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For Immediate Release: May 9, 2008
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Call for Proposals:
Grants Available for Rural Nonprofits and Community Colleges

(Annapolis, MD) – The 2008-09 Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF), administered by the Rural Maryland Council, is accepting grant applications through July 7, 2008 from rural-serving nonprofit organizations and community colleges.

Applicants must be a 501(c)3 nonprofit that serves a regional or statewide rural constituency and undertakes projects related to statewide and regional planning, economic and community development, or agricultural and forestry education. Rural community colleges that support small and agricultural businesses through enhanced training and technical assistance are also eligible.

Eligible projects **must** serve more than one rural county, and preference is given to those organizations which have secured equal matching funds from non-state sources. The grant period runs from September 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

Maryland has designated the following counties as rural: Allegany, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, St. Mary's, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico and Worcester

Complete details and application materials are available on the Rural Maryland Council website at: www.rural.state.md.us. Or call 410-841-5772.

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The Rural Maryland Council is an independent state agency that brings together community-based organizations, federal, state, county and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to identify and seek solutions to the unique needs of Rural Maryland communities. As a collaborative partnership, the RMC operates in a nonpartisan and nondiscriminatory manner.