

Where is Rural Maryland? 18 Counties

- **Southern:** Calvert, Charles & St. Mary's
- **Western:** Allegany, Garrett & Washington
- **Upper Shore:** Cecil, Kent & Queen Anne's
- **Mid Shore:** Caroline, Dorchester & Talbot
- **Lower Shore:** Somerset, Wicomico & Worcester
- **North-Central:** Carroll, Frederick & Harford



Of the 18 rural counties:

- **Six counties** qualify for (as) economically distressed [jurisdiction development assistance] due to especially high unemployment rates

Unemployment Rate		
	2000	2005
Baltimore City	5.9%	7.3%
Lower Shore	5.0%	5.2%
Western MD	4.5%	5.1%
Mid Shore	3.9%	4.0%
Upper Shore	3.4%	4.2%
MARYLAND	3.8%	4.2%
Suburban	3.2%	3.9%
Southern MD	3.1%	3.5%
North Central	3.0%	3.5%

Source: Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

- **Five counties** are less economically distressed but still face a host of difficult economic and community development problems.



Of the 18 rural counties:

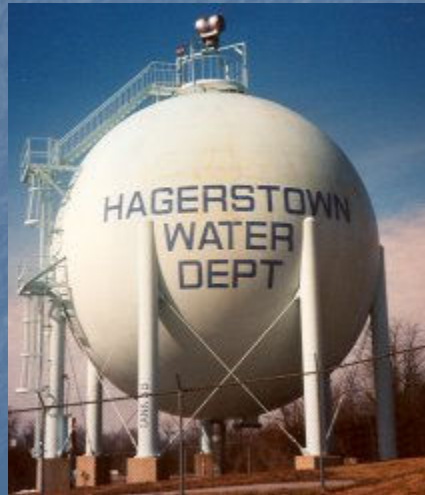


- **Seven counties** are squarely in the suburban fringe, where (growth) residential development pressures are creating new challenges on top of the old ones



Rural Marylanders

- 1.6 million people (28% of Maryland) live in these 18 counties.
- More than one-third of the state's rural citizens reside in 107 small incorporated cities and towns.



Rural Maryland has higher rates of poverty and unemployment, and lower rates of income and educational attainment than its metropolitan neighbors.

Poverty (All Ages)		
	2000	2003
Baltimore City	18.3%	18.9%
Lower Shore	11.6%	11.4%
Mid Shore	10.4%	10.6%
Western MD	10.3%	10.5%
MARYLAND	7.8%	8.8%
Upper Shore	7.2%	7.5%
Suburban	6.0%	7.2%
Southern MD	6.3%	6.5%
North Central	4.8%	5.6%

Source: U.S. Census, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates

Rural Marylanders suffer a persistent lack of access to quality and affordable health care and health care services

Causes of Death (Deaths per 100,000)			
	Heart Disease	Diabetes	Accident
Western MD			
2004	346.5	44.0	29.4
2000	338.1	48.5	30.9
Eastern Shore*			
2004	269.4	30.4	36.6
2000	294.0	35.4	31.8
Southern MD			
2004	161.7	20.5	26.2
2000	181.3	28.4	25.9
MARYLAND			
2004	202.8	25.4	25.2
2000	231.9	28.5	21.0
North Central			
2004	194.7	14.9	25.8
2000	208.1	21.2	19.2
Suburban			
2004	167.6	22.3	22.1
2000	196.1	22.1	17.6
Baltimore City			
2004	288.9	38.8	28.8
2000	344.3	46.5	24.1

(Source: Maryland Vital Statistics Annual Report, 2004 - DHAB)
* Eastern Shore statistics shown as a whole

Both family and per capita income in rural areas is consistently and often significantly lower than those in suburban areas.

Per Capita Income (Current Dollars)		
	2000	2003
Suburban	\$38,890	\$42,202
MARYLAND	\$34,257	\$37,446
North Central	\$32,129	\$35,078
Upper Shore	\$30,862	\$33,299
Southern MD	\$30,353	\$32,677
Mid Shore	\$27,740	\$31,117
Lower Shore	\$23,434	\$26,022
Western MD	\$22,695	\$25,162
Baltimore City	\$24,789	\$27,828

Source: 2005 Maryland Statistical Handbook,

Other Unique Challenges are:

- Loss of rural working lands
- Shortages in affordable workforce housing
- Decaying infrastructure

Maryland lost 1,056 farms & more than 115,400 acres of farmland in five years (1997 to 2002).

How can we address these challenges effectively?

- We need a long-term, multi-year strategy to raise the standard of living in rural Maryland to a level that equals or exceeds the overall average standard of living in the state



Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Initiative

- Established in 2006 by the General Assembly to make important investments in rural economic and community development programs and projects; to reduce disparities in rural/metropolitan employment and services.



Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund



- A key objective is to promote intergovernmental cooperation and public/nonprofit collaboration on regional projects and service delivery in rural areas.
- Distributes equal amount of grants in four areas

Rural Maryland: Make the Vision a Reality

- Regional councils and other regional groups shared some of the projects on their wish lists that the Rural Prosperity Fund could help with.



(1) Rural Regional Planning and Development

- Provides grants to local governments and other entities which come together in multi-county regions to craft solutions to common problems.



Relies on the regional entities to prioritize and seek funding for local needs

Regional Planning

- TCCWMD -- An **internship program with Allegany College** to address State forest issues, including help warding off Gypsy Moths.
- TCCSMD -- To work with various sectors to ensure that local colleges provide the training and services needed to **support the region's workforce demands**.
- USRC -- To research the extent and impact of the lack of affordable workforce housing within the region and then develop necessary resources to create **workforce housing opportunities**.
- Lower Shore Workforce Alliance -- To assess the skills of potential trainees to find out if they need remediation *before* entering **occupational skills training** programs and, if so, to provide that training.



(2) Regional Infrastructure Projects

- Provides grants up to 25 percent of the cost of infrastructure projects that involve at least two units of local government.

- *Wastewater Infrastructure Needs in Maryland: \$5,442,344,000**
- *Needs in rural Maryland: \$1,647,595,000* (30 percent of the total)*

*MDE, 2006



Regional Infrastructure

- Eastern Shore regional councils – To establish a **Rural Planning Organization** to determine regional transportation priorities and plan for the future of the entire Eastern Shore.
- USRC – To **extend the broadband network infrastructure** into business and industrial parks and establish regional business incubator facilities.
- TCCWMD – To help various entities in its region **complete identified infrastructure priorities**, especially those mandated by the state
- TCCSMD – To hire a GIS expert to provide **timely regional planning data** analysis and synthesis to help solve multiple challenges facing the region over next 15 years.



(3) Rural Entrepreneurship Development

- Provides grants to support entrepreneurial development activities of rural-serving nonprofits, higher educational institutions and other entities that help business start-ups in rural areas.



One-third to two-thirds of any economies growth is related to entrepreneurship

Regional Entrepreneurship

- Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center – To **establish Entrepreneurship Centers** across the mid-shore to help local entrepreneurs start up and survive.
- Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission – To develop and implement “Southern Maryland Meats,” a **regional meat processing facility**.
- Shore Gourmet – Some **28 producers representing 46 products would receive the assistance** they need to start up, grow, and diversify their regional production.
- The USRC -- To develop a **Research and Information Center** for agricultural businesses in the region with emphasis on locating and providing access to foreign markets.

(4) Rural Community Development and Programmatic Assistance

- Provides grant funding for the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) and the Rural Maryland Council

Last year, MAERDAF received nearly \$1 million in requests for \$348,000 in available funding.

The Rural Maryland Council

- RMC administers MAERDAF; will administer the Rural Prosperity Fund using MAERDAF infrastructure
- MAERDAF Review Board includes MDA, DHMH, DHCD, DNR, DBED and RMC.

RMC Board voted in February 2007 to use Rural Prosperity resources to acquire expertise in rural health policy





- Rural Prosperity has been a major initiative of the bi-partisan Rural Caucus for more than two years.
- All four delegation chairs of the Rural Caucus signed a request that \$2 million be included in the FY08 supplemental budget.



**FY 2008
appropriation for
Rural Prosperity?**
\$0

**Anticipated
appropriation for
FY 2009?**
\$0

How you can help?



- Educate your state representatives about the complex needs of Rural Maryland

Join the Rural Maryland Council

Our Mission:

- To build a bright future for Rural Maryland by addressing its unique concerns;
- To find effective solutions by bringing together diverse partnerships.





Imagine Rural Maryland as it Could be
Make the Vision a Reality

Join Us! **Join Us!**

10th Annual Maryland Rural Summit

October 17-19, 2007

Solomons Island in Calvert County

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