



## Council Connections

Bridging Allegany, Garrett and Washington Counties  
May 19, 2022



### Awarding Up To \$45,000 Per Recipient

Rural Maryland is a place where spaces are wide open, and the possibilities are, too. Since outcomes are better when we do things together, the [Rural Maryland Council](#) needs your help spreading the word about a grant program that can make a difference in your community.

The Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) is a grant program that addresses rural challenges in our communities. The program advances the work of **rural nonprofits, community colleges, career technology centers, libraries, and regional councils**. This year, we encourage applications in the areas of energy, rural broadband, youth engagement and leadership development, agriculture and forestry, and community and economic development. The grant process opened on **April 25**. Help your community prosper!

If you're affiliated with an eligible organization in rural Maryland or know someone who is, you may kickstart new opportunities **by sharing this email**. Awarding up to \$45,000 per grant recipient, MAERDAF bolsters many initiatives in rural Maryland. If you have an initiative creating impact in your region or throughout the state, we encourage you to apply for support. [Click here](#) to review the guidelines and application criteria. If you're a past recipient interested in applying again, please [click here](#) to get the process started. Together, we can fill the gaps and help your community thrive.



## **USDA and EDA Launch Resource Guide to Boost Economic Development in Rural Communities**

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development just released a joint resource guide to help community organizations access USDA and EDA resources to build strategies to boost economic development in rural America.

### **VIEW THE JOINT PLANNING RESOURCE GUIDE FOR RURAL AMERICA**

This joint planning resource guide for rural America will better equip our communities with an easy to access and easy to use tools to maximize the work of providing greater and inclusive economic prosperity across our country.

### **WHAT'S INSIDE**

The resource guide outlines programs and services that can be used to advance community and economic development in rural communities through four key focus areas:

- Planning and technical assistance
- Infrastructure and broadband expansion
- Entrepreneurship and business assistance
- Workforce development and livability

The guide also features information and links to USDA Rural Development and U.S. Economic Development Administration key priorities and resources.



## Apply Now for the Appalachian Leadership Institute

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is seeking 40 fellows from all 13 Appalachian states, and all walks of community life, for the Class of 2022-2023. ALI is a FREE leadership and economic development program designed to help anyone who lives or works in Appalachia gain skills to strengthen their community. From October 2022 – July 2023, participants will attend six multi-day seminars across the Region, and end with a capstone graduation event held in Washington, DC.  
Apply by June 1 at [arc.gov/leadership](https://arc.gov/leadership).

Follow [this link](#) to Learn More



### **Business Continuity/Disaster Recovery Planning**

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

For more details and to Register, follow [this link](#).

### **Fast Cash Strategies For Small Businesses**

Thursday, May 26, 2022

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

For more details and to Register, follow [this link](#).

Visit the [SBDC Training Calendar](#) for more Event Opportunities

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