

The Technology Development, Transfer, and Commercialization Program, Maryland Technology Development Corporation

\$1.5 Million (T50T01.01)

Purpose: Recovery Now Funding

The Technology Development, Transfer, and Commercialization program, in the Maryland Technology Development Corporation, shall provide grants to Maryland's rural and agricultural businesses.

June 2 - Program Highlights and Plans to Allocate Remaining Balance:

The Agriculture and Rural Rebuild Challenge (ARR): This special challenge will fund technology-based projects that help our rural and agricultural businesses recover, rebuild and pivot from the Covid crisis. The Challenge specifically encourages the increased collaboration between rural businesses, research institutions and industry partners. The overall goal is to leverage technology to develop forward-looking solutions to current issues faced by these communities that will help the agtech and other rural industry sectors better weather future economic crisis.

Weeks of April 4 - 17: ARR Challenge has had a lot of enquiries from all over the state. We are strongly encouraging a collaboration of industry, research universities and businesses. We have marketed the program through a FAQ video created based on continued interest as well as marketed the program to key demographics including African American and Hispanic media outlets. We have connected companies to potential collaborators in the rural area and vice versa. Based on interest and request, we have extended the deadline to May 14, 2021.

Weeks of April 18 – May 1: ARR Challenge has had a lot of enquiries from all over the state including from the broadband access and healthcare delivery to rural community space. Our marketing efforts for the challenge are continuing with new advertisements in I95 Magazine. TEDCO has also shared the challenge with our higher education partners. Based on interest and request, we have extended the deadline to May 14, 2020.

Weeks of May 2 – May 16: ARR Challenge has had a lot of enquiries from all over the state including from the broadband access and healthcare delivery to rural community space. Our marketing efforts include advertisements in I95 Magazine, social media, and other sources in both English and Spanish. TEDCO has also shared the challenge with our higher education partners. Based on interest and request, we extended the deadline to May 14th, 2020. By the deadline, we received 31 applications.

Weeks of May 17 – May 31: ARR Challenge has had a lot of enquiries from all over the state including from the broadband access and healthcare delivery to rural community space. Our marketing efforts include advertisements in I95 Magazine, social media, and other sources in both English and Spanish. TEDCO has also shared the challenge with our higher education partners. Based on interest and request, we extended the deadline to May 14th, 2020. By the deadline, we received 31 applications. The technologies represented in the applications include agtech, robotics optics, and cleantech.

TEDCO is conducting a due diligence review to confirm eligibility, followed by a more in-depth review of each application.

June 2 - Programmatic and/or Implementation Issues:

- Outreach and speed of deployment will be the biggest potential challenge; however, TEDCO has evolved our marketing plan to reach all regional partners.

May 19 - Distribution of Funds:

- Up to \$200,000 per project. TEDCO will report on each disbursement as soon as possible.