourism to showcase the industry in Southern Maryland. Funding supported the development of marketing materials, and an inaugural oyster trail ceremony.

Tuckahoe Habitat for Humanity, Inc.

– Award Amount: \$13,412.00

Summary: Tuckahoe Habitat for Humanity’s mission is to work in partnership with God and people everywhere, from all walks of life, to develop housing solutions for low-income families to live in affordable, safe, comfortable, and sustainable homes through: building new homes, rehabbing existing homes, doing repairs, weatherizations, and energy upgrades, so that there are decent houses available, in decent communities, in which every person can experience God’s love and can live and grow into all that God intends.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding supported the Tuckahoe ReStore, as well as to encourage volunteering, donations and employment to serve the residents of Queen Anne’s and Caroline Counties. Funds purchased a used box truck, marketing materials, installation of a HVAC system, and lighted signage and security system.

Women Supporting Women

– Award Amount: \$7,033.83

Summary: Women Supporting Women’s (WSW) mission is to provide awareness, education and support to all those affected by breast cancer. WSW provides people with the tools to make educated choices regarding their health.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funding was utilized to support the "Cooking for the New Me!" classes in spring 2017 to serve and support survivors of breast cancer and their families on the Lower Eastern Shore. Women Supporting Women held a healthy lifestyle program in the spring of 2017 designed to help change the way survivors approach healthy food selection and preparation. This objective was met through a series of four cooking classes using simple recipes with produce purchased from organic, local farmers’ markets.

Wor-Wic Community College

– Award Amount: \$5,397.37

Summary: Wor-Wic is a comprehensive community college that enhances local economic growth by addressing the educational, training and workforce development needs of the residents of Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset counties.

Program Funds: MAERDAF funds developed and implemented a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) course for individuals who are non-native English speakers following the Maryland Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (MI-BEST) model.



Photos Courtesy of Eastern Shore AHEC (top), Chesapeake College Foundation (bottom left), and Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area (bottom right).

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.maryland.gov
Rural Maryland Council 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401 (410) 841-5772*

All MAERDAF Grantees -- FY 2001 to FY 2017

Grantee Organization	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2007	FY2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY2017	Total
Adkins Arboretum, Ltd.													\$6,850			\$6,850
Allegheny College					\$15,000						\$16,812			\$25,000	\$7,185	\$56,812
Arc Northern Chesapeake Region								\$5,700								\$5,700
Allegheny County Human Development Resources Commission														\$8,638		\$8,638
Allegheny Health Right															\$9,580	\$9,580
Asian American Center of Frederick														\$6,500	\$13,297	\$6,500
Bay Center for Independent Living															\$6,227	\$6,227
Calvert County Farm Bureau														\$7,075		\$7,075
Caroline Economic Development Corporation													\$11,504			\$11,504
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							\$8,526	\$5,000
Chesapeake Fields Insitute	\$15,000	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$10,000		\$11,300										\$111,300
Chesapeake Leadership Foundation, Inc.														\$8,000		\$8,000
Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center, Inc.													\$10,000	\$10,000		\$20,000
Chester Bridge Foundation, Inc.					\$7,000	\$8,750										\$15,750
Chesterwye Center, Inc.															\$15,807	\$15,807
Technology Development Center)													\$11,500			\$11,500
College of Southern MD			\$25,000	\$10,000	\$10,000			\$2,913								\$47,913
Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore								\$14,500								\$14,500
Compass Regional Hospice															\$16,286	\$16,286
Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust															\$22,513	\$22,513
Crossroads Community, Inc.													\$4,875	\$4,875	\$3,683	\$9,750
Delmarva Advisory Council	\$20,000															\$20,000
Delmarva Education Foundation						\$15,000	\$12,869	\$22,252								\$50,121
Delmarva Community Services, Inc.															\$14,370	\$14,370
Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center															\$21,555	\$21,555
Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center						\$9,800			\$17,962	\$10,000	\$14,098		\$14,923	\$17,841		\$84,624
Enchanted Haven Horse Rescue													\$8,000			\$8,000
Energetics Technology Center												\$25,000				\$25,000
Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation, Inc.										\$16,200	\$18,749	\$21,705	\$23,500			\$80,154
Farming 4 Hunger															\$14,370	\$14,370
For All Seasons, Inc.															\$21,789	\$21,789
Frederick County Career & Tech FFA Alumni/Frederick Community														\$24,889	\$14,370	\$24,889
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
Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc.															\$19,160	\$19,160
Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay						\$10,000	\$5,000									\$15,000
Habitat for Humanity Choptank										\$13,000			\$6,150			\$19,150
Habitat for Humanity of Talbot County						\$32,000	\$21,500	\$30,000	\$12,000							\$95,500
Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology										\$3,000					\$8,143	\$3,000
Heart of the Civil War Heritage Center															\$12,794	\$12,794
Historic St. Mary's City Foundation															\$14,370	\$14,370
LEAD Maryland	\$23,500	\$30,000	\$29,180	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$35,000	\$32,000	\$30,000	\$12,000	\$8,000	\$25,000	\$25,000				\$277,680
LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc.													\$10,000	\$10,000	\$19,160	\$20,000
Lifestyles of Maryland Foundation															\$9,368	\$9,368
Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council											\$18,610					\$18,610
Lower Shore Broadband Cooperative						\$12,958	\$20,000									\$32,958
Lower Shore Child Care Resource Ctr						\$9,362										\$9,362
Lower Shore Land Trust													\$7,054		\$9,263	\$7,054

All MAERDAF Grantees -- FY 2001 to FY 2017

Grantee Organization	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2007	FY2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY2017	Total
Maintaining Active Citizens, Inc. (MAC, Inc.)							\$13,105	\$25,000	\$26,000	\$3,200	\$25,000	\$24,729		\$8,000	\$5,786	\$130,820
Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts													\$2,500	\$2,500	\$4,790	\$5,000
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	\$7,000			\$14,268				\$122,163
MD Business Incubation Association															\$11,496	\$11,496
MD Capital Enterprises						\$19,000	\$21,625			\$15,000	\$12,556					\$68,181
MD Center for Community Development (Rural Training)	\$20,000	\$20,000														\$40,000
MD Dairy Shrine									\$1,750							\$1,750
MD Eastern Shore Resource Conservation & Development Council	\$6,000															\$6,000
MD Farmers Market Association															\$16,933	\$16,933
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					\$5,460	\$55,000
MD Forestry Foundation															\$18,298	\$18,298
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	\$10,000					\$174,173
MD Rural Water Association	\$21,000															\$21,000
Medbank of MD						\$15,000										\$15,000
MedStar St. Mary's Hospital															\$23,950	\$23,950
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	\$18,731			\$3,500		\$136,446
Mountain Laurel Medical Center							\$44,000									\$44,000
Off Street Sports Performance													\$15,000			\$15,000
Preservation Maryland															\$19,160	\$19,160
Queen Anne's County Library/Allegany County Library														\$9,900	\$4,139	\$9,900
Rural Maryland Foundation									\$4,600							\$4,600
Salisbury University - BEACON		\$24,320														\$24,320
Salisbury University - Small Business and Technology Development Center												\$17,327				\$17,327
SHORE UP!															\$15,629	\$15,629
Southern MD Agricultural Development Commission											\$17,400	\$15,650				\$33,050
Southern MD Resource Conservation and Development Council	\$6,000	\$21,000	\$15,000												\$22,034	\$42,000
Spring Dell Center, Inc.															\$14,370	\$14,370
Heritage Area													\$15,500			\$15,500
Tri-County Council Foundation - Project Opportunity															\$7,185	\$7,185
Tri-County Council for Southern MD			\$30,000							\$3,685				\$11,900	\$13,508	\$45,585
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
True Oyster Restoration Initiative, Inc.															\$20,686	\$20,686
Tuckahoe Habitat for Humanity, Inc.															\$13,412	\$13,412
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	\$15,000	\$12,900	\$19,000	\$24,900				\$115,400
Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art													\$12,795		\$14,370	\$12,795
Western Maryland Area Health Education Center														\$8,350		\$8,350
Western Maryland Resource Conservation and Development													\$4,882			\$4,882
Western MD Regional Library												\$19,500				\$19,500
Western MD Resource Conservation and Development Council	\$6,000														\$19,160	\$6,000
Women Supporting Women, Inc.													\$4,908		\$7,034	\$11,942
Wor-Wic Community College															\$5,397	\$5,397
Total Grants	\$347,000	\$346,140	\$405,680	\$132,192	\$147,658	\$319,925	\$288,739	\$261,188	\$144,912	\$130,000	\$195,956	\$188,079	\$169,941	\$166,968	\$555,916	\$3,800,294
Average Grant Amount	\$19,278	\$26,626	\$27,045	\$10,169	\$10,547	\$15,235	\$16,041	\$16,324	\$13,174	\$8,667	\$17,814	\$20,898	\$9,997	\$10,436	\$13,236	\$235,486
Number of grantees	18	13	15	13	14	21	18	16	11	15	11	9	17	16	42	249