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**For Immediate Release – May 11, 2007**

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*Application Deadline July 6, 2007*

## **Grants Available for Rural Nonprofits and Community Colleges**

Annapolis, MD -- Rural-serving nonprofit organizations which promote regional or statewide economic and community development, and agricultural/forestry education are invited to apply for a grant from the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF). Also eligible are community colleges which support natural resource-based businesses through enhanced training and technical assistance. Most grant awards are between \$10,000 and \$20,000. The application deadline is July 6, 2007.

All funded projects must serve more than one rural county. Preference is given to those organizations which have equal matching funds available from non-state sources.

Administered by the Rural Maryland Council, MAERDAF was established in 2000 to increase the overall capacity of rural-serving nonprofit organizations and community colleges to meet a multitude of rural development challenges.

Application instructions and other supporting materials are available on the Rural Maryland Council website at: [www.rural.state.md.us](http://www.rural.state.md.us). Or call 410-841-5772 to request materials be mailed to you.

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*The Rural Maryland Council 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.*