

Digital Inclusion Strategy

- ▶ Assets
- ▶ Affordability
- ▶ Adaptability
- ▶ Cuts across rural, urban and suburban
- ▶ Challenges are the same; solutions are different

RMC Grant Programs

- ▶ Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund
- ▶ Supports digital inclusion projects-
- ▶ Supported device distribution to veterans in Western Maryland
- ▶ Funded through State's operating budget
- ▶ Eligible entities include rural-serving nonprofits, regional councils and community colleges
- ▶ Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund
- ▶ Infrastructure component
- ▶ Must include 2 units of government
- ▶ Can only fund 25% of project
- ▶ Eligible entities: Nonprofits, units of local government, institutes of higher education and region councils

How to Apply

- ▶ <https://rural.maryland.gov/grant-opportunities/>
- ▶ 500 word white paper
- ▶ Applicants are invited to submit full application

Grant Opportunities



Fiscal Year 2026

The Rural Maryland Council offers two grant programs with an anticipated budget of \$6 million for FY2026.

We thank Governor Wes Moore, Senate President Bill Ferguson, and Speaker Adrienne Jones for prioritizing these funds, which will have a positive impact on the economic growth and sustainability of rural areas in Maryland.

FY2026 Important Grant Dates

***Dates are subject to change.*

- Grant Process Opened: Monday, April 21, 2025*

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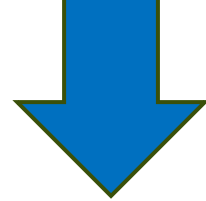
Funding for Broadband

- ▶ TCC/MD Broadband Coop/Think Big partnership
- ▶ Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund/Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund
- ▶ RMPIF Funded \$662,653 in broadband infrastructure projects FY2022-FY2024

Town of Rising Sun	Rising Sun	Water Line Replacement/Broadband Enhancement	\$300,000.00	FY2022 RMPIF	Infrastructure
Board of County Commissioners of Garrett County	Oakland	Broadband Ring and Extensions for Public Safety	\$81,808.00	FY2023 RMPIF	Infrastructure
LifeStyles of Maryland Foundation, Inc.	La Plata	Broadband for Southern Crossing	\$45,000.00	FY2023 MAERDA F	Rural Broadband
County Commissioners for Somerset County	Princess Anne	Princess Anne Road Connectivity Project	\$235,735	FY2024 RMPIF	Infrastructure

Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment

Find



Eastern Shore

Upper Shore Regional Council

Cecil County
Kent County
Queen Anne's County

Mid-Shore Regional Council

Caroline County
Talbot County
Dorchester County

Tri-County Council of Lower Shore

Wicomico County
Worcester County
Somerset County

Western Maryland

Tri-County Council of Western Maryland

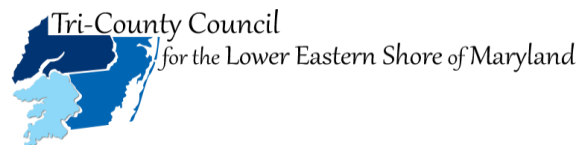
Garrett County
Allegany County
Washington County

Southern Maryland

Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland

Charles County
Calvert County
St. Mary's County

**Maryland
Rural Regional
Councils**





Tentative Fiscal Year 2026 Grant Cycle Dates

- Grant Process Opened: Monday, April 21, 2025
- Phase 1: Letter of Intent (LOI) Deadline: Friday, May 16, 2025
- Phase 2: Full Application Due: Friday, July 11, 2025
- Awards Announced the week of August 18, 2025

Thank you

March 12, 2025