



2018 Maryland Wine & Grape Promotion Fund Request for Proposals

The Governor's Advisory Commission on Maryland Wine and Grape Growing is conducting a grant competition to award an estimated \$150,000 from the Maryland Wine and Grape Promotion Fund. The Fund (Agricultural Article, § 2- 1102) seeks to promote the production and consumption of Maryland wine and the increased growing of commercial wine grapes in the state. The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) serves as the administrative agency in receiving the applications and disbursing the grants to the successful applicants.

The Commission's current priorities include but not limited to:

- Improve the quality of Maryland-grown fruit available to the State's wineries through research that addresses a variety of threats to local vineyards;
- Strengthening the vineyard and winery workforce through workforce training programs in either Spanish or English.

Eligibility

- Nongovernmental organizations that are in good standing to do business in Maryland.
- Proposals must serve the commercial wine and grape growing industry on a state-wide basis.

Amount

- A total of \$150,000 is currently available.
- Minimum request: \$5,000, no maximum request.

Complementary Funding

- No specific match is required; however, priority will be given to projects that include matching funds and in-kind contributions from other public, private, and nonprofit sources.
- If the proposal relates to vineyard and winery workforce development, the Commission encourages, but does not require, applicants to first apply for EARN Maryland.
 - The Commission will match EARN Maryland funds for 20%, with a cap of \$50,000. EARN Maryland is a new state-funded, competitive workforce development grant program that is industry-led, regional in focus, and a proven strategy for helping businesses cultivate the skilled workforce they need to compete.
 - The Maryland Department of Agriculture and the Governor's Advisory Commission on Maryland Wine and Grape Growing must be listed as strategic partners in the EARN Maryland application in order to be eligible for the match.
- If the proposal relates to research, the Commission encourages applicants to seek at least 5% of the total budget from Maryland vineyards and wineries.

Letters of Recommendation

- The Commission recommends inclusion of at least three letters of support from Maryland vineyard and winery owners that explain in detail how the project could potentially benefit their business and the industry as a whole.



Proposal Process

- The Maryland Wine and Grape Promotion Fund reviews and selects projects through a competitive application process. There is a year-round, rolling application process. Applications are due by June 14, 2018 and December 3, 2018.
- Once submitted, every request goes through an evaluation process by the staff.
- Final approval of applications will be determined by the Secretary of Agriculture based on the recommendations of the Governor's Advisory Commission on Maryland Wine and Grape Growing.
- Applications can be found at the Maryland Department of Agriculture's website.

Contact

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Funding

Eighty percent of the funds shall be disbursed upon execution of the Agreement between MDA and grant recipient, while the remaining grant funds shall be disbursed after grant recipient has submitted a satisfactory final program and final report.

Grant Duration

Funding for the grant will be available for two years.

Oral Presentation

Applicants may be required to make an oral presentation to Commission representatives in an effort to clarify information contain in their proposal. MDA shall notify grant applicants of the time and place of oral presentations.

About the Governor's Advisory Commission on Maryland Wine and Grape Growing

The Governor's Advisory Commission on Maryland Wine and Grape Growing (Agriculture Article § 2- 1201) was created by legislation. The Commission is made up of seven members appointed by the Governor from the industry, the research community, and state Government, and two members appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.

