



MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE-BASED
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
1410 Forest Drive, Suite 21 ~ Annapolis, MD 21403
Office: 410-267-6807 ~ Fax: 410-267-6809
www.marbidco.org

Mary Shank Creek, Chair / Stephen R. McHenry, Executive Director

For Immediate Release
Contact: Steve McHenry,
410-267-6807
smchenry@marbidco.org

Maryland Producer Cold Storage Grant Program Assists Farmers and Watermen with the Purchase of Needed Cold Storage Equipment

Annapolis (June 12, 2024) - The Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO) has announced it is offering the Maryland Producer Cold Storage Grant Program to help farmers and watermen purchase necessary cold storage equipment for their operations.

MARBIDCO will match up to 50% of the cost of the project purchase, with a maximum grant award amount of \$2,000. The minimum grant award is \$500 (meaning therefore, that the minimum project or equipment purchase size is \$1,000).

“Having access to adequate cold storage facilities is frequently cited as a need, especially by smaller farm operations, so hopefully the availability of these grant funds will incentivize cold storage equipment purchases by food producing enterprises,” said MARBIDCO Executive Director, Steve McHenry.

Eligible applicants include farmers and watermen with at least \$1,000 in agricultural or seafood product sales in calendar years 2023 or 2024. The eligible applicants can include sole proprietorships, partnerships, cooperatives, and LLCs. Agricultural products include produce, livestock, shellfish, or horticultural products that are grown on the applicant’s farm. Seafood products include finfish and shellfish products harvested in Maryland.

The grant funds and matching funds must be used to purchase and install cold storage equipment. Eligible tangible equipment that may be purchased include:

- Large coolers
- Ice machines
- On-boat or On-dock cold storage
- Reach-in refrigerator/freezer
- Walk-in refrigerator/freezer
- On-truck cold storage (does not include costs related to purchase a truck)
- Third-party costs related to installation of cold storage unit or construction of cold storage facility

Purchases made prior to June 14, 2024, are ineligible.

The application deadline is August 30, 2024. Applications will be processed as they are received while funds are available. All applicants should expect to purchase or order equipment by September 30, 2024. Funds will be disbursed as a reimbursement based on proof of payment or directly to vendors based on submitted invoices. Application forms are available on MARBIDCO's website: www.marbidco.org.

For more information, please email Brittany Rawlings, brawlings@marbico.org or call at 410.267.6807. Send application forms electronically to brawlings@marbico.org or mail to: MARBIDCO, Cold Storage Grant Program, c/o Brittany Rawlings, 1410 Forest Drive, Suite 21, Annapolis, MD 21403.

###

MARBIDCO was established by the Maryland General Assembly more than 17 years ago to help enhance the sustainability and profitability of the State's agricultural and resource-based industries in order to help bolster rural economies, support locally produced food and fiber products, and preserve working farm and forest land. MARBIDCO is a nimble, quasi-governmental financial intermediary organization that has a mission to serve exclusively the commercial farming, forestry, and seafood industries of Maryland. Young and beginning farmers are a special focus for MARBIDCO, as is farm operation diversification. In delivering its financing programs, MARBIDCO works cooperatively with commercial banks and farm credit associations, as well as a host of federal, State, regional, and local government agencies, and universities. Since 2007, MARBIDCO has approved some 1,340 financings totaling over \$105 million for food and fiber business projects located in all of Maryland's 24 counties – and in the process has leveraged more than \$221 million in commercial lender financing. For more information about MARBIDCO's programs, please visit: www.marbidco.org