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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FFARMD**  
FOUNDATION

## **New Fiscal Agent for Maryland Market Money Program Announced**

Annapolis, MD (May 22, 2023) – The Board of Directors of the Farms and Food Access for a Resilient Maryland Foundation, Inc., announces the formation of this new nonprofit organization. Also referred to as the “FFARMD Foundation,” or simply as “FFARMD” (pronounced “farmed”), this foundation has been established to serve as the fiscal agent for the Maryland Market Money (MMM) program, replacing the Maryland Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO), which had served as the fiscal agent for MMM since 2020. FFARMD will assume the partnership role that MARBIDCO had with the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCCSMD) which operates the MMM program.

The Maryland Market Money program is a statewide food access program that feeds Marylanders and supports local farmers. MMM funds provide a dollar-for-dollar match for purchases made using federal nutrition benefits (SNAP, WIC, FMNP) at participating farmers markets, farm stands, and CSAs across the state. Currently, over 700 farmers and farmers market vendors are participating in the program at 55 access points for consumers, with more being added regularly.

FFARMD has been established as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization to raise funds for MMM so that it may expand its reach in helping Marylanders who are experiencing food insecurity have access to and purchase more nutritious, locally produced fresh food and farm products. Local farmers also benefit from this program through the additional sales that are made at Maryland farmers markets, farm stands, and other local retail outlets where federal nutrition benefits may be redeemed. The TCCSMD/SMADC will continue to manage the day-to-day operations of the MMM program.

The FFARMD’s board members include the following: Steve McHenry, MARBIDCO; Kurt Fuchs, Horizon Farm Credit; Kelly Dudeck, Grow & Fortify; Shannon Dill, the University of Maryland Extension; and John Torres, Biotechnology Innovation Organization. The MMM program is managed by the SMADC staff including Director Shelby Watson-Hampton and Program Manager Heather Hulseley.

For more information, please contact the Foundation’s Financial Administrator, Vanessa Finney, at 410-823-1789 or via [vanessa@quercusmanagement.com](mailto:vanessa@quercusmanagement.com), the MMM Program Manager, Heather Hulseley, at [hhulseley@smadc.com](mailto:hhulseley@smadc.com), or visit the FFARMD website at [www.ffarmd.org](http://www.ffarmd.org).

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TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL  
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