



GICA

Governor's Intergovernmental Commission on Agriculture

Agritourism & Value Added Subcommittee

AGENDA

Welcome

Approval of July 2026 Minutes

Committee Discussion

- SB 807 Implementation – *Jeff Kelly & Thomas Akras, ATCC*
 - HB 272 Implementation – *Kelly Peralta, MDH*
 - RHTP Updates
 - *Sara Seitz, MDH*
 - *Cassie Shirk & Martin Proulx, MDA*
 - *Annika La Fave, MDEM*
-

New Business

Old Business

Adjourn

ATCC

ALCOHOL TOBACCO AND CANNABIS COMMISSION

GICA Subcommittee on Agritourism and Value

October 1,
2026

SB 807: Class 8 Farm Brewery Licenses

► **Zoning Exemption**

Exempts Class 8 licenses issued by July 1, 2015, from local zoning prerequisites.

► **Agribusiness Requirement**

Requires licensees to operate as an agribusiness and actively engage in agritourism.

► **Food Service**

Permits food sales via a food establishment license, approved food trucks/caterers, or on-farm cottage food.

► **Events and Entertainment**

Authorizes hosting festivals, live entertainment, and renting farm space for private or public events.

► **Regulatory Authority**

Grants exclusive regulatory authority to the Executive Director, who may only cap visitor numbers if required by fire safety codes.

Class 8 Proposed Regulations

- ▶ These proposed regulations aim to provide definitions, procedures, and interagency coordination standards for Class 8 manufacturer license privileges administered by the Executive Director.
- ▶ 37 currently active M8 licenses in the State.
- ▶ Emphasis on detailing a M8's engagement in agritourism and agribusiness.
- ▶ Covering procedures for M8's to host various events, festivals, and functions that fall under the purview of the Executive Director.
- ▶ The ATCC is engaging with local jurisdictions on certain operational aspects that cross over with Zoning, Health Department, and Fire Marshall.
- ▶ Increased language on reporting requirements and procedures for corrective action of licensees.



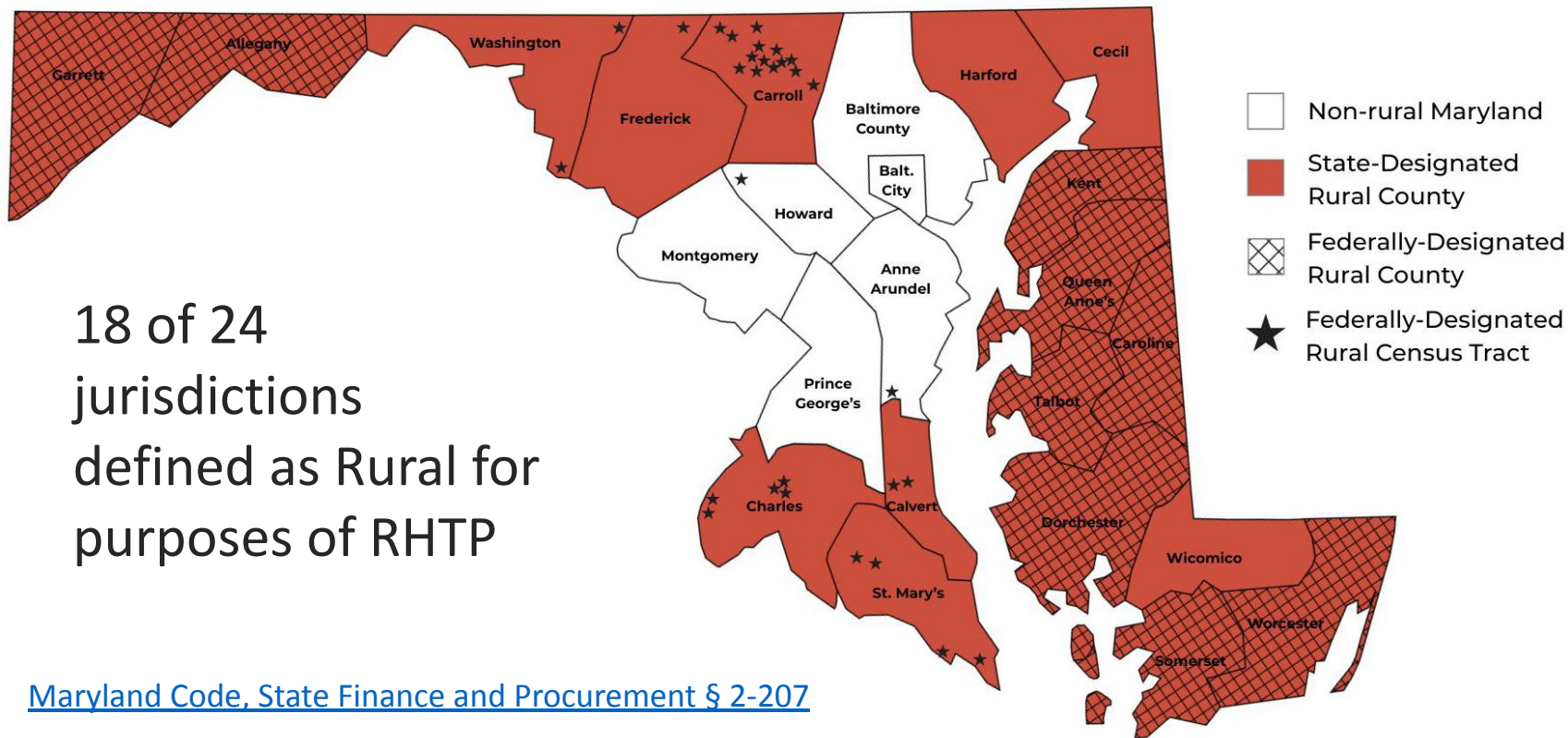
Maryland Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)

State Office of Rural Health
October 1, 2026

RHTP Support

The Maryland Rural Health Transformation Program is supported by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award to the Maryland Department of Health totaling \$168,180,837.61 (Budget Period 1) with 100 percent funded by CMS/HHS. The contents of this meeting are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CMS/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

Rural MD by State and Federal Designation



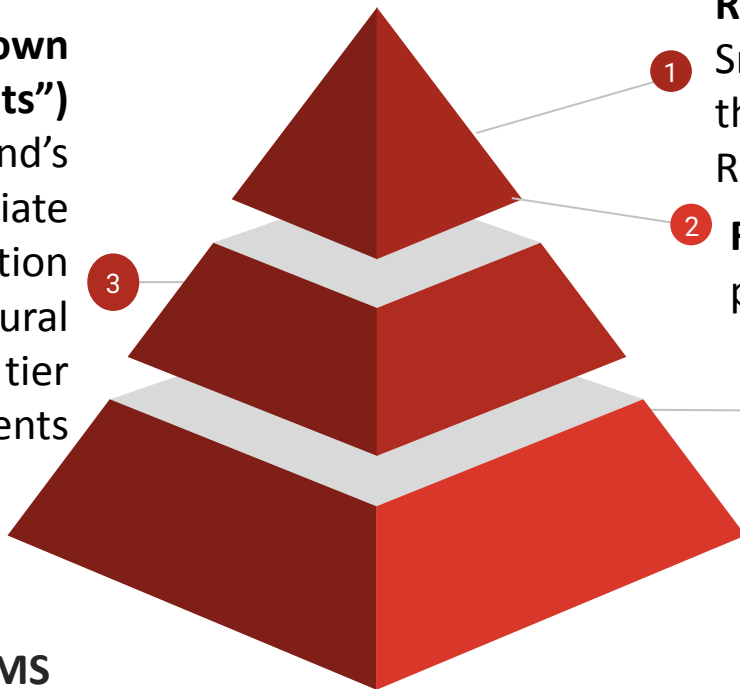
Implementation Structure

Partners (“Known Subrecipients”)

Named within Maryland’s proposal; to lead Immediate Impact and Transformation Fund activities within rural Maryland as first tier subrecipients

Funded by CMS

Cooperative Agreement Funding



RHTP Governance

1 Small MDH-based team led by the Maryland State Office of Rural Health (SORH).

2 **RHT Committee** Continued purposeful stakeholder engagement

Second Tier Subrecipients

4 Subawards executed and monitored by Known Subrecipient partners, as appropriate to activity areas

Transformation Through Partnership

- Maryland Department of Labor
- University of Maryland
- Department of Agriculture
- Rural Maryland Council
- Maryland Dept. of Emergency Management - Food Resiliency Council
- Department of Housing and Community Development
- CRISP
- Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems
- Maryland Health Care Commission
- Health Services Cost Review Commission
- Local Health Departments
- MDH Administrations

Maryland RHTP Framework

Budget Period 1 (BP1):
\$168,180,837.61

PILLAR 1

**Transform the
Rural Health
Workforce**



**\$26 million
(15.3% of Year 1 award)**

PILLAR 2

**Promote Sustainable
Access and
Innovative Care**



**\$126 million
(74.9% of Year 1 award)**

PILLAR 3

**Empower Rural
Marylanders to
Eat for Health**



**\$15 million
(9.1% of Year 1 award)**

**Governance
\$1 million
(0.7% of Year 1
award)**

PART 1 - IMMEDIATE IMPACT FUNDS

Quickly provide resources to expand “shovel-ready” activities in rural areas.

PART 2 - TRANSFORMATION FUNDS

Competitive opportunities for transformational initiatives in rural areas.



Pillar 3: Empower Rural Marylanders to Eat for Health

Pillar 3: Empower Rural Marylanders to Eat for Health

Invest in infrastructure to support Marylanders' access to nutritious, locally grown and raised Maryland foods.

Immediate Impact

- **Post Harvest Infrastructure:** Locate cold storage infrastructure within rural communities to expand food aggregation and distribution capacity for small farms to supply local markets with fresh foods and enhance cold storage for food banks to enable distribution of fresh foods. (MDA)
- **NourishMD Expansion:** Provide small grocers and mobile access points with funds for equipment purchases, minor renovations, technology infrastructure and marketing to create a sustainable business. (DHCD)
- **Create Demand for Healthy Foods:** Local Health Departments will provide targeted nutritional education to improve food and physical activity behaviors among rural residents. (MDH/ LHDs)
- **Support Food Planning and Coordination:** Establish a Rural Food Coordination program with a regional approach to convening and coordinating. (MDEM)

Transformation Funds

- **Food Aggregation:** Food Aggregation and food hubs to increase the availability of affordable, local foods. (RMC)
- **Local Purchasing:** New organizational purchasing strategies to pivot to procurement of healthy local foods. (RMC)



Updates on Pillar 3 Competitive Funding

Initiative	Partner	Amount	Status
<i>Budget Period 1 Closed Opportunities</i>			
3.1 Post Harvest Infrastructure: Post Harvest Infrastructure: Cold Storage for Producers	MDA	\$3.6M	Opened: 5/15 Closed: 6/15 Proposals received: 92 Expected Award date: 9/15 Expected start: 10/1
3.2 NourishMD Expansion: NourishMD Expansion: Small Grocers & Mobile Markets	DHCD	\$1.6M Awarded	Opened: 1/20 Closed: 2/20 RHTP-funded award offers to 33 entities: 7/27 Expected start: 8/2026
3.5T Healthy Food Aggregation: Food System Aggregation and Hubs & Local Foods Purchasing Strategies	RMC	\$4.7M	Opened: 4/20 Closed: 5/15 Proposals received: 33 Expected Award date: 9/15 Expected start: 10/1

Staying Connected

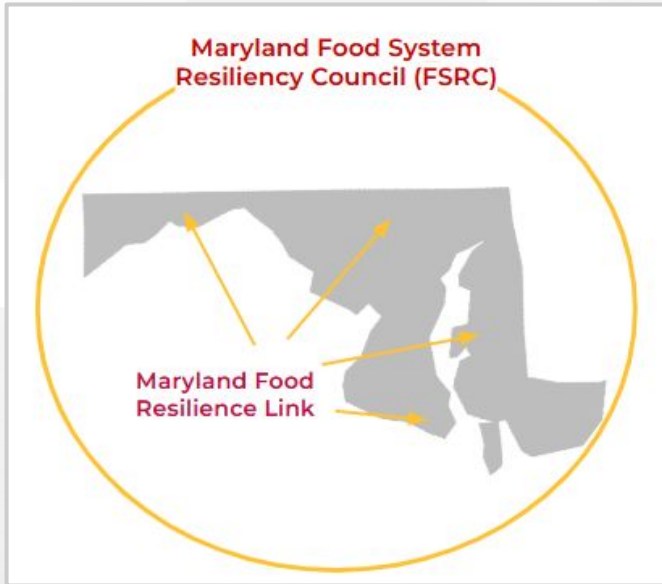
- **Dedicated public-facing email:**
mdh.transformruralhealth@maryland.gov
- **RHTP listserv sign up:**
<https://health.maryland.gov/pophealth/Pages/Rural-Health-Transformation-Program.aspx>
- **Website:** <https://health.maryland.gov/pophealth/Pages/Rural-Health-Transformation-Program.aspx>

Maryland Food Resilience Link

Maryland Office of Resilience (MOR)

The Maryland Rural Health Transformation Program is supported by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award to the Maryland Department of Health totaling \$168,180,837.61 with 100 percent funded by CMS/HHS. The contents of this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CMS/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

Introducing MD Food Link



Maryland Food Resilience Link (MD Food Link) - an initiative to build local and regional capacity for food systems resilience

- Place-based approach to advancing food systems innovation and coordination
- Support for farmers, food banks, local food councils, government agencies, and other stakeholders in Maryland's 18 rural jurisdictions
- Made possible by Maryland's Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program

Maryland Local Food Council Collaborative

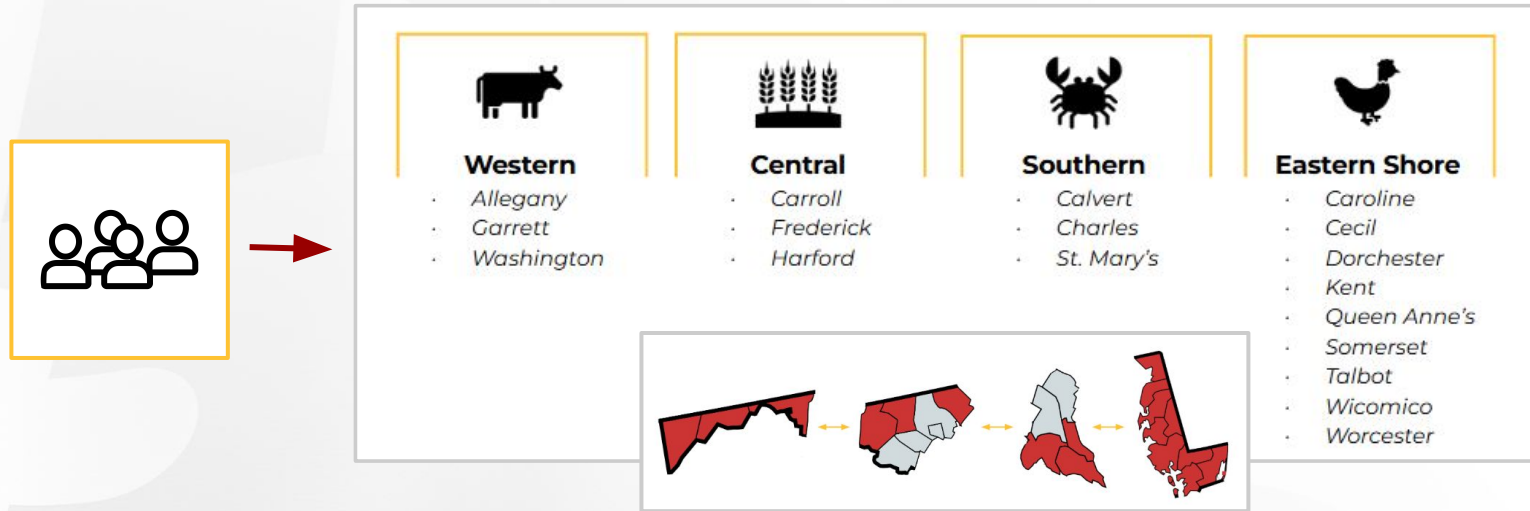
13 rural
jurisdictions have
food councils

All Maryland
jurisdictions
without food
councils are rural

4 of 5 rural food
councils have
representation on
FSRC

- Anne Arundel Food Council
- Baltimore City Food Policy Action Coalition (Food PAC)
- Baltimore County Food Security Council
- **Frederick County Food Council**
- Howard County Food Council
- **Lower Shore Food Council** (Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester)
- **Mid-Shore Food Council** (Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot)
- Montgomery County Food Council
- Prince George's Food Equity Council
- **Upper Shore Food Council** (Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's)
- **Western MD Food Council** (Allegany, Garrett, Washington)

Four Rural Food Resilience Regions



Four Regional Food Resilience Coordinators work collaboratively to ensure alignment and integration across geographic boundaries

→ Coordination structure underscores the importance of strong partnerships for resilient food systems

Overarching Rural Food Resilience Goals

20



Local Partner Capacity Building



Regional Program Planning



Regional Convening



Information Sharing



Interagency Collaboration



State-Level Coordination

The Maryland Department of Emergency Management

*Proactively reducing disaster risks and
reliably managing consequences through
collaborative work with Maryland's
communities and partners.*

Thank You!

Maryland Office of Resilience

MD Food Link Contact:

foodlink.mdem@maryland.gov



GICA

FUTURE MEETING DATES

Full Commission

November 30, 2026 – *NEW DATE*

1:00 – 3:00 pm

MDA Headquarters (Annapolis, MD)