



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Postharvest Infrastructure Grant

Information Session
May 27, 2026

Housekeeping



To ensure a smooth presentation, please remain muted. There will be an opportunity for questions and answers following the presentation.

Questions can also be submitted at any time via the **Zoom Chat function**.

A recording of this session and the slidedeck will be available on the MDA [Postharvest Infrastructure](#) webpage by early next week.

Marketing and Agriculture Development

Martin Proulx, Chief

Three Pillars

Marketing Initiatives

Highlighting Maryland's Agricultural landscape and connecting Marylanders to local agriculture and seafood providers and their products.

Agriculture Development

[Maryland's Best](#) -Branding Maryland farms/ producers

Maryland's Best Expo

Farm and Food Access Programs



Marketing and Agriculture Development



Farm and Food Access Programs

- Certified Local Farm and Fish Program
- Farm to Institutions – local food procurement
- Farmers Market Nutrition Program
- Maryland Money Market Program
- Maryland Food Donation Tax Credit Program
- Maryland Farm and Food Capacity Portfolio
 - Speciality Crop Block Grant
 - Maryland Food and Agricultural Resiliency Mechanism Grant Program
 - **Maryland Rural Health Transformation Program (MD RHTP)- Postharvest Infrastructure Grant**

Maryland Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)



The State of Maryland through the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) was awarded \$168 million in federal funding to strengthen and modernize healthcare in the 18 state-designated rural areas across the state. The RHTP funding, which is renewable over five years, will serve to enhance the state's ongoing efforts to bolster health care access and affordability in Maryland's rural communities.

[Maryland Rural Health Transformation Program](#)

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.

Maryland Rural Health Transformation Program



MDH did extensive community outreach to identified the 3 pillars for the MD Rural Health Transformation Program

INITIATIVE 1

Transform the Rural Health Workforce



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

INITIATIVE 2

Promote Sustainable Access and Innovative Care



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

INITIATIVE 3

Empower Rural Marylanders to Eat for Health



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

Pillar 3 - Empower Rural Marylanders to Eat for Health



Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

Maryland Department of Health (MDH)

Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM)

Rural Maryland Council (RMC)

Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA)

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)

Rural Health Transformation Program

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 and postharvest infrastructure within rural communities to expand food aggregation and distribution capacity for small farms to supply local markets with 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)

Postharvest Infrastructure Grant



Designed to strategically establish cold storage and postharvest infrastructure within Maryland rural communities to expand food aggregation and distribution capacities to feed rural Marylanders.

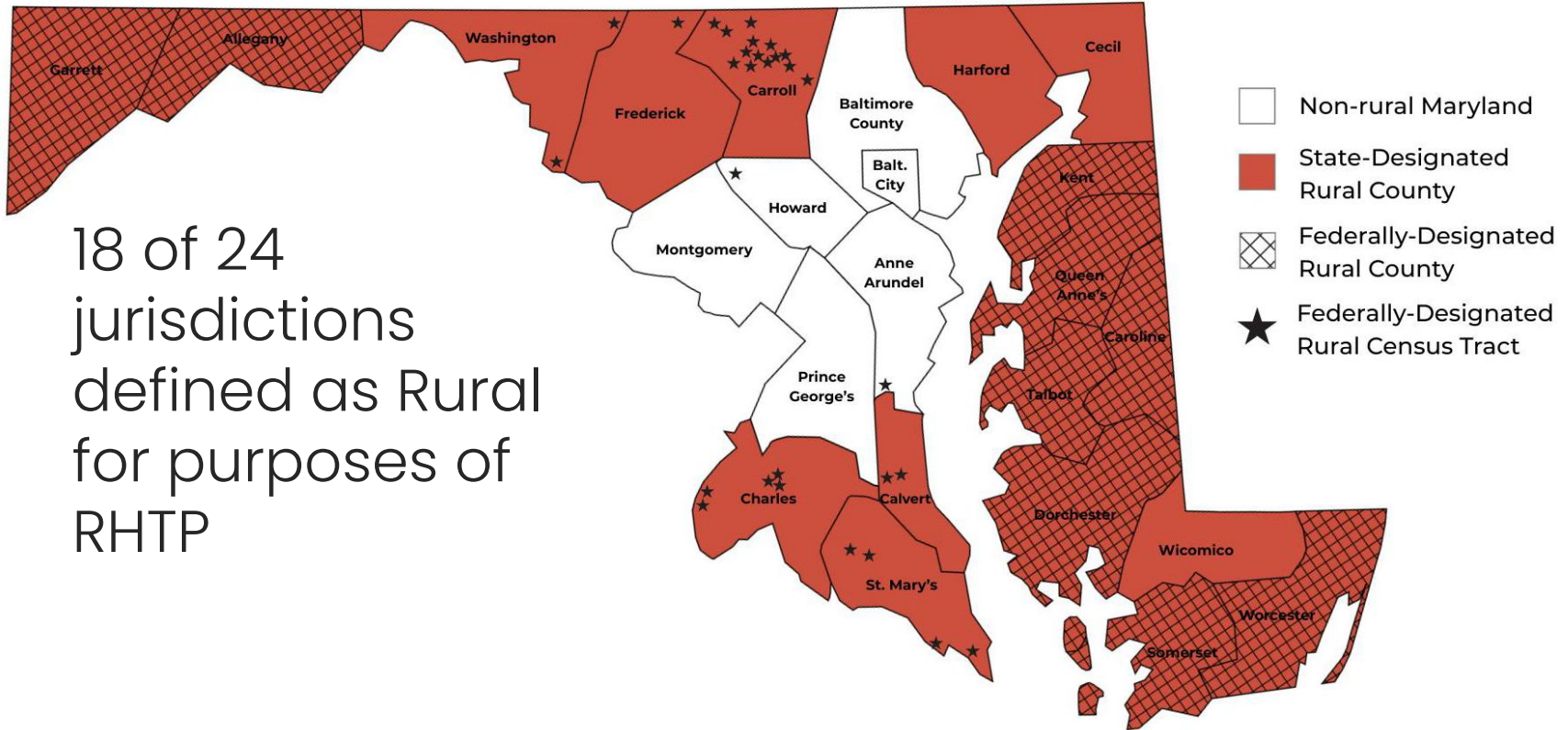
Program Funding at a Glance

- Total Funding Available: \$1.6 Million
- Minimum amount: \$30,000



Application Deadline: **June 14, 2026 at 11:59 pm.**

Designated Rural Footprint



18 of 24
jurisdictions
defined as Rural
for purposes of
RHTP

Designated Rural Footprint



- ✓ Allegany
- ✓ Calvert
- ✓ Caroline
- ✓ Carroll
- ✓ Cecil
- ✓ Charles
- ✓ Dorchester
- ✓ Frederick
- ✓ Garrett
- ✓ Harford
- ✓ Kent
- ✓ Queen Anne's
- ✓ St. Mary's
- ✓ Somerset
- ✓ Talbot
- ✓ Washington
- ✓ Wicomico
- ✓ Worcester

PHI subgrantees must attest that the RHTP funds will serve rural communities for the life of the grant.

Eligible Project Activities



**Cold Storage
Infrastructure**



**Transportation and Fleet
Upgrades**



**Distribution Logistics and
Tech**



**Handling and Loading
Infrastructure**



**Food Safety
Modernization**



Minimal Processing

Eligible Products

- ✓ Fresh produce
- ✓ Dairy
- ✓ Grains for human consumption
- ✓ Meat
- ✓ Poultry
- ✓ Herbs
- ✓ Seafood
- ✓ Eggs



Ineligible Products & Processes



Ineligible Products

- Animal feed and forage
- Fiber
- Landscaping products
- Seed
- Tobacco
- Cut flowers

Ineligible Processes

- Wineries/distilleries/breweries
- Dietary supplements
- Cooking or heating
- Canning and preserving
- Adding fillers or additives

Some Unallowable Costs



- *Activities* that have received a Federal or State award from another Federal or State award program.
 - Postharvest infrastructure grants may build on the success of prior federal \state grants to fund subsequent projects.
- Construction or building expansion, purchasing or significant retrofitting of buildings, cosmetic upgrades, or any other cost that materially increases the value of the capital or useful life as a direct cost.
- Purchase of food.
- General Purpose Equipment, e.g., office furniture, non-refrigerated passenger vehicles.

Some Unallowable Costs



- Pre-award costs.
- Goods or services not allocable to the approved project.
- No pass-throughs for this round of funding.
- Costs of promotional items and memorabilia, including models, gifts, and souvenirs. Costs of advertising and public relations designed solely to promote the subgrantee.

Please review the [Request for Proposals](#) for additional information.

Federal CMS Rules on Facility Renovations



Allowed

- Minor alterations/renovations (repairs, improvements, modernization of existing facilities)
- All minor renovations will require approval by CMS

Unallowable

- No new construction or significant structural changes that increases property value.

Measuring Success and Tracking the Impact



Metric	Baseline Data (Current)	Expected Numbers (Projected Increase)
Number of cold storage units/refrigerated vehicles purchased		
Number of local food producers benefiting from infrastructure		
Number of cold storage units modernized through upgrades/repairs		
Number of employees trained in food safety/nutrient management		
Total pounds of local healthy food (produce, meat, poultry, seafood) distributed in Maryland's rural areas.**		

Highly Accessible Financial Structure



Match Requirement

\$0



Disbursement Model

100% upfront sum to approved subgrantees

Note: Subgrantees must be registered with the Maryland Comptroller's Office to receive electronic payment.

Assembling Your Application Package

W-9 Form

Required for tax identification and processing payments.

Certificate of Good Standing

Proof that your entity is compliant with Maryland regulations found on SDAT

Nonprofit Proof

Official documentation of your nonprofit tax-exempt status.

Letters of Support (LOS)

A formal letter backing your application or proposed project. Up to three LOS.

Detailed Quotes & Vehicle Justification

Quotes must be on signed contractor letterhead or formal internet results. For vehicles, include justification on make/model/lease vs buy.

Grant Application



Executive Summary: This information will be used for public information dissemination.

Applicant Entity Type: Ag Producer, Seafood Processor, Nonprofit 501(c)3

Project Purpose – Eligible Project Type

Statement of Need: Provide a detailed explanation of the postharvest infrastructure grant will improve the delivery of healthy foods to Maryland's rural communities.

TIP: To enhance the competitiveness of your grant application, please include as much specific data and comprehensive detail as possible in your narrative and tie the narrative back to your outcomes \metrics.

Structuring a Budget & Budget Narrative



TIP: provide a specific cost-per-unit breakdown of all expenses. The more information, the better in the budget narrative. Include a statement of sustainability in the budget justification.

- **Personnel & Fringe** – Personnel and fringe benefits should not exceed 10% of the grant request.
- **Equipment**
- **Contractual**
- **Minor Renovations** – 75% Project Cap: Costs for minor renovations to existing facilities are allowable but are capped at 75% of the individual project budget and subject to funding availability and approval from CMS.
- **Transportation**
- **No indirect costs**

Accessing the grant portal



Logon

Email Address*

Password*

Log On

Create New Account

[Forgot your Password?](#)

Welcome to the Rural Maryland Council's (RMC) Online Grant Portal! We're glad you're here. This portal will guide you through RMC's competitive funding opportunities, including **RMPIF**, **MAERDAF**, and the **Maryland Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)**.

New Users: Please click on "Create New Account" to complete the registration process and create your logon credentials.

Existing Users: Please enter your credentials and log in. If you forgot your password, please use the "Forgot your Password?" link to the left to reset your password.

Tutorials

- [Applicant Tutorial](#)
- [Applicant Dashboard Tutorial](#)
- [Collaborator Video Tutorial](#)

Post Grant Award



Grant agreement with MDA

Comply with MDA and CMS's terms and conditions found in the RFP

- **Quarterly Reporting Schedule:**
 - First Quarter (July - September 2026): Report due October 15, 2026
 - Second Quarter (October - December 2026): Report due January 15, 2027
 - Third Quarter (January - March 2027): Report due April 15, 2027
 - Fourth Quarter (April - June 2027): Report due July 15, 2027
- **Project End Date: June 30, 2027**
- **Final Report Due: October 1, 2027**
- **Ongoing Compliance:** CMS requires that RHTP subgrantees conduct an annual inventory of equipment over \$10,000 every year for the next 5 years (throughout the MD RHTP project period)
- **Equipment Disposition** - TBD



Questions?

Contact

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Scan QR code to
access the RFP