

Cover Sheet Rural Legacy Application

Please complete this Cover Sheet and submit it with all Attachments.

Rural Legacy Area Name:	
Name of Sponsor:	
County or Counties Where Eligible Properties Located:	
Name of Sponsor's Lead Contact:	
Contact's Title:	
Daytime Phone Number:	Fax #:
E-Mail Address:	
Address:	

As authorized representative of the above referenced Sponsoring organization, I hereby certify that the information in this application is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.	
Signature:	Date:

Rural Legacy Area Name:

RURAL LEGACY PROGRAM – FISCAL YEAR _____

**RENEWAL AND AREA EXPANSION
GRANT APPLICATION**

SECTION I: RLA Statistical Information

1. What is the total acreage of the existing Rural Legacy Area (RLA)? _____
2. With this Application, is a RLA boundary expansion being requested? _____ (Yes or No)
If so, how many additional acres are in the expansion area? _____
What is the total acreage of the proposed RLA with expansion: _____
Please describe in detail the adjustments to the boundaries of the approved RLA.
3. i. How much of the acreage within the existing RLA (in acres), is:
 - a. Unprotected land _____
 - b. Protected land (all sources) _____ (*Through permanent conservation programs – MALPF, MET, CREP Permanent easements, County conservation easements, etc.*)
 - c. Developed land _____

**please note these three categories are EXCLUSIVE of each other and should add up to the total acres in the RLA. There should be no overlap between a.b. and c.*
- ii. Expansion Only - If an expansion is proposed, how much of the acreage within the entire (existing plus proposed expansion) RLA (in acres), is:
 - a. Unprotected land _____
 - b. Protected land (all sources) _____ (*Through permanent conservation programs – MALPF, MET, CREP Permanent easements, County conservation easements, etc.*)
 - c. Developed land _____

**please note these three categories are EXCLUSIVE of each other and should add up to the total acres in the RLA. There should be no overlap between a.b. and c.*
4. How many acres do you propose to protect with the funds requested in this Application?

5. What is the projected total cost per acre for land acquisition proposed in this Application?
(Include land and transactional costs, i.e. administrative, indirect and compliance costs.)
Easement _____
Fee Simple _____

6. What is the total amount of Rural Legacy Program (RLP) grant funds being requested in this Application? _____
7. How many acres, including the acres proposed in this Application, do you plan to protect with RLP funds over the next 10 years of the Program? _____
8. Estimate the amount of additional RLP funds that will be needed to preserve the RLA goal acreages (based on current easement prices and the acreages currently preserved in the RLA). _____

SECTION II: Leveraging RLP Funds

1. Describe ways the Sponsor utilized their own funds in the past 12 months to permanently conserve land in the RLA. (such as not seeking reimbursement for administrative, program compliance, or incidental costs)
2. Detail all funding sources/conservation programs that were utilized in the past 12 months to permanently conserve land in the RLA (ex: REPI/ACUB, MALPF, MET, County, Federal, Private, Installment Purchase Programs, etc. If unsure, consider contacting the local County MALPF Administrator or other County staff to obtain number of easements and acreages preserved through all programs, including County open space acreage preserved.).

SECTION III: Bonus Points

1. What was the average width of riparian buffers for RLA properties acquired in the past 12 months? _____
2. Describe any form of public access that has been permitted on properties during the past 12 months, i.e., hunting, educational school trips, trail access?
3. Describe any social benefits that resulted because of RLA properties preserved during the past 12 months, i.e., support for local food supply, farm-to-schools, benefits to underserved communities, innovative partnerships, linking children to nature?
4. Describe any enhanced best management practices included in RLA easements during the past 12 months (these would be in addition to the standard practices such as impervious surface limitation of 2%; CAFO restriction; 100 foot stream buffers; Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plan; and Forest Stewardship Plan/compliance with the *Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines for Forest Harvest Operations in Maryland*)

SECTION IV: Special Circumstances

Describe any unique circumstances or specific projects that should be considered for potential RLP funding. Please limit your response (if any) to one (1) page.

SECTION V: Multiple County Priority Designation

For Sponsors of more than one RLA in the same County, please submit a letter of RLA funding preference.

SECTION VI: Proposed Property Acquisitions

Complete the Proposed Acquisition List Form for the top ten (10) proposed acquisitions in the RLA for Fiscal Year _____ funding (submit Form with Application).

SECTION VII: FOR EXPANSION REQUESTS ONLY

Submit digital geographic information (GIS data) for the boundary of the RLA. This should be transmitted electronically by email or other type of online file transfer service (*Dropbox*, *WeTransfer*, *Box*, etc.) to the Rural Legacy Program as an ArcView shapefile in state plane 83 meters projection. This information must be submitted simultaneously with the Application (it can be as a separate email but should immediately follow the initial email with this Application) or the Application will be considered incomplete.

SECTION VIII: Annual Report

If the Annual Report for the calendar year that just ended (January – December) has not already been submitted it MUST be included with this Application.

SECTION IX: Stewardship

All monitoring reports that were due in the prior calendar year (January – December) that have not yet been submitted are now DUE and MUST accompany submission of this Application.

Please submit an electronic copy (in Word or PDF format) of the Application and all Attachments.

SUBMIT COMPLETED RURAL LEGACY PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATIONS TO:

**Rural Legacy Program
Land Acquisition and Planning Unit
Tom McCarthy, Conservation Easement Supervisor
Tom.mccarthy@maryland.gov**

*Fiscal Year _____ Grant Application submission deadline): Second Tuesday in February by 5:00 p.m.
(*unless otherwise given specific permission)*