



## **MAERDAF 2011 applications are currently being accepted!**

(May 10, 2010) - The Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF), administered by the Rural Maryland Council, provides grants to rural-serving nonprofit organizations that promote statewide and regional planning, economic and community development, and agricultural and forestry education. Also eligible are rural community colleges that support small and agricultural businesses through enhanced training and technical assistance. MAERDAF'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.

**Application Deadline: July 8, 2010. Awards will be announced in August.**

### **Fact Sheet and Guidelines for FY 2011 MAERDAF Grant Applications**

- Eligible applicants must be a 501(c)(3) IRS tax designation or similar and serve a regional or statewide rural constituency. Trade associations are not eligible. The applicant does not have to be located in a rural area or in the area it serves.
- Eligible projects must serve more than one rural county and be completed between August 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011.
- Rural counties are: Allegany, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico and Worcester.
- The maximum allowable grant for FY 2011 is \$25,000. The average grant over the life of the program is about \$18,000.
- Priority is given to applicants that have secured matching funds from non-state sources; however matching funds are not required. Federal funds are considered matching funds.
- Only very minor changes in scope are allowed after a grant has been awarded. Some project timelines can also be modified.
- Unused grant funds must be returned to the Rural Maryland Council no later than July 15, 2011.
- Past and current grantees are eligible for a 2011 grant if they have met all the requirements of their previous grant agreements, including reporting deadlines.
- The MAERDAF Grant Review Board is comprised of representatives appointed by six state agencies. Its decisions are final. Those agencies are: the Rural Maryland Council, the Maryland Dept. of Agriculture, Dept. of Business & Economic Development, Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene, Dept. of Housing & Community Development, and Dept. of Natural Resources.
- All applicants will be notified of the status of their application no later than August 15, 2010.

More information can be found on the [RMC](#) website.