



**MARYLAND
AGRICULTURAL
EDUCATION AND
RURAL
DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANCE
FUND**

**ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2021**

FY2021 MAERDAF FUNDED GRANTEES BY REGION

NORTHERN MARYLAND

(One County Region-Harford)

of Grantees: 1

Total Awarded: \$25,000

3% of funds awarded

EASTERN SHORE

(Nine County Region-Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset)

of Grantees: 16

Total Awarded: \$401,942

49% of funds awarded

SOUTHERN MARYLAND

(Three County Region-Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's)

of Grantees: 5

Total Awarded: \$94,445

11% of funds awarded

WESTERN MARYLAND

(Five County Region-Garrett, Allegany, Washington, Frederick, Carroll)

of Grantees: 5

Total Awarded: \$99,974

12% of funds awarded

STATEWIDE

of Grantees: 9

Total Awarded: \$205,970

25% of funds awarded

TOTAL: \$827,331

OVERVIEW

The Maryland Agriculture Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) grant funding provides capacity-building funds to rural nonprofit service providers. The cap for this grant program in Fiscal Year 2021 was \$50,000 and while a match was not required, it was highly recommended. The Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) supports the Rural Maryland Council's operations and activities, and it also supports the states' five Regional Councils, rural entrepreneurship development, rural health care organizations, and regional infrastructure projects. A match is required for RMPIF Funding and is set at 25% match for entrepreneurship, 50% match for health care, and 75% match for infrastructure.

The MAERDAF program is funded through the state of Maryland's Annual Operating Budget. In Fiscal Year 2021, the MAERDAF budget line item received \$158,650 (PCA 39101) in their line item appropriations and \$487,704 from RMPIF (PCA 38101), totaling \$646,354. Due to the high demand the Grant Review Board approved an allocation of \$669,015 and \$158,316 for a total of \$827,331 in MAERDAF grant awards.

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 determinations are made by the independent MAERDAF Grant Review Board set by law and consisting of the Secretaries (or their designee) of the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Health, Housing and Community Development and Natural Resources as well as the Chair (or the designee) of the Rural Maryland Council. Decisions by the MAERDAF Grant Review Board are final and binding.

FISCAL YEAR 2021 GRANT REVIEW BOARD

- **Mindie Burgoyne**, Senior Regional Business Development Representative, Commerce
- **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

FY2021 MAERDAF GRANTEES FUNDED BY CATEGORY

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY EDUCATION

of Grantees: 11

Total Awarded: \$205,340

25% of funds awarded

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

of Grantees: 18

Total Awarded: \$471,085

57% of funds awarded

HEALTH CARE

of Grantees: 1

Total Awarded: \$30,000

14% of funds awarded

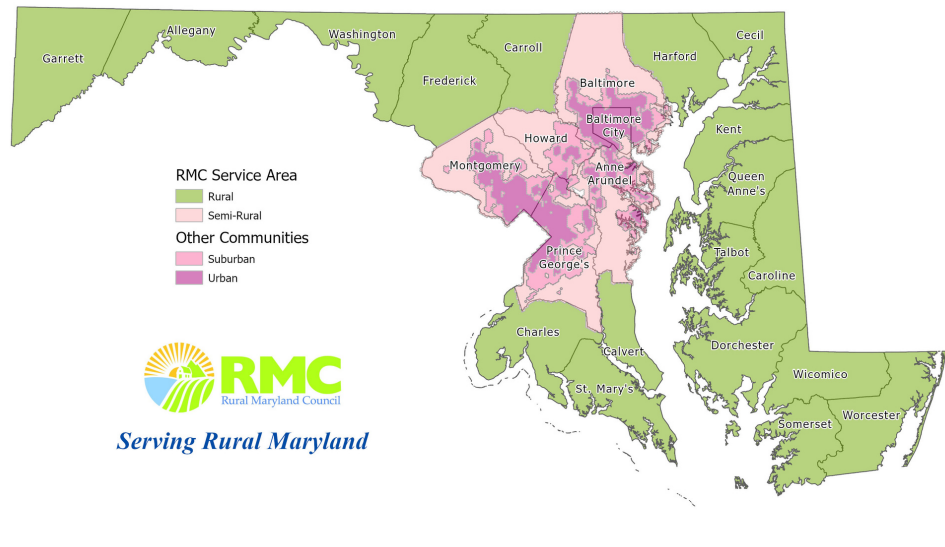
REGIONAL PLANNING

of Grantees: 2

Total Awarded: \$62,500

4% of funds awarded

TOTAL: \$827,331



Grant projects administered by the RMC 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.

OVERVIEW

A total of 40 MAERDAF grants were awarded to rural-serving organizations, and 4 of these organizations declined the award due to reduced funding and COVID related impacts. Out of remaining 36 grantees, 13 of these organizations were either fully funded or partially funded through the MAERDAF funds appropriated through a separate line-item in the State's operating budget and the remaining 23 organizations were allocated funding from the RMPIF grant program.

Grant award funds were distributed in two disbursements per request of the Department of Budget and Management due to the State budget freeze. The first disbursement contained 93.345% of the grant award and was distributed to grantees in the 2nd and 3rd quarters in 2021. The second disbursement contained 6.655% of the grant award and was to be distributed to grantees if funding was available in the 4th quarter. On March 16, 2021, the Council was approved to distribute the second disbursement to grantees. These disbursements are shown in the following chart. Thirteen of the organizations received their award funds from both MAERDAF (PCA 39101) and RMPIF (PCA 38101) budget line-items and the remaining 23 organizations were funded through the RMPIF (PCA38101) budget line-item.

This report is due on or before June 30 of each year and is required under the MAERDAF § 21246 of the State Government Article and contains the following information:

- Number of grants made during the fiscal year;
- Names of the recipients of the grants;
- Specific purpose of each grant awarded; and
- Documentation of how the grant recipient spent or otherwise used the grant.

RMC grant funded projects must be completed within the current fiscal year and begin August 1 and end June 30. The final report is due July 15. The grant final outcomes are not reflected in this report, but will be included in the RMC Annual Report published in December of each year.

FY2021 MAERDAF GRANTEES

Organization Name	Focus Area	Region Served	Amount Requested	Total Match	Award Amount	Disbursement #1	Disbursement #2
Allegany College of Maryland	Community and Economic Development	Western; Statewide	\$41,500	\$36,000	\$20,750	\$19,369 (PCA 38101)	\$1,381 (PCA 38101)
Bay Community Support Services, Inc.	Health Care	Southern	\$25,706	\$31,000	\$25,706	\$23,995 (PCA 38101)	\$1,711 (PCA 38101)
Channel Marker, Inc	Health Care	Eastern Shore	\$19,895	\$19,895	\$19,895	\$18,571 (PCA 38101)	\$1,324 (PCA 38101)
Chesapeake College Foundation	Agricultural and Forestry Education	Eastern Shore	\$14,740	\$36,250	\$11,000	\$10,268 (PCA 39101)	\$732 (PCA 39101)
Community Mediation Maryland	Community and Economic Development	Eastern Shore; Southern; Western	\$50,000	\$51,247	\$50,000	\$46,673 (PCA 38101)	\$3,327 (PCA 38101)
Community Support Systems, Inc.	Community and Economic Development	Southern	\$8,500	\$1,500	\$7,934	\$7,934 (PCA 38101)	\$0.00
Eastern Shore Land Conservancy	Agricultural and Forestry Education	Eastern Shore	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$7,934 (PCA 38101)	\$566 (PCA 38101)
For All Seasons, Inc.	Health Care	Eastern Shore	\$50,000	\$2,500	\$50,000	\$46,673 (PCA 38101)	\$3,327 (PCA 38101)
Frederick CTC FFA Alumni, Inc	Agricultural and Forestry Education	Statewide	\$19,323	\$5,600	\$4,250	\$3,967 (PCA 38101)	\$283 (PCA 39101)
Garrett County Arts Council, Inc.	Community and Economic Development	Western	\$48,500	\$27,202	\$19,604	\$18,299 (PCA 39101)	\$1,305 (PCA 38101)
Habitat for Humanity Choptank, Inc.	Community and Economic Development	Eastern Shore	\$26,600	\$320,947	\$13,300	\$12,415 (PCA 39101)	\$885 (PCA 38101)
Habitat For Humanity Of Wicomico County, Inc.	Community and Economic Development	Eastern Shore	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$23,336 (PCA 38101)	\$1,664 (PCA 38101)
Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna	Community and Economic Development	Northern	\$50,000	\$411,427	\$25,000	\$23,336 (PCA 38101)	\$1,664 (PCA 38101)
Historic St. Mary's City Foundation	Community and Economic Development	Southern	\$50,000	\$16,500	\$21,200	\$19,789 (PCA 39101)	\$1,411 (PCA 38101)
Horizons of Kent and Queen Anne's	Community and Economic Development	Eastern Shore	\$13,000	\$12,175	\$13,000	\$12,135 (PCA 39101)	\$865 (PCA 38101)
Ivy and Pearls of Southern Maryland Community	Health Care	Southern	\$24,105	\$24,200	\$9,605.00	\$8,966 (PCA 39101)	\$639 (PCA 38101)
Jesse Klump Memorial Fund, Inc.	Health Care	Eastern Shore	\$14,000	\$4,850	\$6,200	\$5,787 (PCA 38101)	\$413 (PCA 38101)
LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc.	Agricultural and Forestry Education	Statewide	\$37,500	\$17,000	\$27,500	\$25,670 (PCA 38101)	\$1,830 (PCA 38101)
Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area, Inc. dba	Community and Economic Development	Eastern Shore	\$40,000	\$24,600	\$35,000	\$32,671 (PCA 38101)	\$2,329 (PCA 38101)
Lower Shore Land Trust	Community and Economic Development	Eastern Shore	\$11,397	\$8,925	\$11,397	\$10,639 (PCA 39101)	\$758 (PCA 38101)
Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation	Agricultural and Forestry Education	Statewide	\$19,970	\$19,970	\$19,720	\$18,408 (PCA 39101)	\$1,312 (PCA 39101)
Maryland Food Bank - Eastern Shore	Community and Economic Development	Statewide	\$50,000	\$540,000	\$10,000	\$9,335 (PCA 38101)	\$665 (PCA 38101)
Maryland Forests Association, Inc.	Agricultural and Forestry Education	Statewide	\$45,000	\$50,000	\$32,500	\$30,337 (PCA 38101)	\$2,163 (PCA 38101)
Maryland Horse Foundation	Agricultural and Forestry Education	Statewide	\$50,000	\$61,000	\$15,000	\$14,002 (PCA 39101)	\$998 (PCA 38101)
Maryland Rural Development Corporation	Community and Economic Development	Eastern Shore	\$50,000	\$177,256	\$40,000	\$37,338 (PCA 38101)	\$2,662 (PCA 38101)
MPT Foundation, Inc.	Agricultural and Forestry Education	Statewide	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$23,336 (PCA 38101)	\$1,664 (PCA 39101)
National Ski Patrol - Eastern Division, Wisp Ski Patrol	Health Care	Western	\$50,000	\$87,461	\$9,500	\$8,868 (PCA 39101)	\$632 (PCA 38101)
Ocean City Development Corporation	Community and Economic Development	Eastern Shore; Statewide	\$46,400	\$90,223	\$31,900	\$29,777 (PCA 38101)	\$2,123 (PCA 38101)
Preservation Maryland	Community and Economic Development	Statewide	\$50,000	\$15,000	\$22,000	\$20,536 (PCA 39101)	\$1,464 (PCA 38101)
SHORE UP! Inc.	Community and Economic Development	Eastern Shore	\$50,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$23,336 (PCA 38101)	\$1,664 (PCA 38101)
Steam Onward Inc	Agricultural and Forestry Education	Eastern Shore; Southern	\$36,517	\$9,100	\$11,750	\$10,968 (PCA 38101)	\$782 (PCA 38101)
Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland	Regional Planning	Southern	\$50,000	\$12,500	\$30,000	\$28,004 (PCA 38101)	\$1,996 (PCA 38101)
Vehicles for Change, Inc.	Community and Economic Development	Eastern Shore	\$50,000	\$592,000	\$50,000	\$46,673 (PCA 38101)	\$3,327 (PCA 38101)
Western Maryland RC&D	Agricultural and Forestry Education	Western	\$41,000	\$15,000	\$38,950	\$36,358 (PCA 38101)	\$2,592 (PCA 38101)
Western Maryland RC&D	Agricultural and Forestry Education	Western	\$11,670	\$15,000	\$11,170	\$10,427 (PCA 38101)	\$743 (PCA 38101)
Western Maryland RC&D	Community and Economic Development	Statewide	\$50,000	\$47,295	\$50,000	\$46,673 (PCA 38101)	\$3,327 (PCA 38101)

TOTAL REQUEST: \$1,303,823

TOTAL MATCH: \$2,912,123

TOTAL AWARDS: \$827,331

FY2021 MAERDAF GRANTEES AWARD PROJECTS

Allegany College of Maryland

Amount Awarded - \$20,750

Project Name - Enhancing Virtual Instruction/ Workforce Development at ACM Through Smart Classroom Technology

Allegany College of Maryland is a two-year public community college located in Cumberland, Maryland. Smart classroom technology is essential for the College to educate students through a flexibly online setting in response to the current pandemic. The project will create flexible learning opportunities for students at Allegany College of Maryland through the utilization of state-of-the-art technology. This project will be used to enhance the technological outfitting of four classrooms on the College campus that will be used for distance learning activities.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds, were expended to pay for the technological equipment to outfit classrooms to support distance learning.

Bay Community Support Services, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$25,706

Project Name - Construction & Renovation of Group Homes for the Disabled in 2 Rural Counties

Bay Community Support Services (Bay-CSS) provides personalized services to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in Southern and Central Maryland. Bay-CSS will utilize grant award funds to aid in the home repairs of 4 residential group homes located in two rural counties, Charles and St. Mary's. These houses are full-time homes to 17 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and a work location for 64 employees. One of the homes is a full-care residential home, meaning every resident is wheelchair-bound and has numerous preexisting health concerns.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds, were expended to complete repairs of residential group homes. Repairs to be completed include a total roof replacement, window replacement of two homes (19 windows and 9 windows), replacement of a leaking exterior door, and several preventative maintenance issues to inhibit water intrusion, structural damage due to the elements, and invasive and expensive future issues.

Channel Marker, Inc

Amount Awarded - \$19,895

Project Name - Channel Marker - Residential Homes - HVAC

Channel Marker provides and coordinates mental and physical health support services to individuals challenged by severe and persistent mental illness and provides residential homes to clients with more severe mental illness in Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties. Grant award funds are requested to replace inefficient and worn HVAC units in the Dorchester residential homes and to repair damaged duct-work at the Caroline Day Program. Most Channel Marker clients are at the poverty level. For our communities Channel Marker reduces homelessness, law enforcement interactions, inappropriate use of health resources and emergency departments, and helps prevent potential crisis and inpatient admissions. In supporting the renovations, the requested grant will provide more cost efficient heating and cooling in the Channel Marker living spaces that will allow Channel Marker to continue the supports that allow clients to manage their illness and live independently in our communities.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds, were expended to replace an HVAC system in a residential home and replace damaged duct work in a day program facility.

Chesapeake College Foundation**Amount Awarded - \$11,000****Project Name - Growing an Agriculture Education Resource Center for the Mid-Shore**

The Chesapeake College Agriculture Program, the only community college program in the state, has sought stakeholder input through its Program Advisory Council and is looking toward growth in two specific areas to enhance instruction and enrollment. Instructionally, the program seeks to centralize and formalize an Agriculture Education Resource Center on campus. This Center will build on efforts, such as the high tunnel funded through a previous RMC grant, to teach agricultural skills in a practical, hands-on setting that simulates experiences in the field and that meets industry-identified need for the diversification of farm products in Maryland. The Agriculture Program's other key growth area is enrollment. Efforts will be made to create opportunities to use the Agriculture Education Resource Center as a recruitment tool.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds, were expended to pay for the the replacement cover for the College's existing high-tunnel and contractual services to provide appropriate water and electric hook-ups.

Community Mediation Maryland**Amount Awarded - \$50,000****Project Name - Community Mediation Corps - Rural Mediation Centers Only**

Community Mediation Maryland (CMM) advances collaborative conflict resolution in Maryland through educating the public, providing training and quality assurance, conducting research, and creatively applying mediation to social challenges. CMM is seeking funds to place seven (7) full-time AmeriCorps members in community mediation centers located in rural counties throughout Maryland. Each AmeriCorps member is trained as a mediator, receiving 172 hours of conflict resolution training. Members perform intake, mediate conflict, and participate in outreach events. AmeriCorps members have the opportunity to mediate in schools, correctional facilities, and help resolve conflicts within their community.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds, were expended to pay the salary and wages for seven (7) full-time Americorps members.

Community Support Systems, Inc.**Amount Awarded - \$8,500****Project Name - Engage: Volunteer Coordinator**

Community Support Systems, Inc. is a grassroots, community-based social service agency serving low to moderate income families, individuals, and senior citizens in the rural areas and outer suburbs of Prince George's County and northern Charles County. CSC operates three food pantries and they are seeking to engage a Volunteer Coordinator through the Volunteer Maryland program to coordinate over 90 volunteers to assist with the day-to-day operations of the food pantries. The Volunteer Coordinator will be responsible for recruiting new volunteers, provide training that meets the needs of our current and future volunteers and establish 'best practices' policies and procedures for our food pantry Volunteer Program.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds, were expended to pay the salary and wages for a full-time Volunteer Maryland Americorp member. *The Project ended early due to the departure of the Volunteer Maryland Coordinator.*

Eastern Shore Land Conservancy - Sassafras Environmental Education Center**Amount Award - \$8,500****Project Name - Volunteer Maryland Partnership - Building SEEC's Volunteer Program Capacity**

Eastern Shore Land Conservancy's Sassafras Environmental Education Center's (SEEC) mission is to provide sequential, annual outdoor experiences leading to a population of future Eastern Shore citizens who will be capable of living compatibly with nature's design. With funding provided by MAERDAF, SEEC will hire a Volunteer Maryland AmeriCorps Member to strengthen our Volunteer Program through recruiting and training volunteers to assist with the Center's community garden, educational programming, and composting program implementation. As a small non-profit, with 3 full time staff, being able to host a Volunteer Maryland AmeriCorps

Member to manage our volunteer program is a critical component that will allow SEEC to become more efficient and effective.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds, were expended to pay the salary and wages for a full-time Volunteer Maryland AmeriCorps member.

For All Seasons, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$50,000

Project Name - COVID-19 Emergency Mental Health Appointments

For All Seasons, Inc. provides outpatient mental health, psychiatric, education, and rape crisis services to English and Spanish speaking communities regardless of one's ability to pay. Trauma-certified therapists and psychiatrists provide a variety of treatment approaches and individualized care for children, adolescents, adults, and seniors on Maryland's Eastern Shore. For All Seasons, Inc.'s developed a new program to address the increase of new requests for emergency services after the onset of Covid-19. The COVID-19 Emergency Mental Health

Appointments program include brief counseling, mental health assessments and intake appointments for people that require ongoing mental health treatment. The Covid-19 appointments are held each day at several of our locations in order to be able to rapidly respond to the mental health needs of Mid-Shore citizens who never had need for mental health care before Covid-19.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds, was expended to cover the costs of services for people who need Emergency Covid-19 appointments, but are uninsured or underinsured, and cannot otherwise pay.

Frederick CTC FFA Alumni, Inc

Amount Awarded - \$4,250

Project Name - Agriculture for All

Through virtual, small group and whole group training, Agriculture for All aims to provide training that is not readily available, but vitally important to advance agricultural educators knowledge and skills while facilitating an agricultural education program welcoming for all students to achieve career preparation success. Agriculture for All seeks to improve agricultural teachers' self-efficacy with utilizing new technology to facilitate online learning, integrating supervised agricultural experiences into current county agricultural curricula and increasing participation in youth leadership learning opportunities for 6-12 grade students through Future Farmers of America. The three circle agricultural teaching model is essential to teacher, program and student success and will be the driving force for all professional development offerings.

The MAERDAF grant awards paid for the consultation services for the training component of the program.

Garrett County Arts Council, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$19,604

Project Name - \$SMART ART, Shared Workspace

Garrett County Arts Council (GCAC) mission is to aid, encourage, advise, and coordinate activities dedicated to the promotion of cultural arts in Garrett County, and to integrate such activities into the life of our community. With the recent expansion of broadband access in their county and increased need for a more creative workforce due to the COVID-19 pandemic, GCAC designed a plan to show their community applications on how to use the expanded access to technology. GCAC's MAERDAF proposal creates \$SMART ART, Shared Workspace: an ADA-accessible community workspace equipped with various digital/traditional tools/services assisting rural art entrepreneurs to flourish in the global digital-based economy. GCAC will provide key education/professional development services with the creation of additional employment opportunities for artists and professionals in a resource capacity.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds, were expended to pay for the workspace conversion and furniture; equipment and software; program documentation; and, consultant services.

Habitat for Humanity Choptank, Inc.**Amount Awarded - \$13,300****Project Name - AmeriCorps Construction Crew Leader and Community Education/Outreach Positions**

Habitat for Humanity Choptank, is a nonprofit organization that focuses on building homes, communities and hope. Grant funding will help build the capacity to empower local families through shelter by leveraging funding to host a Americorps member. The Americorps member will provide capacity to proven financial literacy and education classes that will be expanded to allow low income households to take advantage of curriculum, without any obligation to participate in the Habitat homeownership program.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds, were used to pay the salary and wages to host an Americorps member.

Habitat For Humanity Of Wicomico County, Inc.**Amount Awarded - \$25,000****Project Name - Wicomico Habitat Builds Hope**

Habitat for Humanity of Wicomico County brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope in both Wicomico and Somerset Counties. This project entails building capacity by fully funding two Salisbury University ShoreCorps Americorps members to serve in Community Building and Roof Repair programs and partially funding their full-time Resource Coordinator- an important role that connects with donors that provide sponsorships and in-kind resources to fund projects.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds were expended to pay the salary and wages for the Americorps Volunteer Coordinator and Roof and Repair Coordinator and partial salary for their Resource Coordinator.

Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna**Amount Awarded - \$25,000****Project Name - Critical Home Repairs for Rural Low-income Families and Seniors**

Driven by the vision that everyone needs an affordable and decent place to live, Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna leverages their home building experience to provide critical home repairs for rural low-income homeowners in Harford and Cecil Counties, allowing them to live safely and remain in their homes. The families, individuals, seniors, and veterans live in unsafe, substandard homes in disrepair and can't afford the materials and labor to fix them. They are at risk for homelessness if forced to leave homes that are irreparable. The Critical Home Repairs for Rural Low-income Families and Seniors project will provide critical repairs to homes that include but are not limited to roofs, ADA accessible bathrooms and ramps, heating units, plumbing and electrical repairs, water heaters, and other crucial repairs that alleviate health and safety issues.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds, were expended to pay for the materials and contractors required by each home's project.

Historic St. Mary's City Foundation**Amount Awarded- \$21,200****Project Name - Virtual Platform: A Year of Discovery at Historic St. Mary's City**

Historic St. Mary's City Foundation's (HSMCF) mission is to preserve and protect the archaeological and historical record of Maryland's first capital and to appropriately develop the historic and scenic site for education, enjoyment, and general benefit of the public. Their living history museum is visited by tens of thousands of individuals annually and due to COVID-19 many of their core demographics have been unable to visit in person. In order to recapture this audience, HSMCF has devoted significant resources to expanding their virtual platform. The virtual content platform being pursued will give their institution the opportunity to reach their largest demographic (elementary age school children) that cannot attend in person due to COVID-19 restrictions, and will provide content for an expanded audience for years to come.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds, were expended to pay for the virtual platform equipment, material costs, consultant services, and promotional costs.

Horizons of Kent and Queen Anne's

Amount Awarded - \$13,000

Project Name - Academic Support & Enrichment for Underserved Students in Kent & Queen Anne's Counties

Horizons of Kent and Queen Anne's works towards closing the opportunity gap for children with limited economic means in Kent and Queen Anne's Counties. They work with students in grades pre-K through 8th grade during the summer months to eliminate the summer slide in learning and to realize their potential through a results-oriented program of academic achievement, cultural enrichment, and personal mentoring. Horizon's plans to expand their program to offer additional support to their students during the school year. This support entails the hiring of teachers and assistants to work with students during Saturday sessions through a virtual platform. Meetings will focus on leadership skills, academic support, and hands-on STEM lessons.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds, were expended to cover the salary and wages of the teachers and college assistants.

Ivy and Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Incorporated

Amount Awarded - \$9,605.00

Project Name - Breast Cancer Awareness for African American Women of Southern Maryland

Ivy and Pearls of Southern Maryland Community Charities, Incorporated (IPSMCC) is committed to increasing breast health and breast cancer prevention behaviors in the African American women and underserved women of Southern Maryland. IPSMCC will facilitate breast health and breast cancer education events which will promote preventive behaviors, offer early detection opportunities and support for survivors; reaching at minimum 800 Black/African American women and underserved women in Charles and St. Mary's Counties. Breast health and breast cancer education events such as 1 forum, 1 fair, 2-3 workshops, 2 virtual challenges, and one-on-one follow-up correspondence (via phone call, postal mail, face-to-face and email) with participants will be provided.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds, were expended to pay for upgrade in Zoom platform; materials and supplies; publications and marketing; and virtual workshops.

Jesse Klump Memorial Fund, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$6,200

Project Name - Save a Shore Farmer

Save a Shore Farmer is a campaign with the mission to prevent farmer suicides. It is focused predominantly (though not exclusively) on the lower Maryland Eastern Shore. The campaign serves an educational, not a therapeutic, role in order to break down the stigma that prevents rural residents from seeking mental health care, increasing awareness of the dire affects of depression, stress and anxiety, teaching to recognize warning sign, and leading those who need help to the resources that are available. The campaign does this using public communication tools like billboards, a website and social media, appearing at agriculture-related events, and in year three by manning mental health resource tables at public libraries and teaching nationally-acclaimed classes for both farm families and those who professionally serve farms.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds, were expended to pay for the rental of a billboard to market the campaign.

LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$27,500

Project Name - Increasing the Capacity and Resiliency of Rural Leaders

The LEAD Maryland Fellowship is a two-year leadership development program with the goal to increase the number and capacity of leaders serving agriculture, natural resources, and rural communities. Working collaboratively, LEAD Maryland Foundation (LEAD) and the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology (Hughes Center), will provide a speakers series, entitled "Speaker Series on Resilient Leadership" that will provide three prominent speakers who will address the traits of resilient leadership. Topics will include COVID's impact on agriculture, civil discourse, and organizational transformation through innovative leadership. Additionally, LEAD Maryland is seeking funding to support multi-day seminars to deliver curriculum to it's current class. These seminars will be held at: Washington DC, Eastern Shore, and Baltimore City and County.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds, were expended to provide funds for fellowship seminars and speaker series.

Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area, Inc. dba Beach to Bay Heritage Area

Amount Awarded - \$35,000

Project Name - Beach to Bay Heritage Area, Phase III: Shared Content Generation & Marketing in a COVID Environment

The Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area Council's (LESHC) mission is to preserve, protect, and promote the historical, cultural and natural heritage of Maryland's Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties. With the crisis of Covid-19 pandemic, LESCHC plans to develop heritage site content through video "virtual tours" and written content creation for use in newsletter, website and social media as well as a broad marketing campaign to include outreach to both in-region residents and out-of-region visitors.

The MAERDAF grant, along with matching funds, were expended to pay for the consultant, video production, marketing, and web services.

Lower Shore Land Trust

Amount Awarded - \$11,397

Project Name - F/T AmeriCorps Conservation Education & Community Outreach Coordinator

Lower Shore Land Trust (LSLT) is the regional land trust in the lower Easter Shore, which includes Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties. LSLT offers various tools to their community that include but are not limited to land protection, habitat restoration, and outdoor recreation. LSLT will host an Americorps position for a second year and this person who will serve as the Conservation Outreach and Education Coordinator supporting the Land Trusts mission and activities.

MAERDAF Funds will be expended, in conjunction with matching funds, to provide the salary and wages for a Americorps position.

Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation

Amount Awarded - \$19,720

Project Name - Infusing Agriculture into the Middle School Classroom

The Maryland Agriculture Education Foundation, Inc. (MAEF) promotes the understanding and importance of agriculture in our daily lives and is striving to address this situation by making teachers more literate in agriculture. MAEF offers vibrant programming for elementary and high school teachers (including an Elementary Ag in the Classroom teacher workshop and support of high school FFA) but lacks programming at the intermediate level. MAEF is seeking grant funding to help finalize the development and implementation of a new course, entitled "Infusing Agriculture into the Middle School Classroom", which will fill a critical programming void in the middle school curriculum. This innovative course will allow in-depth online study, chat room and an in-person workshop/farm experience to increase depth of knowledge by allowing teachers

hands on activities and interactive farm tours. Participants will log 32 online hours and a minimum of 11 hours offline. Teachers will submit evidence of their work in order to receive 3 Maryland State Department of Education continuing education credits.

Maryland Food Bank - Eastern Shore

Amount Awarded - \$10,000

Project Name - Farm to Food Bank Program

The Maryland Food Bank's (MFB) Farm to Food Bank Program engages a network of more than 50 farms and orchards across the state in a partnership to provide hungry Marylanders with farm-fresh local produce. Through a combination of field gleanings, donations, and contract growing, these farms help the Maryland Food Bank (MFB) supply fresh, nutritious fruits and vegetables to food-insecure communities statewide. MFB trucks transport produce to distribution sites across the state where it is then given to individuals and families in need through MFB's Network Partner sites (e.g. soup kitchens, schools, pantries, shelters, etc.) and mobile pantry distribution events.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds, were expended to pay for materials necessary for the gleaning process.

Maryland Forests Association, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$32,500

Project Name - Faces of Forestry

Maryland Forest Association, Inc. (MFA) is a state-wide nonprofit organization whose mission is to conserve and enhance forests in the State. The goal of the Faces of Forestry campaign is to enhance public perception of the environmental and economic benefits of sustainable forestry management ranging in Maryland-focusing on water quality and open space retention to renewable energy development & rural job retention/expansion. In short, we will create & deliver messaging that doesn't currently exist in Maryland. The campaign will have diverse participation highlighting individuals from all walks of life that are part of the forest community. The return on investment will be a greater understanding of not only forestry practices & people, but the everyday products they produce, and the need for forests to remain forests. Public attitudes drive forestland policy prescriptions. Lack of understanding will continue to cause significant adverse implications for the industry & landowners alike. We will make a connection that will lead to both innovative policy creation and favorable interpretation of existing policy allowing market-based solutions to continue and expand.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds, were expended to pay for the salary and wages for the MFA staff and consultant services, the marketing consultant, printing costs for the Faces of Forestry booklet, Edwin Remsberg photography, graphic design, MFA display updates, travel, and meeting expenses.

Maryland Horse Foundation

Amount Awarded - \$15,000

Project Name - A Premier Educational/Promotional Program to Drive Economic Growth to Maryland's Equine Industry

The Maryland Horse Industry Foundation (MHIF) serves various education and workforce development needs of the Maryland horse industry. MHIF plans to utilize grant award funds for two projects. First, initiate a new Maryland Horse Month that will celebrate major equestrian events with contests, viewing parties, live stream, and telecast of events. MHIF will create new marketing materials for Horseland Festivals, including virtual farm tours, equine tourism trails and expansion of the MarylandHorse.com website. Secondly, move the "Horses For Courses" school curriculum to an online platform and promote usage incentives in order to increase awareness and ability for schools to participate in the Horse Discovery Network.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds, will be expended to promote Maryland Horse Month and support educational activities related to MHIF.

Maryland Rural Development Corporation**Amount Awarded - \$40,000****Project Name - Adult Education Access**

Maryland Rural Development Corporation (MRDC) provides services in response to the needs of rural, low-income households and communities in Caroline, Cecil, and Kent Counties. For the past four years, MRDC has been operating wraparound services for adult education classes run by the local community colleges and held in two of their Head Start locations: Elkton, Cecil County and Greensboro, Caroline County. MRDC provides transportation, meals, and childcare for the students and their children in a safe and welcoming venue using federal Community Services Block Grant program money and FY20 funding from RMC. This year MRDC expanded the program and its additional services into their Edgewood Head Start Center in Harford County.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds will be expended to pay for the salary and wages for the Edgewood Head Start Center teachers.

MPT Foundation, Inc.**Amount Awarded - \$25,000****Project Name - Maryland Farm & Harvest Season 8**

Maryland Public Television's (MPT) programming includes the Maryland Farm & Harvest program- a half-hour public TV series developed to help people learn about and more deeply appreciate Maryland's number one industry: agriculture. The series accomplishes its educational and entertainment goals by telling the stories of the people who maintain the state's vast and diverse agriculture organizations. From digging into the science of soil health to exploring how COVID-19 has impacted farming operations, episodes show viewers the cutting-edge technology that powers modern agriculture and illustrate how the changing business environment presents new challenges to farmers every day. Viewers of Maryland Farm & Harvest learn about science, animal farming, horticulture, economics, history, cooking, and more. Funding from the Rural Maryland Council will help Maryland Farm & Harvest continue to provide Marylanders with inspirational stories and useful information about the state's most important industry.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds, were used to support Season Eight of the Maryland Farm and Harvest television series programming.

National Ski Patrol - Eastern Division, Wisp Ski Patrol**Amount Awarded - \$9,500****Project Name - Wisp Ski Patrol: Personal Protective Equipment for Safety on the Slopes**

Wisp's Ski Patrol's (WSP) mission is to provide the highest level of emergency medical care to the outdoor recreation and surrounding community and transport patients to the next level of emergency medical care. WSP is a critical component of the Garrett County Emergency Medical Services and provides its services to the Wisp Ski Resort and County through the year. The WSP depend on updated training materials and testing equipment to teach renewal and community CPR classes and in light of the COVID-19 pandemic provide necessary and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for its members, which currently consists of 86 patrollers.

The MAERDAF award, along this matching funds, were used to update training equipment and personal protective equipment.

Ocean City Development Corporation**Amount Awarded - \$31,900****Project Name - Craft Beer & Tourism Research, Marketing and App Updates in a COVID World**

The mission of Ocean City Development Corporation is to create and foster a safe and attractive environment in which innovative public and private sector partnerships will collaborate to maximize available resources and opportunities, and eliminate barriers to revitalization in downtown Ocean City. Building off of the successful 2020 Shore Craft Beer app, the OCDC requests funds for research and marketing to further support the app with the goal to make the Shore a top craft beer destination. The project will produce data in a report, including GIS maps, to be distributed to all stakeholders.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds, were expended to pay for the software programming and research component of the project.

Preservation Maryland

Amount Awarded - \$22,000

Project Name - The Rural Maryland Heritage Outreach Initiative

Preservation Maryland recognizes that one of the hardest hit segments of Maryland's economy during the COVID-19 pandemic has been the tourism-related organizations, entities, and sites. The Rural Maryland Heritage Outreach Initiative's goal is to highlight these special places through video in order to broaden their reach and increase visitation post pandemic. Preservation Maryland will invest in several mobile traveling video kits that will be freely provided to rural museums, nonprofits, main street organizations and tourism supporting entities throughout the State. A part-time video editor will work with these organizations to help make these short films and provide simple lessons how to use the equipment and market the materials.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds, paid for the part-time video editor, video production equipment and travel to distribute the kits.

SHORE UP! Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$25,000

Project Name - SHORE UP! Inc. Meal Truck

SHORE UP! Inc. is a private, non-profit Community Action Partnership on Maryland's Eastern Shore dedicated to revitalizing communities and empowering individuals and families to maintain long-term independence and achieve economic security through a comprehensive system of services and resources. SHORE UP! Inc. is currently seeking funds for a meal truck. The meal truck is a major investment and a significant community economic development project because it will be used to deliver foods to economically disadvantaged children and families in the agency's Head Start and Early Head Start programs. The truck will also be utilized to serve adults in the agency's Adult Day Services program, delivering meals to elderly or disabled individuals who are unable to purchase or prepare their own meals at home.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds, were expended towards the purchase of a food truck to deliver meals.

Steam Onward, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$11,750

Project Name - MORE THAN FARMING: 21st Century Technologies in Rural Maryland Agriculture and Natural Resources

The mission of Steam Onward is to increase the number of minority and under-served youth pursuing higher education in STEM related fields such as science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Steam Onward plans to produce and distribute statewide, a series called "More Than Farming". This series will include short (5 minutes each) educational videos that illustrate examples of businesses in rural Maryland that utilize 21st century precision and digital technologies in agriculture, aquaculture, and natural resources.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds, were expended to pay for the videography, publications; materials & supplies; consultant services; and, online social media boosting for the "More Than Farming" educational series.

Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland

Amount Awarded - \$30,000

Project Name - Southern Maryland Community and Instructional Kitchen

The Southern Maryland Commercial and Instructional Kitchen is a vital component of the Regional Agricultural Center (RAC) being constructed as a partnership between the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC) and St. Mary's County. Food safety

instruction, basic cooking skills, a meat-cutting apprenticeship program, and a "home" to create Health Department approved cottage industry food products are all part of the mission of the Commercial and Instructional Kitchen.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds, were expended to purchase audio/visual equipment, along with light kitchen equipment and tools to support a robust Instructional and Commercial Kitchen that would serve the population of Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's, Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties in Southern Maryland.

Vehicles for Change, Inc.

Amount Awarded - \$50,000

Project Name - Vehicles for Change-Lower Eastern Shore Division

Vehicles for Change (VFC) provides the tools necessary to achieve financial stability for families through their car donation program and workforce development training for formerly incarcerated individuals. Vehicles for Change has plans to bring their successful automotive repair job training program to Salisbury, Maryland. This program will help individuals who would have difficulty in obtaining job training learn how to repair cars and trucks, with many of the training vehicles donated from the community and partnering with businesses in the community for placement of trainees.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds, will be used towards the the salaries and wages for those staff operating the automotive repair job training program.

Western Maryland RC&D

Amount Awarded - \$50,000

Project Name - Maryland Forest Industry StoryMap

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. The Council was incorporated in 1993 to represent Garrett, Allegany, Washington, Frederick, and Carroll counties. Building on the state-wide forest resources GIS platform that WMRC&D commissioned using U.S. Economic Development Administration funding, the Council will partner with the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) and the Maryland Forest Service to develop a StoryMap that communicates the current status of the forestry industry in Maryland, while providing a narrative to assist the economic development community in understanding forest industry impacts.

The MAERDAF Grant Award, along with matching funds, were expended to pay for ESRGC consulting services to develop the StoryMap and WMRC&D administrative costs.

Western Maryland RC&D

Amount Awarded - \$38,950

Project Name - Developing Capacity for Hemp Crop Testing and Processing in Western Maryland

The Mountain Maryland Hemp Alliance is seeking funding to build capacity for local testing and processing of industrial hemp grown in western Maryland. Current federal regulations require farmers to test their crop within 14 days of harvest for total THC content, which cannot exceed 0.3%. This requires most farmers to test weekly from mid-August through September to monitor total THC levels. Currently, there are no testing facilities located in Western Maryland to test potency of hemp. The project would develop field and lab testing capacity and educational programs in western Maryland through partnership with University of Maryland Extension Services and regional institutes of higher education. Additionally, the project is also seeking funding for post-harvest processing equipment. A mobile, mechanized device for stripping biomass would alleviate bottlenecks in the processing of regionally grown hemp and help farmers move their crop for extraction.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds, were expended to pay for the post processing equipment, testing equipment, materials and supplies and administrative funds for Western Maryland RC&D.

Western Maryland RC&D**Amount Awarded - \$11,170****Project Name - Hands-On Forestry Education in Western Maryland**

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. The Council was incorporated in 1993 to represent Garrett, Allegany, Washington, Frederick, and Carroll counties. This project will produce tree and shrub seedlings at our Frostburg Grows nursery site which will be used to support hands-on forestry education in western Maryland via the Maryland Forest Service's Backyard Buffers Program and other partner programs. The Backyard Buffers Program encourages homeowners to create a streamside buffer of native trees and shrubs by providing a free "buffer in a bag". Streamside buffers create habitat for wildlife, reduce the amount of pollutants that enter our waterways, and stabilize streambanks, protecting them from erosion. Additionally, WMRC&D will partner with Trout Unlimited by providing seedlings for use in their upcoming 2021 riparian buffer plantings. This project will further promote forestry education by making the Frostburg Grows nursery site available to local students and other citizens in the region, who will have the opportunity to engage in seedling production and care.

The MAERDAF award, along with matching funds, were expended to pay the salary and wage for the time the WMRC&D Executive Director works on the project, travel, project equipment, materials and supplies.

FY2021 MAERDAF DECLINED AWARD PROJECTS

Organization Name	Focus Area	Project Name	Region Served	Amount Requested	Total Match	Award Declined
Community Foundation of Howard County	Community and Economic Development	Grow it Forward	Western; Central	\$50,000.00	\$53,000.00	\$20,000
Crisfield Arts & Entertainment District Project	Community and Economic Development	Volunteer Coordinator for Crisfield Arts & Entertainment District and Crisfield Heritage Foundation	Eastern Shore	\$8,500.00	\$35,477.00	\$8,500
Phillips Wharf Environmental Center	Agricultural and Forestry Education	Phillips Wharf Environmental Center Education Program Development	Eastern Shore	\$45,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000
Southern Maryland Minority Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Inc.	Health Care	Senior Digital Literacy Pilot Program	Southern	\$35,000.00	\$0.00	\$7,750

FY2021 MAERDAF MID-YEAR AWARDS

In June 2021, the MAERDAF Grant Review Board approved to fund two additional an additional Grantees for a total sum of \$59,000.

Organization Name	Focus Area	Project Name	Region Served	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	Total Match
Maces Lane	Community and Economic Development	Maces Lane Community Center	Eastern Shore	\$19,000	\$19,000	\$0.00
MPT Foundation, Inc.	Agriculture and Forestry	Maryland Farm & Harvest, Season 9	Statewide	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0.00

FY2019 RETURNED FUNDS

Process	Organization Name	Project Name	Amount Returned	Reason For Return
FY19 RMPPIF	University of Maryland Extension	Improving the Rural Health of Maryland	\$17,432.38	Project completed with excess funds returned.



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.

Rural Maryland Council'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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