



MARYLAND
AGRICULTURAL
EDUCATION AND
RURAL
DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANCE FUND
ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2020



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 2020, MAERDAF received \$167,000.00 in appropriations and awarded 36 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.

FY2020 GRANT REVIEW BOARD

- **Mindie Burgoyne**, Regional Development Representative, Commerce - Upper Shore
- **Karen Fedor**, Senior Agricultural Marketing Specialist, Maryland Department of Agriculture
- **Dan Rider**, Forest Stewardship & Utilization Program Manager, Maryland Department of Natural Resource Forest Service
- **Sara Seitz**, Director, State Office of Rural Health
- **Dona Sorce**, Project Manager, Division of Neighborhood Revitalization, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development
- **Helen Wernecke**, Rural Maryland Chair Designee

MAERDAF Coordinator

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



Photos courtesy of Health Partners, Inc.

HISTORY

MAERDAF was established in 2000 with the purpose to increase the overall capacity of rural-serving nonprofit organizations and community colleges to meet a multitude of rural development challenges and to help them establish new public/private partnerships for leveraging non-state sources of funding.

This grant has the following four focus areas:

- Agriculture and Forestry Education
- Community and Economic Development
- Health Care
- Regional Planning

The Rural Maryland Council serves as the administrative agency in receiving the applications and disbursing the funds. Grant award decisions are made by the independent Grant Review Board set by law and consisting of the Secretaries (or their designee. Please refer to the side panel for a list of Board Members.

RMC grant projects must be regional (serving more than one county) and take place in a state-determined rural county. These counties include Allegany, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico, and Worcester. Regional projects may include non-rural counties but the majority of service must be provided in the State's rural areas.

COVID-19 Impacts

This past April, RMC staff reached out to FY2020 Grantees by survey to learn how COVID-19 was impacting their work. The survey was sent out to 64 grantees and the Council received a total of 26 responses. Main challenges included but were not limited to both fundraising and program cancellation; inability to provide services; technology transitioning; and decline in donations. The Grant Review Board approved 6 month - 1 year extensions to 31% of Grantees due to pandemic related challenges.

MAERDAF GRANT AWARDS

The Fund's goal is to increase the overall capacity of rural-serving nonprofit organizations and community colleges to meet a multitude of rural development challenges and to help them establish new public/private partnerships for leveraging non-state sources of funding.

RMC was pleased to receive \$167,000.00 in General Fund Appropriation in FY2020. Due to the high interest of this program, the Grant Review Board approved the allocation of \$839,627.22 from the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) to MAERDAF. There were a total of 7 organizations funded by MAERDAF only funds and 29 organizations funded through the RMPIF Fund. While a match is not required for MAERDAF, it is highly encouraged due to the programs popularity. MAERDAF dollars matched totaled more than \$2,000,000 in FY2020.

FY2020 MAERDAF GRANTEES FUNDED

Awardee	Category	Region	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	Match Amount
Delmarva Discovery Center & Museum, Inc.	Agricultural and Forestry Education	Eastern	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$70,000.00
Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center	Agricultural and Forestry Education	Statewide	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation	Agricultural and Forestry Education	Western	\$19,200.00	\$19,200.00	\$14,820.00
Frederick CTC FFA Alumni	Agricultural and Forestry Education	Western	\$13,509.00	\$13,509.00	\$13,767.00
Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna	Community and Economic Development	Central	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$307,156.00
The Child and Family Foundation (1 Year to Empowerment)	Community and Economic Development	Eastern	\$8,128.00	\$4,064.00	\$4,328.00
Wicomico Farm and Home Show, Inc.	Agricultural and Forestry Education	Eastern	\$35,000.00	\$13,094.55	\$34,500.00
				\$169,867.55	
Unused FY19 Grant Agreements				-\$6,965.63	
		Final Total:	\$195,837.00	\$162,901.92	\$484,571.00

FY2020 MAERDAF FUNDED GRANTEES BY REGION

EASTERN SHORE

of Grantees: 16

Total Awarded: \$424,138.77

42% of funds awarded

CENTRAL MARYLAND

of Grantees: 2

Total Awarded: \$63,047.00

6% of funds awarded

SOUTHERN MARYLAND

of Grantees: 3

Total Awarded: \$72,300.00

7% of funds awarded

WESTERN MARYLAND

of Grantees: 5

Total Awarded: \$142,359.00

14% of funds awarded

STATEWIDE

of Grantees: 10

Total Awarded: \$307,650

31% of funds awarded

TOTAL

\$1,002,529.14



Photo Courtesy of Shore Gourmet, Mobile Farmers Market/Pantry Project

MAERDAF GRANT AWARD PROJECTS

Delmarva Discovery Center & Museum, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$40,000

Project Name - Delmarva Agriculture - Shore Proud

Summary - The Delmarva Discovery Museum, Inc. is 16,000 square feet of universally-accessible exhibits featuring the natural and cultural histories of Delmarva located on the Lower Shore of Maryland. The Museum built a new interactive exhibit called Delmarvalous Agriculture which will pay homage to the agriculture industry on the Shore. At the Museum, students and guests engage in content on agricultural supply chains, markets, crop science and natural resources, regional heritage, and ecological stewardship.

MAERDAF grant award funds provided the salaries and wages of an Education Coordinator. *Six month extension approved.*



Photo Courtesy of Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center from their event, Saltwater Intrusion Symposium

Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center

Amount Awarded - \$40,000

Project Name - Mitigating the Effects of Saltwater Intrusion on Agriculture

Summary - Rising sea levels and saltwater intrusion poses a growing threat to farms around the Chesapeake Bay. Saltwater intrusion endangers crops since few crops can tolerate salt. Approximately 20% of irrigated farmland in Maryland may already be partially salt contaminated contributing to poor yields. The Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center (ESEC or 'The Center') through the F3 Tech Accelerator program ('F3 Tech'), seeks to motivate and facilitate entrepreneurs and innovators in generating solutions that will help mitigate the problem and its negative impacts on the environment and agricultural yields. F3 Tech hosted a symposium on saltwater intrusion and the solutions which are in development and are needed to counter its effects. F3 Tech also held challenge events around the state to build a focus on the issue and the opportunities in this sector.

MAERDAF grant award funds provided for the consultation costs of the Eastern Shore GIS Regional Cooperative to map and assess Eastern Shore and Southern Maryland counties for contaminated fields and provided for Challenge Event awards, marketing and promotion.

MAERDAF GRANT AWARD PROJECTS

Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation

Amount Awarded - \$19,200

Project Name - Living off the Land Agricultural Museum

Summary - The Evergreen Heritage Center, serving Garrett and Allegany Counties, is establishing an agricultural museum in its newly restored historic barn. This project will share 200 years of rural Western Maryland farm life spanning the late 1700s when the farm was first established by the Grimes family through 1869 when the current owners (the Trimble family) acquired and then continued to farm the land. This Living Off the Land Agricultural Museum displays dozens of tools and implements to tell the story of the history of the farm; how the 200-year-old barn was built; the farm's bounty including fruits, vegetables, grains, wild foods, and animal products; its farm animals; and the farming process including planting, fertilizing, harvesting, milling, preserving, baking, and cooking, presented against the backdrop of the Barn's rustic stables.

MAERDAF grant award funds provided for the contractual costs for a preservation specialist, a carpenter, an artist, and an electrician; materials for museum renovation and outfitting including displays, lighting, signage, and brochures; and, educational, testing, and survey materials for students and visitors.

Frederick CTC FFA Alumni

Amount Awarded - \$13,509

Project Name - Mid Maryland Agricultural and Green Industry Career and College Fair

Summary - Nationwide, there is a shortage of students pursuing post-secondary education in agriculture and related fields and there exists a shortage of skilled labor for these careers. Seeking to showcase the opportunities in these fields, the Frederick Career and Technology Center and Future Farmers of America Alumni will host the Mid Maryland Agricultural and Green Industry Career and College Fair (MAGICC Fair). With students from the rural counties of Carroll, Frederick, and Washington invited to attend, the MAGICC Fair demonstrates the career possibilities of agricultural and green industries. For 2020, MAGICC plans to expand to include an area for students to showcase their skills for potential employers including: equipment operation, irrigation, hardscape installation, plumbing and electrical.

MAERDAF grant award funds will provide for transportation costs for students to attend the rescheduled event in fall 2020; publications and documents such as a vendor map, marketing materials, posters and banners; and, costs of substitute teacher coverage. *Six month extension approved.*

Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna

Amount Awarded - \$40,000

Project Name - Critical Home Repairs for Low-Income Families

Summary - In Fiscal Year 2020, Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna, serving Cecil and Harford Counties, participated in demonstration project called Project CAPABLE (Community Aging in Place - Advancing Better Living for Elders). A nurse, occupational therapist, and carpenter/handyman worked as a team to improve independence and mobility, manage chronic symptoms, and decrease health care costs for adults aged 70 and older struggling with activities of daily living. The organization assessed the overall condition of the houses and worked with the homeowners and health partners to prioritize the repairs necessary to the health and safety of the residents. Repairs included but were not limited to heat pumps, handicap accessibility improvements, mold remediation and fireproofing, weatherization, and/or installing a hot water heater.

MAERDAF grant award funds provided for contracting costs for individual home repairs and the costs of materials, safety equipment and home appliances for low-income homeowners.

MAERDAF GRANT AWARD PROJECTS

The Child and Family Foundation (1 Year to Empowerment)

Amount Awarded - \$4,064

Project Name - "1 Year to Empowerment Girls on the Move"

Summary - 1 Year to Empowerment is a regional, diverse, female organization that serves high school and middle school girls on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. In Fiscal Year 2020, the organization will run two programs, providing extracurricular enrichment through self-empowerment, self-expression, self-confidence, and personal and professional growth. Program activities include touring local colleges, learning how to change a tire, fencing, and water safety classes among others. As transportation is a major obstacle in rural program delivery, funds will be used toward bus and minivan rentals for off site visits.

MAERDAF grant award funds provided for transportation for local visits in the organization's region, Lower Eastern Shore; additional insurance costs including medical insurance for all participants. Due to COVID-19, many special travel activities had to be postponed (visit to Annapolis, Harriet Tubman Museum, and University of Maryland Eastern Shore college tour). Activities plan to resume in August 2020 with the special trips in 2021. *One year extension approved.*

Wicomico Farm and Home Show, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$13,094*

Project Name - Wicomico County Fair Livestock Show & Facility Improvements

Summary - The Wicomico County Fair and Home Show (WFHS) celebrated its 83rd year in August 2019. The vibrant, family-oriented event highlights agriculture and the heritage of the Lower Eastern Shore, attracting thousands of visitors each year to Winterplace Park in Salisbury. WFHS constructed a new livestock show ring, installed permanent electricity and improved drainage in the area at Winterplace Park that is currently used by youth to show livestock at the Wicomico County Fair.

MAERDAF grant award funds provided construction costs for a 40 foot by 40 foot pole building including materials and supplies and the costs to deliver electricity to the building including materials and supplies. The project was placed on hold as the work and labor is in kind and is limited due to COVID-19 restrictions. *Six month extension approved. *This grant award was partially funded through the MAERDAF only funds and the other portion through the RMPIF award fund.*

FY2020 MAERDAF GRANTEES (RMPIF FUNDED)

Awardee	Category	Region	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	Match Amount
Cecil County Farm Museum	Agricultural and Forestry Education	Eastern	\$40,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$22,579.00
Chesapeake Culinary Center	Community and Economic Development	Eastern	\$40,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$14,800.00
Fair Hill Foundation	Community and Economic Development	Statewide	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
For All Seasons, Inc.	Health Care	Eastern	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$126,350.00
Fort Ritchie Community Center, Inc.	Community and Economic Development	Western	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$37,000.00
Garrett College	Community and Economic Development	Western	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$10,000.00
Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology	Regional Planning	Statewide	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$50,000.00
Health Partners Inc.	Health Care	Southern	\$40,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$138,315.00
Jesse Klump Memorial Fund, Inc.	Health Care	Eastern	\$19,000.00	\$19,000.00	\$19,000.00
LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc.	Agricultural and Forestry Education	Statewide	\$40,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$153,400.00
Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Committee, Inc.	Regional Planning	Eastern	\$25,000.00	\$22,500.00	\$25,717.00
Lower Shore Land Trust	Agricultural and Forestry Education	Eastern	\$11,574.77	\$11,574.77	\$6,205.00
Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway	Community and Economic Development	Central	\$23,047.00	\$23,047.00	\$26,100.00
Maces Lane Community Center	Community and Economic Development	Eastern	\$40,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$0.00
Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation	Agricultural and Forestry Education	Statewide	\$20,100.00	\$10,050.00	\$10,000.00
Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts	Agricultural and Forestry Education	Statewide	\$4,864.00	\$2,500.00	\$45,315.00

FY2020 MAERDAF GRANTEES (RMPHF FUNDED) CONTINUE

Awardee	Category	Region	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	Match Amount
Maryland Forestry Foundation	Agricultural and Forestry Education	Statewide	\$39,600.00	\$39,600.00	\$45,000.00
Maryland Forests Association, Inc.	Community and Economic Development	Statewide	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$57,500.00
Maryland Rural Development Corporation	Community and Economic Development	Statewide	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$29,322.00
Mid-Shore Pro Bono, Inc.	Community and Economic Development	Eastern	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$57,488.00
Ocean City Development Corporation	Community and Economic Development	Eastern	\$25,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$80,390.00
People for Change Coalition	Community and Economic Development	Southern	\$37,259.00	\$34,000.00	\$0.00
Southern Maryland Minority Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Inc	Community and Economic Development	Statewide	\$35,500.00	\$35,500.00	\$33,250.00
Telamon Corporation	Community and Economic Development	Eastern	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$432,630.00
The Arc Central Chesapeake Region	Community and Economic Development	Eastern	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$55,000.00
The Arc Southern Maryland	Health Care	Southern	\$8,300.00	\$8,300.00	\$8,300.00
Untangled Minds, Inc.	Community and Economic Development	Eastern	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$94,240.00
Western Maryland RC&D	Community and Economic Development	Western	\$34,650.00	\$34,650.00	\$15,483.00
YMCA of the Chesapeake, Inc.	Community and Economic Development	Eastern	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$33,250.00
Wicomico Farm and Home Show, Inc.*	Agricultural and Forestry Education	Eastern		\$21,905.45	
		Total:	\$918,894.77	\$839,627.22	\$1,666,634.00

*See *Amount Requested* and *Match Amount* in previous MAERDAF Awards section as this grant award was split between both funds.

MAERDAF GRANT AWARD PROJECTS (RMPIF FUNDED)

Cecil County Farm Museum **Amount Awarded - \$20,000**

Project Name - The Cecil County Farm Museum Regional Multi-Purpose Learning Center

Summary - The Cecil County Farm Museum (CCFM) was created to promote the rich agricultural heritage of Cecil County, which was and continues to be, a major contributor to the socio-economic development of the Upper Shore region of Maryland. For Fiscal Year 2020, CCFM seeks to develop a Regional Multi-Purpose Learning Center ('Center'). The proposed center will serve as a venue to host regional agricultural education activities including monthly 4-H club meetings, annual leadership conferences and a monthly speaker series

MAERDAF grant award funds were used to provide for the installation of a two inch water supply line from the Cecil County School of Technology, approximately 900 feet, to a supply hydrant on the CCFM site and provide for the installation of a Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning system in the Center. *Six month extension approved.*

Chesapeake Culinary Center **Amount Awarded - \$20,000**

Project Name - Mobile Farmers Market/Pantry

Summary - Chesapeake Culinary Center was established in 2004 with the mission of building a workforce that supports the Eastern Shore's tourism industry and, by extension, the agriculture and seafood industries. The Center offers classes and training programs for youth and adults. It also provides a community kitchen and incubator services for small food-based businesses. The Mobile Farmers Market and Pantry ('Mobile Unit') of Chesapeake Culinary Center will primarily serve residents and organizations in the Mid-Shore region, including but not limited to Dorchester, Caroline, and Talbot counties. The Mobile Unit will provide fresh foods to children, families, and the elderly to mitigate food insecurity and poverty by delivering local produce and products to nine accessible sites at regular times. In collaboration with agency partners, Chesapeake Culinary Center will raise awareness of and increase opportunities for healthy nutrition, locally grown produce and products, and regional services. This service will also provide a venue for farmers to sell their products.

MAERDAF grant award funds were used to purchase a refrigerated cargo vehicle.

Fair Hill Foundation **Amount Awarded - \$40,000**

Project Name - Fair Hill Equine Improvements Project

Summary - The State of Maryland and Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area (Fair Hill) are redeveloping the equestrian and event facilities at Fair Hill to prepare to host the world-class Concours Complet International Five-Star event, an international equestrian competition. These upgraded facilities will draw local, regional, national, and international equestrian competitions in flat racing, steeplechasing, 3-Day eventing, and horse shows, and non-equestrian events. In order to sufficiently prepare for the future management of the facilities, the Fair Hill Foundation will draft and implement an operations and management plan that will guide governance and sustainability; ensure compliance to state and federal laws and regulations; and operationalize fundraising and marketing activities that guarantees the fiscal stability of the Foundation and its continued work in supporting equine improvement projects.

MAERDAF grant award funds were used to provide for the salary and wages of the Executive Director; professional development training of Foundation staff; provide consultant costs for the production of a Foundation governance plan, including a compliance calendar; and provide for membership costs to the Association of Fundraising Professionals. *Six month extension approved.*

MAERDAF GRANT AWARD PROJECTS (RMPIF FUNDED)

For All Seasons, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$40,000

Project Name - School Mental Health First Aid

Summary - For All Seasons serves the five counties of Maryland's Mid-Shore with behavioral health and rape crisis services and seeks to continue the work of the Mental Health Association of the Eastern Shore by providing several behavioral health programs called Mental Health First Aid and Teen Mental Health First Aid. These programs are evidence-based public education programs that have been proven to increase mental health literacy, reduce stigma, teach basic helping skills and how to handle a mental health or substance abuse crisis. The eight-hour training sessions are taught by certified Mental Health First Aid trainers. Additional training specific to sub-groups include a module for higher education, older adults, veterans and emergency personnel. As a result, Mid-Shore residents will become familiar with basic mental health issues, how to recognize someone in a mental health or substance abuse crisis and know where to refer them.

The MAERDAF grant award funds were used to provide the salaries, wages and fringe benefits of two Trainers for community training on mental health; costs of training materials including for Mental Health First Aid Training Manuals; and costs of promotional materials such as printed rack cards and other materials for training sessions. *Six month extension approved.*

Fort Ritchie Community Center, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$35,000

Project Name - Job Skills Training for Teens (Junior Staff Initiative)

Summary - Fort Ritchie Community Center, Inc. ('Fort Ritchie') plans a Job Skills for Teens (Junior Staff) initiative. The goal of the initiative is to prepare teens from Washington and Frederick Counties to successfully enter the workforce through a job skills program that focuses on "soft" skills instruction and practice. Participants were empowered to develop skills that will aid in their initial job search, as well as, set them on a course to be successful employees, employers, supervisors, and possible entrepreneurs. The program featured three main components: group instruction through weekly group meetings that share the importance of developing skills such as communication, initiative, and accountability; practical work experience.

MAERDAF grant award funds were used to provide for the salaries and wages of program staff; stipends for participants for an estimated 400 work sessions; transportation costs for three field trips; purchase of equipment including a projector and a tablet; purchase of instructional supplies and participant materials including: refreshments, training and booklets, work shirts; promotional, advertising and marketing costs and materials. Due to COVID-19, the program transitioned to online learning sessions. *Six month extension approved.*

Garrett College

Amount Awarded - \$40,000

Project Name - Diesel Mechanic Workforce Development Training Program

Summary - Garrett College will create a noncredit diesel mechanic program which will be delivered through the Continuing Education & Workforce Development division of Garrett College. By collaborating with local school districts, businesses, and industry partners, the College seeks to provide training to develop skilled, entry-level workers that meet employment demands for diesel technology in the region. The College will purchase the tools and technology to get the program underway, with the ability to add additional resources as the program expands.

MAERDAF grant award funds provided for the purchase tools and technology necessary to implement the program including: hand tools, general shop tools and equipment.

MAERDAF GRANT AWARD PROJECTS (RMPIF FUNDED)

Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology

Amount Awarded - \$40,000

Project Name - Technical Study of Tree Cover and Canopy in Maryland

Summary - To increase their knowledge of the current state of forest cover and tree canopy in Maryland, the 2019 General Assembly passed legislation (Senate Bill 729 -Technical Study on Changes in Forest Cover and Tree Canopy in Maryland) tasking the Hughes Center with assistance from partners to conduct a technical study to review changes in Maryland's forest cover and tree canopy. The study includes surveying and mapping of existing forest cover and tree canopy in the state and potential afforestation and reforestation locations; analysis of the forests' health and quality; analysis of the state's progress to expand urban tree canopy acres and plant riparian forest buffers; analysis of observed and projected land cover changes using the Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool; analysis of observed and projected changes in the amount of forest cover; a review of forest mitigation banking in the state; and a programmatic and funding review of federal, state, and local tree and forest planting programs. The ultimate goal of the completed work is to provide a clear understanding of the current state of forest cover and tree canopy in Maryland as well as serve as a roadmap for the future.

MAERDAF grant award funds provided for consultant costs to produce the Forest Cover and Tree Canopy study.

Health Partners Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$30,000

Project Name - Health Partners Medical

Summary - Health Partners coordinates access to care for patients that require health care services includes hosting homeless resource events and referrals to specialists and other community organizations. Health Partners has onsite adult and pediatric dental programs as well as a transportable dental unit serving the dental health needs of the local community in such venues as churches, senior centers, and other local nonprofits that are focused on the underserved citizens in the community. The organization is in collaboration with local health departments to improve access to free health services. These services include health education, free breast and colon cancer screenings, smoking cessation classes and diabetes prevention.

MAERDAF grant award funds were used to fund two health care positions: a nurse practitioner who provided medical care and a medical assistant whose responsibilities included supporting healthy behavior change, linking patients with community resources and assisting the nurse practitioner; purchase of necessary program technology and the administrative costs to implement the program.

Jesse Klump Memorial Fund, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$19,000

Project Name - "Save a Shore Farmer" campaign to end farmer, farmworker and farm family suicide

Summary - The "Save a Shore Farmer" program, executed by the Jesse Klump Memorial Fund, raises awareness of rising rates of suicide in farm communities and works to stem those increases. For a second year, the Fund will continue its multi-media outreach efforts through billboards, televised public service announcements, radio appearances, tabling events, distribution of suicide prevention materials, and presentations at farm events. Because rural areas suffer historically higher rates of suicide, and because mental healthcare in these communities labors under a crippling stigma, the Fund employs more subtle and less face-to-face methodologies. The second year will feature more direct outreach and will create resources that other like-minded agencies can use to create their own programs.

MAERDAF grant award funds provided for the salaries, wages, and transportation costs for the Project Coordinator; costs of marketing and media materials that included but not limited to custom exhibit materials; television spots; 12'x25' billboard rental; cable television air time; hosting program website, www.saveashorefarmer.com.

MAERDAF GRANT AWARD PROJECTS (RMPIF FUNDED)

LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$20,000

Project Name - Increasing the Numbers and Capacities of Rural Maryland's Servant Leaders

Summary - The LEAD Maryland Foundation (LEAD) increases the numbers and capacities of people serving rural Maryland, and provides leadership development fellowships. Fellows complete a two-year educational program to increase skills and knowledge for mobilizing people to address issues and community needs. Fellows learn to consider issues from local to global perspectives, giving them a greater understanding of public issues. LEAD will execute five (5) multi-day seminars for twenty-two Fellows.

MAERDAF grant award funds provided for lodging, meals and venue rentals costs for the seminars; provided for transportation costs to various locations; consulting costs; one guest speaker; and materials, supplies and food for associated bus tours.

Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Committee, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$22,500

Project Name - Phase II: Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area (LESHC) Marketing, Positioning, and Strategic Analysis

Summary - The Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Committee (LESHC) is currently undergoing organizational development and will change its name to the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area (LESHA). The mission of LESHA is to preserve, protect and promote the cultural, natural, and historical heritage of Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties. Continuing the work begun by the Board of Directors' Marketing, Positioning, and Strategic Analysis, the organization seeks to hire a consultant to produce a branding and positioning document for stake-holders, implement new branding on the website and on social media platforms, create and implement new branding email template for all future communications.

MAERDAF grant award funds provide for meeting expenses and materials related to hosting focus groups; consultation costs for planning, development and outreach efforts; consultation costs for organizational branding, creative concepts and design; consultation costs for a style guide and design execution; and, advertising and marketing costs.

Lower Shore Land Trust

Amount Awarded - \$11,574.77

Project Name - ShoreCorps/AmeriCorps Pollinator & Baywise Landscaping Conservation Outreach & Education Coordinator

Summary - The Lower Shore Land Trust (LSLT) assists landowners throughout Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties, as well as offering tools to communities for habitat restoration and outdoor recreation. The Lower Shore Land Trust hosted a ShoreCorps AmeriCorps position, who served as a Conservation Outreach and Education Coordinator to support the organization's mission and activities. The activities this Coordinator will support include the 2020 Delmarva Pollinator Festival, the 13th Annual Native Plant Sale, community greenscape activities, volunteer coordination, and LSLT's education outreach.

MAERDAF grant award funds provided for the salary and wages of a ShoreCorps member; transportation costs of this member; equipment costs including the purchase of a computer; cost to attend program-related trainings and conferences; and, the production of brochures and other materials, which included five-hundred landowner newsletters.

MAERDAF GRANT AWARD PROJECTS (RMPIF FUNDED)

Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway

Amount Awarded - \$23,047

Project Name - Lower Shore Heritage Greenway Regional Engagement - 20th Year Anniversary

Summary - The Lower Shore Heritage Greenway (LSHG) was created to serve as a community enhancement strategy that promotes economic development while helping to protect environmentally sensitive areas and the heritage of the Upper Bay. Their goal is to enhance visitation and economic growth while providing a mechanism to connect the area's cultural and natural offerings. Building on three regional planning efforts, Maryland Heritage Areas, National Park Service National Historic Trails, and the Rural Legacy Program, the creation of a long-term regional engagement plan will increase tourism, thereby bolstering the local economy while supporting the region's heritage. In Fiscal Year 2020, LSHG planned an anniversary event and hosted a shoreline cleanup, River Sweep. These milestones provide a unique opportunity to promote the heritage area and increase community awareness and tourist visitation.

MAERDAF grant award funds provided for salaries and wages of the Executive Director, Project Manager, and Administrative Assistant for project time; costs of consultant services for media content, website enhancements, marketing, and a new brochure; and, costs of printing and development of an engagement and marketing plan and other materials.

Maces Lane Community Center

Amount Awarded - \$21,000

Project Name - Maces Lane Community Center

Summary - The Mace's Lane Community Center, Inc. (MLCC) was organized and established as a not-for-profit 501c3 in 2018 by the Good Shepard Association and the Mace's Lane Alumni Association in Cambridge, Dorchester County. The MLCC oversees the activities to preserve and transform the historic Mace's Lane High School building into a community center. Mace's Lane High School was an all African American student high school built in 1952. During segregation, all African American students within Dorchester County attended the high school between 1952 and 1969. The MLCC will foster inclusive community participation and provide an environmentally safe and friendly facility for the arts, education, recreation, celebration, and locally based human services to increase the opportunity for personal and collective growth of the community.

MAERDAF grant award funds were used to obtain a consultant to develop a history of Maces Lane Highschool and design display space to highlight historical items.

Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation

Amount Awarded - \$10,050

Project Name - 7th Farm-Based Education National Conference

Summary - The Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation partnered with the National Farm-Based Education Network (FBEN) in Vermont to co-host the 7th Annual FBEN National Conference in Maryland in November, 2019. The conference will include two days of regional bus trips to visit farm-based education sites on the Eastern Shore, Western Maryland, and Central/Southern Maryland, followed by two days of formal conference to be held at the Pearlstone Conference Center and Farm, in northern Baltimore County. The general session included workshops, member interactions, featured speakers, and meals. Professional development occurred at every conference component, and the conference covered a diverse range of topics, including farms-to-classrooms, educational events on farms, boards of directors composition, horticultural and animal-assisted-therapy, equitable human resources practices, branding, youth programs, and educational farm-infrastructure training.

MAERDAF grant award funds provided for conference registration costs for in-state (Maryland) attendees and bus transportation costs for the conference field trips to farm-based education sites.

MAERDAF GRANT AWARD PROJECTS (RMPIF FUNDED)

Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts

Amount Awarded - \$2,500

Project Name - Maryland Envirothon

Summary - The Maryland Envirothon educates high school students in grades 9 through 12 in natural resource conservation while training future leaders for success throughout life. Envirothon teams are made up of 5 students who work together to study Maryland's natural resources over the course of a school year. Teams representing Maryland's soil conservation districts compete in local competitions, a regional competition on the Eastern Shore, and a State-level event.

MAERDAF grant award funds will provide for the costs of meals offered at the Maryland State Envirothon event in 2021 due to event postponement. *One year extension approved.*

Maryland Forestry Foundation

Amount Awarded - \$39,600

Project Name - Spurring Fossil Free -Biomass

Summary - The Maryland Forestry Foundation (The Foundation) engaged and addressed concerns of the state's most active environmental organizations on the use of fossil-free biomass as part of growing need to focus on renewable natural resources future by producing a science-based white paper showing wood energy technology is high-tech, clean, renewable, carbon-neutral and supports the local economy. Due to COVID-19, the Foundation converted the original in-person roundtable into a series of five webinars, which highlighted available technologies, economic competitiveness, ease of installing and operating biomass energy systems to examine how Maryland commercial and institutional consumers can benefit from the adoption of thermal biomass energy solutions. The webinar series will contribute to a written strategy and provided a time frame over the next two years for progress toward an operating combined heat power project in Maryland.

MAERDAF grant award funds were provided to produce the webinar series and the consultation costs to develop and produce papers and reports and conduct research. While the project goals remained the same, adjustments were made to reflect COVID-19 challenges and a 6-month grant was approved to complete this project. *Six month extension approved.*

Maryland Forests Association, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$40,000

Project Name - Maryland Forest Markets Readjustment Project

Summary - The Maryland Forests Association (MFA) in Fiscal Year 2020 will conduct all-inclusive outreach to the broad community of stakeholders and beneficiaries of Maryland's forests and forest markets, culminating in a conference event to ascertain feedback and strategies focused on promoting new markets for forest products. With the recent shocks to the job market in the Maryland forestry sector, the Association will deliver the Maryland Forest Markets Readjustment Project, convening a variety of stakeholders in the form of three regional meetings in partnership with the Tree Farm program, local Forestry Boards, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, as well as individual meetings with staff from each of the five economic development councils.

MAERDAF grant award funds provided for the consultation costs to produce forest industry recruitment and retention plans for each economic development council; salary of the MFA Executive Director; transportation costs including bus rental for two tours of local forests and related industries; venue rental costs, materials and meals for three regional meetings; provided for venue rental costs, including meals, room rental, materials, audio/visual, and a facilitator for a conference event; and, necessary administrative expenses including website hosting services, postage, other administrative expenses. Due to COVID-19 unexpected shutdowns and restrictions on group gathering a *six month extension was approved.*

MAERDAF GRANT AWARD PROJECTS (RMPIF FUNDED)

Maryland Rural Development Corporation

Amount Awarded - \$40,000

Project Name - Adult Education Wraparound Expansion

Summary - Maryland Rural Development Corporation (MRDC) will expand its adult educational programming, currently offered in Cecil and Caroline Counties, to Harford County. This generational program acknowledges the real problems keeping so many from pursuing further education and future economic stability. The evening is a far more convenient time for traditional working parents to meet their own education but often the lack of child care and meal conflicts alone prevent some parents from attending. In Fiscal Year 2020, MRDC hired child care services to allow low-income Harford County adults to attend adult education classes (General Education Diploma and English as Second Language).

MAERDAF grant award funds provided for the costs of child care services during evening educational classes.

Mid-Shore Pro Bono, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$40,000

Project Name - Economic Stability Workshops

Summary - Low income families are particularly susceptible to legal problems and often do not even understand that their problems are legal in nature. Building upon existing work to help families maintain economic, financial and housing stability, Mid-Shore Pro Bono offered a series of prevention-focused civil legal educational workshops specific to low-income needs. Specifically Mid-Shore Pro Bono offered three financial education workshops in the Upper Shore, the Mid-Shore and the Lower Shore using partner locations. The workshops focused on money management to prevent legal problems and surrounded three important topics - Housing, Consumer Protection and Employment.

MAERDAF grant award funds provided for the costs of salary, wages, and fringe benefits for the Project Manager, as well as for the costs of transportation and costs of participating in various training programs for this position. Additionally, the funds provided for the costs of development, printing, and distribution of workshop materials including marketing materials and brochures; advertisements including print media and radio; and the cost of office supplies.

Ocean City Development Corporation

Amount Awarded - \$21,000

Project Name - Shore Craft Beer App & Mobile Marketing Platform

Summary - Ocean City Development Corporation, Inc. (OCDC), alongside Shore Craft Beer, developed a mobile platform to promote the Lower Eastern Shore's craft brewery and tourism economy. This platform provided real-time marketing data and promoted Maryland's craft beer and tourism businesses.

MAERDAF grant award funds provided for the consultation costs to develop a mobile application; the costs of the application's web hosting; the costs to market the application; and the cost for the Executive Director to attend professional development training.

MAERDAF GRANT AWARD PROJECTS (RMPIF FUNDED)

People for Change Coalition

Amount Awarded - \$34,000

Project Name - Mighty Youth TV Production

The People for Change Coalition (PFC) implemented a 2-week teen media arts and training program called MYTV (Mighty Youth TV Production Program) that runs on the weekend, after-school, and during the summer. MYTV helps teens develop skills in film and video production, camera operation, proper lighting, sound set-up, and crew interaction targeting teens in Charles, St. Mary's, and Southern Prince George's County who have an interest in media arts, film, television production, marketing and communications. Participants gained the proper skills, and training in film and video production, creating scripts and messaging, conducting interviews, and commercials.

MAERDAF grant award funds provided for the costs of salaries and wages for the Executive Director and Staff Assistant; transportation costs for site visits and projects; program equipment, including camera systems, tripods, sound and lighting units, and laptops with software; training materials and supplies; consultation services for program evaluation and design, media instruction, and student assistance; marketing, including advertising, social media advertising to showcase the videos and news stories projects, e-blasts, graphic and flyer design; and, administrative costs to implement the program.

Southern Maryland Minority Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Inc

Amount Awarded - \$35,500

Project Name - Saving and Creating Small Business Jobs in Rural Maryland

Summary - Southern Maryland Minority Chamber of Commerce Foundation ('the Foundation') will develop a digital decision support tool in collaboration with BEACON at Salisbury University. The tool provided twenty-five indicators on small-business job creation and retention in rural Maryland, allowing small business owners to better utilize existing and future programs intended to incentivize hiring. The tool includes dashboards with scenario analysis and economic modeling functionality. During development, the Foundation convened an advisory group, which offered feedback at the model design stage, at 50% completion, and after delivery. The advisory group also reviewed input from local chambers of commerce, guided the final report, and assisted the plan for the dissemination of the tool.

MAERDAF grant award funds provided for the costs of salaries, wages, and fringe benefits of employees of the Foundation to implement the project; consultation costs to develop prototype economic models, key performance indicators and associated dashboards; and, costs to purchase necessary datasets from vendors.

Telamon Corporation

Amount Awarded - \$40,000

Project Name - Food and Service Training program, located at the One Stop Café.

Summary - Telamon, a workforce-oriented nonprofit, provides training, educational supports, and supportive services to Lower-Shore Marylanders who seek job skills and lack reliable transportation. Telamon's One Stop Café, located at the Salisbury Multi-Purpose Center, hosts the Food and Service Training (FAST) to enable its community to connect with the food service and hospitality industries. FAST trainees received educational support, work readiness training, computer literacy, financial education, and may attain ServSafe industry credentials.

MAERDAF grant award funds provided for the costs of food supplies and food service supplies; the costs of tuition for program participants; the costs of transportation for program participants and the costs of printing of menus and promotional material, including social media advertisements.

MAERDAF GRANT AWARD PROJECTS (RMPF FUNDED)

The Arc Central Chesapeake Region

Amount Awarded - \$40,000

Project Name - Multidimensional Approach to Workforce Development

Summary - Established in 1961, the mission of The Arc Central Chesapeake Region is to promote respect, create opportunities, facilitate services, and advocate for equal rights for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Multidimensional Approach to Workforce Development project will involve hiring a Workforce Strategy Consultant to research and analyze employment trends in the five counties of the Upper Eastern Shore (Talbot, Queen Anne, Kent, Caroline and Dorchester counties). This will include a comprehensive approach towards increasing employment to meet the critical need for Direct Support Professionals and increase meaningful and equitable employment opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

MAERDAF grant award funds provided for the consultant services to conduct research and analyze employment trends.

The Arc Southern Maryland

Amount Awarded - \$8,300

Project Name - Volunteer Coordinator- The Arc Southern Maryland

Summary - The Arc Southern Maryland is the leading advocate for children and adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities living and working in Southern Maryland. The Arc provides an array of services including housing, job placement, and behavioral support services. Their mission is to create opportunities for independence and personal success for people with different abilities in inclusive communities. In Fiscal Year 2020, the Arc Southern Maryland was selected as a service site for the 2019-2020 Volunteer Maryland-AmeriCorps Volunteer Coordinator program. The Volunteer Coordinator will recruit and retain volunteers and coordinate volunteer activities and events.

The MAERDAF grant award funds were used to provide for the Volunteer Maryland position stipend.

Untangled Minds, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$10,000

Project Name - Advanced Manufacturing Professionals (AMP)

Summary - Maryland manufacturers are critically short of workers and high school students are often unaware of the opportunities that exist with local companies and do not gain the skills needed to be productive in the workforce. Untangle Mind's proposed Advanced Manufacturing Program (AMP) teaches highly needed problem solving, critical thinking and specific Career and Technology Education skill sets within a framework of life success skills. The multi-disciplinary approach to project-based learning is facilitated by local industry partners that engages with students in the classroom to help them gain the entry and mid-level skills for which employers are looking. Untangled Minds hosted an AMP Career Fair and Student Showcase at the completion of the year's program.

MAERDAF grant award funds provided for the costs of AMP classroom instruction; the costs of materials and supplies for student projects; the costs of stipends and other necessary costs for student development, instruction, and transportation included in AMP participant internships; and, the marketing costs such as hosting events to recruit students and build awareness.

MAERDAF GRANT AWARD PROJECTS (RMPIF FUNDED)

Western Maryland Resource Conservation & Development Council

Amount Awarded - \$34,650

Project Name - Western Maryland Woodyard Feasibility Analysis

Summary - The Western Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Council's (WMRC&D) mission is to build and sustain resource conservation programs which raise the quality of social, economic, and environmental development in our region. Western Maryland RC&D will engage a consultant to conduct a feasibility study which will analyze the economic opportunities and costs of establishing a new woodyard in Western Maryland. The closure of Verso's mill in Luke is widely recognized as a catastrophic economic loss to the entire region, affecting more than 350 logging businesses. By assessing the many factors which are necessary to understand in order to invest the large sums of capital needed to construct a woodyard, this project will serve as a tool for leveraging existing forestry opportunities to spur future economic development in Western Maryland.

MAERDAF grant award funds provided for the cost of salary and fringe benefits of the Western Maryland RC&D Executive Director; provided for the consultation costs to produce a Woodyard Feasibility Analysis; provided for the consultation costs to create a Market Research Report for the forestry industry in Western Maryland; and provided for the administrative costs to implement the project.

YMCA of the Chesapeake, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$40,000

Project Name - Providing Access and Opportunity for Children Living on Maryland's Eastern Shore

Summary - Serving all nine counties of the Eastern Shore, YMCA of the Chesapeake helps kids develop, provides resources for personal growth, and builds community. YMCA of the Chesapeake serves an entirely rural service area where access and opportunity to programs and services is at great risk of alienating the community's most vulnerable and underserved due to barriers like transportation. YMCA of the Chesapeake will purchase a 14-passenger bus, allowing it to safely provide for the programmatic needs of its campers, after-school participants, sports-team members.

MAERDAF grant award funds were used to purchase a 14-passenger bus. *Six month extension approved.*

Wicomico Farm and Home Show, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$21,905.45

Project Name - Wicomico County Fair Livestock Show & Facility Improvements

Summary - The Wicomico County Fair and Home Show (WFHS) celebrated its 83rd year in August 2019. The vibrant, family-oriented event highlights agriculture and the heritage of the Lower Eastern Shore, attracting thousands of visitors each year to Winterplace Park in Salisbury. WFHS constructed a new livestock show ring, installed permanent electricity and improved drainage in the area at Winterplace Park that is currently used by youth to show livestock at the Wicomico County Fair.

MAERDAF grant award funds provided construction costs for a 40 foot by 40 foot pole building including materials and supplies and the costs to deliver electricity to the building including materials and supplies. The project was placed on hold as the work and labor is in kind and is limited due to COVID-19 restrictions. *Six month extension approved. *This grant award was partially funded through the MAERDAF only funds and the other portion through the RMPIF award fund.*

FY2020 MAERDAF GRANTEES BY CATEGORY

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY EDUCATION

of Grantees: 11

Total Awarded: \$251,433.77

25% of funds awarded

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

of Grantees: 19

Total Awarded: \$598,261.00

59% of funds awarded

HEALTH CARE

of Grantees: 4

Total Awarded: \$97,300.00

10% of funds awarded

REGIONAL PLANNING

of Grantees: 2

Total Awarded: \$62,500.00

6% of funds awarded

TOTAL: \$1,002,529.14

The Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund and the Maryland Agriculture Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund are 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.

It's 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 RMC's website at
www.rural.maryland.gov**

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