



Council Connections

Bridging Allegany, Garrett and Washington Counties
March 30, 2023



MARBIDCO



Value-Added Producer Grants Now Available

MARBIDCO has grant funds available in conjunction with the USDA Value-Added Producer Grant Program to help meet USDA's fund-matching requirement. These grant funds must be used for planning or working capital purposes in line with USDA regulations.

These federal grant funds can be used for planning (up to \$75,000) or working capital expenses (up to \$250,000) in accordance with USDA regulations.

Eligible purposes include feasibility studies or business plans, working capital for producing and marketing value-added agricultural products, and for farm-based renewable energy projects.

The USDA VAPG offers two options:

Grant and matching funds can be used for **planning activities or for working capital** expenses related to producing and marketing a value-added agricultural product.

Examples of planning activities include conducting feasibility studies and developing business plans for processing and marketing the proposed value-added product.

Examples of working capital expenses include:

- Processing costs
- Marketing and advertising expenses
- Some inventory and salary expenses

The MARBIDCO maximum grant amount is \$11,250 for Planning Grants and \$25,000 for Working Capital Grants.

Eligible applicants must be an independent producer, agricultural producer group, farmer or ranch cooperative, or majority-controlled producer-based business venture (all defined terms under federal regulations).

The deadline for the MARBIDCO grant application is May 1, 2023

The deadline for the **USDA grant application** is May 16, 2023.

Please visit USDA's Rural Development website for information about the USDA Value Added Producer Grant, [here](#).

Visit www.marbidco for an application and more information.

Read press release [here](#).



Opioid Operational Command Center Announces \$6 Million Grant Opportunity to Address Opioid Crisis

Competitive Grants Will Support Programs to Address Maryland's Strategic Priorities for Reducing Overdose Mortality

Maryland's Opioid Operational Command Center (OCC) is making \$6 million available through its Competitive Grant Program for the 2024 fiscal year. The purpose of the grant program is to support programs and initiatives that address the opioid crisis. State agencies, local governments, and private or non-profit community-based organizations are eligible to apply.

"The Moore-Miller administration is committed to increasing support for people living with substance use disorders across Maryland," said Special Secretary of Opioid Response Emily

Keller. "The initiatives that we fund through our Competitive Grant Program will help to promote a wide range of supports and services that address the opioid and overdose crisis from all angles, from youth prevention efforts to promoting long-term recovery."

Applications will be scored based on how well they support Maryland's opioid crisis response goals as outlined in the state's [Inter-Agency Opioid Coordination Plan](#).

A new consideration in the FY 2024 Competitive Grant Program will be a focus on addressing racial equity. Applicants will be required to provide impact statements that describe how their proposals will address racial disparities in overdose outcomes, which have increased in recent years, according to a [report by Maryland's Racial Disparities in Overdose Task Force](#).

The deadline to apply for funding is **Thursday, April 6, 2023, at 5 p.m.**

Additional information about the program and instructions on how to apply can be found on the OOC's website under the "[Grants](#)" tab.

The [Opioid Operational Command Center](#) is Maryland's principal coordinating office for addressing the opioid crisis. Under the guidance of the Inter-Agency Heroin and Opioid Coordinating Council, the OOC leads Maryland's opioid-related strategic planning and coordinates the efforts of all state agencies involved in Maryland's opioid crisis response, various community partners, and all 24 local jurisdictions throughout the state. The OOC can be contacted by email at help.ooc@maryland.gov.



What is Your Brand Worth?

April 5, 2023

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

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

How to Minimize Risk in Starting A Business

April 11, 2023

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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