

## A. BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

### A.1 Standard Rates and Schedules by Comptroller Subobject

The following tables contain the R\*STARS Comptroller Objects (i.e. subobject codes) to be used in the preparation of the FY 2026 budget. If an agency uses agency subobjects and plans to make changes/additions to those crosswalks, please email [dlbudgetHelp\\_DBM@maryland.gov](mailto:dlbudgetHelp_DBM@maryland.gov) and copy your DBM analyst with the necessary changes as soon as possible.

#### Object .01 Salaries and Wages

Code	Title of Comptroller Object	Rates Assumption/ Basis for Calculation
0101	Regular Earnings (i.e. Salaries)	Data in BARS will automatically be updated by Position Reconciliation and any other position adjustments. Can only be adjusted via the Position tab in BARS.
0102	Additional Assistance	Includes related salary and social security costs.
0104	Overtime Earnings	Includes related salary and social security costs.
0105	Shift Differential	Includes related salary and social security costs.
0110	Miscellaneous Adjustments	Includes related salary and social security costs.
0111	Accrued Leave Payout	Includes related salary and social security costs.
0112	Reclassification	Cost of reclassifying positions (vacant or filled) to different grades and steps. Includes related salary, social security, retirement, unemployment, and turnover values.
0120	Student Payments (USM only)	
0125	COVID-19 Personnel Expenditures	Salary and fringe expenditures associated with position funding supported by COVID-19 federal relief funds.
0151	Social Security Contributions	7.38% to \$188,670 + 1.45% of excess of Regular Earnings 0101. Data in BARS will automatically be updated by Position Reconciliation and any other position adjustments. Can only be adjusted via the Position tab in BARS.
0152	Health Insurance	<b>Same as FY 2025 appropriation by fund type at the agency level</b> Data in BARS will be updated by DBM when new functionality is complete.
0153	Health Insurance-Special Subsidies	Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT - J00) only. Budget in accordance with union contract.
0154	Retirees Health Insurance Premiums	<b>Same as FY 2025 appropriation by fund type at the agency level</b> Data in BARS will be updated by DBM when new functionality is complete.
0155	Sick Leave Incentive Program	<b>Do Not Budget in FY 2026.</b>
0156	VSP Payments (FY 2011 only)	<b>Do Not Budget in FY 2026.</b>
0157	Other Post Employment Benefits	<b>Do Not Budget in FY 2026.</b>
0160	Early Retirement Surcharge	<b>Do Not Budget in FY 2026.</b>
0161	Employees' Retirement System	21.54% of Regular Earnings 0101. Data in BARS will automatically be updated by Position Reconciliation and any other position adjustments. Can only be adjusted via the Position tab in BARS.
0162	Employees' Pension System	<b>Do Not Budget in FY 2026.</b> All related costs are budgeted in 0161.
0163	Teachers' Retirement System (A64 not used)	16.25% of Regular Earnings 0101. Data in BARS will automatically be updated by Position Reconciliation and any other position adjustments. Can only be adjusted via the Position tab in BARS.
0164	Teachers' Pension System	<b>Do Not Budget in FY 2026.</b> All related costs are budgeted in 0163.

Code	Title of Comptroller Object	Rates Assumption/ Basis for Calculation
0165	State Police Retirement System	85.51% of Regular Earnings 0101. Data in BARS will automatically be updated by Position Reconciliation and any other position adjustments. Can only be adjusted via the Position tab in BARS.
0166	Judges' Pension System	47.22% of Regular Earnings 0101. Data in BARS will automatically be updated by Position Reconciliation and any other position adjustments. Can only be adjusted via the Position tab in BARS.
0167	Mass Transit Administration Pension System	Rate to be determined by MDOT.
0168	Optional Retirement/Pension System (TIAA)	7.25% of Regular Earnings 0101.
0169	Law Enforcement Officers' Pension System	46.00% of Regular Earnings 0101. Data in BARS will automatically be updated by Position Reconciliation and any other position adjustments. Can only be adjusted via the Position tab in BARS.
0170	Other Retirement Systems	For higher education institutions only.
0171	Other Pension Systems	<b>Do Not Budget in FY 2026.</b>
0172	Deferred Compensation Match	<b>Do Not Budget in FY 2026.</b>
0174	Unemployment Compensation	0.14% of Regular Earnings 0101. Data in BARS will automatically be updated by Position Reconciliation and any other position adjustments. Can only be adjusted via the Position tab in BARS.
0175	Workers' Compensation	<b>Same as FY 2025 appropriation by fund type at the agency level.</b> Budgeted values are based on most recent actual workers' compensation experience, and DBM will update agency values in December based on FY 2024 actuals plus projected trends and Governor's decisions. Agencies should budget either (a) in one location or (b) based on which subprograms have workers' compensation costs.
0176	Workers' Compensation Reserve Fund	<b>Do Not Budget in FY 2026.</b>
0181	Tuition Waivers	<b>Higher Education Institutions Only</b> , as determined by governing boards.
0182	Employee Transit Expenses	
0189	Turnover Expectancy	Turnover rate is calculated as 0189/(0101+0151+Retirement+0174). This is <u>not</u> updated by Position Reconciliation or the Positions tab in BARS—agencies should review rates by subprogram/fund type following POS REC and adjust as necessary using the Turnover and/or Expenditure tab.
0192	DBM Adjustment	<b>Do Not Budget in FY 2026.</b>
0193	Health Savings	<b>Do Not Budget in FY 2026.</b>
0194	Section 40 Retirement Benefits	<b>Do Not Budget in FY 2026.</b>
0195	Section 40 COLA	<b>Do Not Budget in FY 2026.</b>
0199	Other Fringe Benefit Costs	Agencies should avoid using this subobject. Discuss with DBM analyst prior to use and be prepared to answer DBM/DLS questions.

**Object .02 Technical and Special Fees**

Code	Title of Comptroller Object	Rates Assumption/ Basis for Calculation
0201	Honorariums	
0202	Per Diem Payments	
0203	Clerical/Secretarial Support	
0204	Legal Service Support	
0205	Medical Service Support	
0206	Religious Service Support	
0207	Social Service Support	

Code	Title of Comptroller Object	Rates Assumption/ Basis for Calculation
0208	Training and Staff Development	
0209	Administrative/Management Services Support	
0210	Patient and Student Payments	
0211	Employee Awards	
0212	Athletic Services Support	
0213	Social Security Contributions	7.65% to \$182,092 + 1.45% of excess of Payroll 0220. Adjusted via the Contractuals tab in BARS, and may also be edited on the Expenditures tab.
0214	Unemployment Compensation	0.14% of Payroll 0220. Adjusted via the Contractuals tab in BARS, and may also be edited on the Expenditures tab.
0216	Royalty Payments	
0217	Contractual Health Insurance	<b>Same as FY 2025 appropriation by fund type at the agency level.</b> Should be realigned within the agency to align with position detail as necessary. DBM will update agency values in December based on health cost trends and Governor decisions.
0220	Special Payments Payroll (Contractual Employee Salaries)	Can only be adjusted via the Contractuals tab in BARS.
0221	Prizes and Awards to Non-Employees	
0289	Contractual Turnover Expectancy	Turnover rate is calculated as 0289/(0220+0213+0214). This is <u>not</u> updated by the Contractuals tab or the Turnover tab in BARS—agencies should review rates by subprogram/fund type following and adjust as necessary using the Expenditure tab.
0299	Other Technical and Special Fees	Agencies should avoid using this subobject. Discuss with DBM analyst prior to use and be prepared to answer DBM/DLS questions.

**Object .03 Communications**

Code	Title of Comptroller Object	Rates Assumption/ Basis for Calculation
0301	Postage	1st Class/Standard Letter 66¢.
0302	Telephone	Billed directly by vendors; Same as FY 2024 Actuals for PBX/Centrex if independent.
0303	Telecommunications	Billed directly by vendors; Same as FY 2024 Actuals for PBX/Centrex if independent.
0304	Misc. Communications Charges	Billed directly by vendors; Same as FY 2024 Actuals for PBX/Centrex if independent.
0305	DBM Paid Telecommunications	<b>Same as FY 2025 appropriation by fund type at the agency level.</b> Budgeted values are based on radio maintenance contracts, allocated across agencies based on fall radio counts. DBM will update agency values in December. Agencies should budget either (a) in one location or (b) based on which subprograms have radios.
0306	Cell Phone Expenditures	Includes all cellular phones, personal data assistants (PDAs), and tablets.
0322	Capital Lease(s) (Telecommunications)	<b>Do Not Budget in FY 2026.</b>
0395	Corporate Purchasing Card	
0397	Paycheck Postage Costs	
0399	Misc Communications	Agencies should avoid using this subobject. Discuss with DBM analyst prior to use and be prepared to answer DBM/DLS questions.

**Object .04 Travel**

Code	Title of Comptroller Object	Rates Assumption/ Basis for Calculation
0401	In State/Routine Operations	Includes tolls, parking fees, and private mileage reimbursement.
0402	In State/Conferences/ Seminars/Training	Includes conference fees, necessary hotels, and other in-state travel costs not in 0401.
0403	Out-of-State/Routine Operations	Refer to State travel regulations for reimbursement amounts.
0404	Out-of-State/Conferences/ Seminars/Training	Includes conference fees, necessary hotels, and other out-of-state travel costs not in 0403.
0495	Corporate Purchasing Card	<b>Do Not Budget in FY 2026</b>
	<b>Private Vehicle Mileage</b>	65.5¢ per mile <i>(This rate will be adjusted after the federal government sets its mileage reimbursement rate.)</i>
	<b>Meal Allowances</b>	<b>State Employees &amp; Non-Paid Board (FY 2025 rates - FY 2026 rates TBD)</b>
	Breakfast	\$15.00
	Lunch	\$18.00
	Dinner	\$30.00
	Per Day Maximum	\$63.00

**Object .06 Fuel and Utilities**

Code	Title of Comptroller Object	Rates Assumption/ Basis for Calculation
0601	Fuel - Alcohol	
0602	Fuel - Coal	Be prepared to answer DBM/DLS questions regarding request amount.
0603	Fuel - Oil #2	Be prepared to answer DBM/DLS questions regarding request amount.
0604	Fuel - Oil #3	Be prepared to answer DBM/DLS questions regarding request amount.
0605	Fuel - Oil #6	Be prepared to answer DBM/DLS questions regarding request amount.
0606	Fuel - Natural Gas/Propane	Equal to FY 2024 actual expenditures.
0607	Fuel - Wood	Be prepared to answer DBM/DLS questions regarding request amount.
0608	Fuel - Steam	Be prepared to answer DBM/DLS questions regarding request amount.
0619	Fuel - Miscellaneous	
0620	Utilities - Electricity	Equal to FY 2024 actual expenditures.
0621	Utilities - Water/Sewage	
0622	Utilities - Combined Utility Purchases	
0695	Corporate Purchasing Card	
0697	Maryland Environmental Service (MES) Charges	<b>Same as FY 2025 appropriation by fund type.</b> Budgeted values are based on MOUs with MES, and DBM will update agency values in December based on MOU schedules.
0698	Loan Repayment- Energy Conservation	Amount listed in schedule in <a href="#">Appendix 2</a> .
0699	Utilities - Miscellaneous	Agencies should avoid using this subobject. Discuss with DBM analyst prior to use and be prepared to answer DBM/DLS questions.

**Object .07 Motor Vehicle Operations and Maintenance**

Code	Title of Comptroller Object	Rates Assumption/ Basis for Calculation
0701	Purchase Cost or Lease Cost	Must match provided DA-8 forms at the subprogram/fund type level. See Equipment List in <a href="#">Appendix 3</a> .
0702	Gas and Oil	Passenger Vehicles 19.0¢/mile. Light Trucks & Vans 24.0¢/mile.
0703	Maintenance and Repair	Passenger Vehicles 17.0¢/mile. Light Trucks & Vans 20.0¢/mile.

Code	Title of Comptroller Object	Rates Assumption/ Basis for Calculation
0704	Insurance	Same as FY 2025 appropriation by fund type at the agency level. DBM will update agency values in December based on the current schedule plus Governor's decisions. Agencies should budget either (a) in one location or (b) based on which subprograms support these costs.
0705	Garage Rent	
	- Areas served by mass transit	NTE 1 to 3 ratio of spaces to employees.
	- Areas not served by mass transit	NTE 1 to 2 ratio of spaces to employees.
<b>Aircraft</b>		
0710	Purchase Cost or Lease Cost	
0711	Gas and Oil	
0712	Maintenance and Repair	
0713	Insurance	
0714	Hangar Rental/Landing Fees	
<b>Watercraft</b>		
0720	Purchase Cost or Lease Cost	
0721	Gas and Oil	
0722	Maintenance and Repair	
0723	Insurance	
0724	Boat Slip Rental/Launching Fees	
<b>Other Land Vehicles</b>		
0730	Purchase Cost or Lease Cost	
0731	Gas and Oil	
0732	Maintenance and Repair	
0733	Insurance	
0734	Garage or Storage Space Rental	
0789	Vehicle Commuter Charge	See schedule in <a href="#">Appendix 4</a> .
0795	Corporate Purchasing Card	
0799	Other Motor Vehicle Charges	

**Object .08 Contractual Services**

Code	Title of Comptroller Object	Rates Assumption/ Basis for Calculation
0801	Advertising & Legal Publication	
0803	Architects	
0804	Printing/Reproduction	
0805	Bookbinding/Photographic	
0806	Microfilming	
0807	Engineers	
0808	Equipment Rental (Other than Data Processing)	
0809	Equipment Repairs and Maintenance	
0810	Extermination	
0811	Food Services	
0812	Building/Road Repairs and Maintenance	
0813	Janitorial Services	
0814	Grounds Maintenance	
0815	Laundry	Correctional Laundry \$0.75 per pound.
0816	Housekeeping	
0817	Legal Services	
0818	Purchase of Care Services	

FY 2026 Operating Budget Submission Requirements

Code	Title of Comptroller Object	Rates Assumption/ Basis for Calculation
0819	Education/Training Contracts	
0820	Medical Care (Physicians Dental, Etc.)	
0821	Management Studies and Consultants	
0822	Hospital Care	
0823	Security Services	
0824	Laboratory Services	
0825	Veterinarian	
0826	Freight and Delivery	
0827	Trash and Garbage Removal	
0828	Office Assistance	
0829	Fiscal Service	
0830	Medical Assistance Reimbursements	
0831	Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Allocation	<b>Same as FY 2025 appropriation by fund type at the agency level.</b> Budgeted values are based on most recent OAH caseload experience, and DBM will update agency values in December based on FY 2024 actual caseloads plus Governor's decisions. Agencies should budget either (a) in one location or (b) based on which subprograms experience OAH cases.
0832	Education & Training Reimbursement - Job Related	
0833	eMaryland Marketplace	<b>Do Not Budget in FY 2026.</b>
0834	Sign Language Interpreter Services	
0835	Administrative Allocations	
0836	Human Services - Other Fee-for-Service	
0837	Translation and Interpretation Services	
0838	Other Human Services	
0839	DBM Human Resources Shared Services Allocation	<b>Same as FY 2025 appropriation by fund type at the agency level.</b> Budgeted values are based on the number of PINs in agencies using DBM HR services, and DBM will update agency values in December based on Governor's decisions. Agencies should budget either (a) in one location or (b) based on which subprograms use DBM services.
0841	Data Processing Central Processing Unit & Consoles	
0843	Communications Controllers	
0844	Magnetic Tape Devices	
0845	Direct Access Storage Devices (DASD)	
0848	Terminal Teleprocessing Equipment	
0849	Telecommunications Lines, Modems, Controllers, etc.	
0850	Peripheral Equipment- Printers, Terminals, etc.	
0852	Data Entry Devices	
0854	Computer Maintenance Contracts	
0857	Other Data Processing Hardware	
0858	Software Licenses	

FY 2026 Operating Budget Submission Requirements

Code	Title of Comptroller Object	Rates Assumption/ Basis for Calculation
0861	Applications Software (Acquisition)	
0862	Applications Software (Maintenance)	
0863	Systems Software (Acquisition)	
0864	Systems Software (Maintenance)	
0865	Outside Services-Systems Analysis and Design	
0866	Outside Services-Programming	
0867	Outside Services-Data Entry	
0868	Outside Services-D/P Training	
0869	Outside Services-Computer Usage	
0872	Outside Services - Consulting Services	
0873	Outside Services – Other	
0874	Office of the Attorney General (OAG) Allocation	<b>Same as FY 2025 appropriation by fund type at the agency level.</b> Budgeted values are based on AAG staff counts in agencies, and DBM will update agency values in December based on Governor’s decisions. Agencies should budget either (a) in one location or (b) based on which subprograms have AAGs.
0875	State Retirement Agency (SRA) Allocation	<b>Same as FY 2025 appropriation by fund type at the agency level.</b> Budgeted values are based on the count of active retirement system employees, and DBM will update agency values in December based on June 30 counts plus Governor’s decisions. Agencies should budget either (a) in one location or (b) by unit/program/subprogram based on active employee counts.
0876	Department of Information Technology (DoIT) Services Allocation	<b>Same as FY 2025 appropriation by fund type at the agency level.</b> Budgeted values are based on DoIT services used by agencies, and DBM will update agency values in December based on the current service schedule plus Governor’s decisions. Agencies should budget either (a) in one location or (b) based on which subprograms use DoIT services.
0878	In State Services-Systems Analysis and Design	
0879	In State Services-Programming	
0880	In State Services-Data Entry	
0881	In State Services-D/P Training	
0882	Annapolis Data Center (ADC) Allocation	<b>Same as FY 2025 appropriation by fund type at the agency level.</b> Budgeted values are based on agency actual ADC usage, and DBM will update agency values in December based on FY 2024 actuals plus Governor’s decisions. Agencies should budget either (a) in one location or (b) based on which subprograms use the ADC.
0883	In State Services-Tape Maintenance	
0885	In State Services-Other	Agencies must use 0885 to budget expenditures related to interagency agreements or agreements with local government entities.
0886	In State Services-Computer Usage-Other than ADC	
0890	Data Processing-Microfilming/Microfiching	
0891	Data Processing-Freight	
0892	Data Processing-Academic/Research	
0893	Data Processing-Administrative	

Code	Title of Comptroller Object	Rates Assumption/ Basis for Calculation
0894	Statewide Personnel System (SPS) Allocation (i.e. Workday)	<b>Same as FY 2025 appropriation by fund type at the agency level.</b> Budgeted values are based on PIN counts and agency usage of Workday, and DBM will update agency values in December based on Governor’s decisions. Agencies should budget either (a) in one location (preferred) or (b) by unit/program/subprogram based on PIN counts.
0895	Corporate Purchasing Card	
0897	Enterprise Budgeting System Allocation	<b>Same as FY 2025 appropriation by fund type at the agency level.</b> Budgeted values are based on the number of units in each agency, and DBM will update agency values in December based on Governor’s decisions. Agencies should budget either (a) in one location (preferred) or (b) by unit.
0898	Data Processing-Other Contractual Services-DP	
0899	Other Contractual Services Non-DP	Agencies should avoid using this subobject. If the agency does budget in 0899, please label using a specific Contract/Grant Name and Description on the Contract/Grants tab in BARS so DBM/DLS knows what the grant is for.

**Object .09 Supplies and Materials**

Code	Title of Comptroller Object	Rates Assumption/ Basis for Calculation
0901	Agriculture	
0902	Office Supplies	
0903	Audio Visual	
0904	Building and Household	
0905	Cosmetic	
0906	Laboratory	
0907	Dietary	
0908	Housekeeping	
0909	Medical	
0910	Laundry	
0911	Medicine, Drugs and Chemicals	
0912	Wearing Apparel-Uniforms Employees	
0913	Wearing Apparel-Uniforms Clients (Patients, Prisoners)	
0914	Instructional Supplies	
0915	Library Supplies	
0916	Recreational Supplies	
0917	Small Tools	
0918	Veterinary	
0919	Tobacco	
0920		
0921	Data Processing Computer Forms	
0926	Data Processing Supplies	
0930	Microcomputer Packaged Applications Software	
0932	Microcomputer Operating Systems Software	
0933	Software Upgrades	
0951	Items for Resale	
0990	Data Processing-Academic/Research	
0991	Data Processing-Administrative	
0995	Corporate Purchasing Card	



Code	Title of Comptroller Object	Rates Assumption/ Basis for Calculation
0998	Data Processing Other Materials	
0999	Other Supplies and Materials	Agencies should avoid using this subobject. Discuss with DBM analyst prior to use and be prepared to answer DBM/DLS questions.

**Object .10 Equipment Replacement**

Code	Title of Comptroller Object	Rates Assumption/ Basis for Calculation
1001	Agricultural Equipment	
1002	Audio-Visual Equipment	
1003	Cleaning Equipment	
1004	Dental Equipment	
1005	Dietary Equipment	
1006	Duplicating Equipment	
1007	Educational Equipment	
1008	Household Equipment	
1009	Human Environmental Equipment	
1010	Laboratory Equipment	
1011	Laundry Equipment	
1012	Livestock	
1013	Maintenance and Building Equipment	
1014	Medical Equipment	
1015	Office Equipment	
1016	Power Plant Equipment	
1017	Recreational Equipment	
1018	Veterinary Equipment	
1019	Radios and Electronic Equipment	
1021	Capital Lease(s)- Payment(s) to Treasurer (Non-DP)	
1022	Capital Lease(s) (Non-DP)	
1023	Operating Lease(s) (Non-DP)	
1024	Installment Payment(s) to Treasurer (Non-DP, Non-Capital)	
1031	Data Processing Equipment- Mainframe	
1032	Data Processing Equipment- Minicomputer	
1033	Data Processing Equipment- Microcomputer	
1034	Data Processing Equipment- Workstations	
1035	Data Processing Equipment- Imaging Systems	
1036	Data Processing Equipment- Peripherals	
1041	Capital Lease(s)- Payment(s) to Treasurer (DP)	Amounts in the Treasurer's Lease Purchase Program.
1042	Capital Lease(s) (DP)	Amounts in the Treasurer's Lease Purchase Program.
1043	Operating Lease(s) (DP)	
1044	Installment Payment(s) to Treasurer (DP, Non-Capital)	

Code	Title of Comptroller Object	Rates Assumption/ Basis for Calculation
1090	Data Processing-Academic/Research	
1091	Data Processing-Administrative	
1095	Corporate Purchasing Card	
1099	Other Equipment	Agencies should avoid using this subobject. Discuss with DBM analyst prior to use and be prepared to answer DBM/DLS questions.

**Object .11 Equipment Additional**

Code	Title of Comptroller Object	Rates Assumption/ Basis for Calculation
1101	Agricultural Equipment	
1102	Audio-Visual Equipment	
1103	Cleaning Equipment	
1104	Dental Equipment	
1105	Dietary Equipment	
1106	Duplicating Equipment	
1107	Educational Equipment	
1108	Household Equipment	
1109	Human Environmental Equipment	
1110	Laboratory Equipment	
1111	Laundry Equipment	
1112	Livestock	
1113	Maintenance and Building Equipment	
1114	Medical Equipment	
1115	Office Equipment	
1116	Power Plant Equipment	
1117	Recreational Equipment	
1118	Veterinary Equipment	
1119	Radios and Electronic Equipment	
1121	Capital Lease(s)- Payment(s) to Treasurer (Non-DP)	
1122	Capital Lease(s) (Non-DP)	
1123	Operating Lease(s) (Non-DP)	
1124	Installment Payment(s) to Treasurer (Non-DP, Non-Capital)	
1131	Data Processing Equipment-Mainframe	
1132	Data Processing Equipment-Minicomputer	
1133	Data Processing Equipment-Microcomputer	
1134	Data Processing Equipment-Workstations	
1135	Data Processing Equipment-Imaging Systems	
1136	Data Processing Equipment-Peripherals and Hardware Upgrades	
1141	Capital Lease(s)- Payment(s) to Treasurer (DP)	Amounts in the Treasurer's Lease Purchase Program.
1142	Capital Lease(s) (DP)	Amounts in the Treasurer's Lease Purchase Program.
1143	Operating Lease(s) (DP)	

Code	Title of Comptroller Object	Rates Assumption/ Basis for Calculation
1144	Installment Payment(s) to Treasurer(DP, Non-Capital)	
1190	Data Processing-Academic/Research	
1191	Data Processing-Administrative	
1195	Corporate Purchasing Card	
1199	Other Equipment	Agencies should avoid using this subobject. Discuss with DBM analyst prior to use and be prepared to answer DBM/DLS questions.

**Object .12 Grants, Subsidies, and Contributions**

Code	Title of Comptroller Object	Rates Assumption/ Basis for Calculation
1201	Social Security Contributions-Grants	
1202	Aid to Political Subdivisions	
1203	Health and Insurance Grants	
1204	Educational Grants	
1205	Inmate Payments	
1206	Grants to Other St. Gov't. Prog./Agen.	
1207	Grants to Non-Governmental Entities	
1208	Statewide Cost Allocation	
1209	Employees' Retirement System Grants	
1210	Employees' Pension System Grants	
1211	Teachers' Retirement System Grants	
1212	Teachers' Pension System Grants	<b>Do Not Budget in FY 2026.</b>
1213	Optional Retirement System (TIAA) Grants	
1214	Public Assistance Payments	
1295	Corporate Purchasing Card	
1296	Grants for Subsidized Rents	
1297	Grants to Health Providers	
1298	Taxable Grants, Contributions and Subsidies	
1299	Other Grants, Subsidies and Contributions	Agencies should avoid using this subobject. If the agency does budget in 1299, please label using a specific Contract/Grant Name and Description on the Contract/Grants tab in BARS so DBM/DLS knows what the grant is for.

**Object .13 Fixed Charges**

Code	Title of Comptroller Object	Rates Assumption/ Basis for Calculation
1301	Rent (non-DGS)	Can only be adjusted via the Real Estate Lease tab in BARS.
1302	Insurance Coverage Paid to STO	<b>Same as FY 2025 appropriation by fund type at the agency level.</b> DBM will update agency values in December based on the current schedule plus Governor's decisions. Agencies should budget either (a) in one location or (b) based on which subprograms support these costs.
1303	Rent Paid to DGS	<b>Same as FY 2025 appropriation by fund type at the agency level.</b> DBM will update agency values in December based on the current rent schedule plus Governor's decisions. Agencies should budget either (a) in one location or (b) based on which subprograms support the rent costs.
1304	Subscriptions	

Code	Title of Comptroller Object	Rates Assumption/ Basis for Calculation
1305	Association Dues	
1306	Bond Payments	
1307	Interest	
1308	Licenses	
1309	Insurance (Non STO Payments)	Insurance coverage payments not paid to the State Treasurer's Office.
1310	Interest on Late Payments	
1311	Interest on Treasury Cash Overdrafts	
1312	Interest on Treasury Deposits	
1320	Bad Debt Expense	
1391	Sales Tax	
1395	Corporate Purchasing Card	
1399	Other	Agencies should avoid using this subobject. Discuss with DBM analyst prior to use and be prepared to answer DBM/DLS questions.

**Object .14 Land and Structures**

Code	Title of Comptroller Object	Rates Assumption/ Basis for Calculation
1401	Land	
1402	Land Improvements-Existing Facilities	
1410	Buildings Construction-New Facilities	
1411	Buildings-Purchase/Trade	
1412	Buildings-Demolition	
1413	Buildings-Fixed Equipment	
1414	Buildings-Professional Fees	
1415	Buildings, Additions, and Other Major Improvements	
1416	Utilities Extension	
1430	Improvements Other Than Bldgs-Highway Construction	
1431	Improvements Other Than Bldgs-Roads, Sidewalks and Parking Areas	
1432	Improvements Other Than Bldgs-Water Construction	
1433	Loans to Private/Non-profit Individuals/Organizations	
1440	Roof Repair/Replacement	
1441	Building Exteriors	
1442	Building Interiors	
1443	Water	
1444	Heating	
1445	Power Lines	
1446	Security Alarm Systems	
1447	Road Repair Services	
1448	Ground Maintenance	
1449	Sheds, Gas & Oil Storage tanks	
1481	Easement Acquisitions	
1495	Corporate Purchasing Card	
1498	Statewide Critical Maintenance Program (DGS Administered)	Reserved for statewide operating maintenance projects that are administered by DGS.

FY 2026 Operating Budget Submission Requirements

<b>Code</b>	<b>Title of Comptroller Object</b>	<b>Rates Assumption/ Basis for Calculation</b>
1499	Other Land and Structures	Agencies should avoid using this subobject. Discuss with DBM analyst prior to use and be prepared to answer DBM/DLS questions.

## A.2 Starting Point - Understanding Agency Targets

The State of Maryland uses a current services budget (CSB) process. DBM begins with a base of the previous year's budget, then adjusts that base for certain known changes, creating CSB targets for agencies. Agencies must carefully consider their targets and determine what action is needed to submit a budget within the target.

When agencies first access their data in BARS to begin the FY 2026 budget submission, the following are the starting points for that data.

- FY 2024 Actuals (Prior Year or PY). The starting point for FY 2024 actual expenditures will be the FY 2024 working appropriation, excluding any closing amendments. There will be no direct connection to FMIS data.
- FY 2025 Appropriation (Current Year or CY). When agencies first access their CY data in BARS, it will be the FY 2025 Appropriation plus any approved and processed budget amendments. As budget amendments are now a separate, ongoing process in BARS, the primary CY adjustments that agencies will make during budget submission are deficiencies.
- FY 2026 Request (Budget Year or BY). The baseline will consist of (a) the FY 2025 Legislative Appropriation plus (b) any statewide personnel actions that happen during FY 2025 plus/minus (c) any target adjustments that OBA analysts enter at the line item level to reflect caseload changes, new or escalating mandates, removal of funding that is sunsetting, or other management decisions. Even after work in BARS has started, agencies can always view this baseline by viewing the FY 2026 Target Stage in BARS reports or ad hoc.

In BARS, we reference BY “targets” in two ways:

- The overall CSB target, which is the total general fund and/or special fund target (i.e. cap) for the agency's entire budget submission. This is provided to the agency in the official target memo and is what DBM has historically referred to as the agency's budget target. The budget submission in BARS will validate to ensure the request does not go over this target amount.
- Target adjustments and/or locks, which are specific updates that DBM analysts have entered in BARS to ensure that budget mandates and other specific budget items are properly reflected in the submission. For example, DBM may increase a grant program by \$1 million to reflect the funding level specified in statute through a target adjustment. DBM may also “lock” that subprogram or fund source to ensure that the funding stays in the mandated location and at the mandated level.

Agency general fund and special fund targets—both agency-level and more specific to mandated program areas—can be viewed in BARS in the Budget Request Submission (BRS) Module.

### A.3 Budget Development Guidance

Any questions concerning submission requirements should be referred to your assigned Office of Budget Analysis (OBA) analyst.

In BARS—the statewide solution for budget development and analysis—agencies submit adjustments against the baseline budget (mostly based on the prior year’s) in order to create and submit the budget request. Most of the detail that makes up a budget submission is now contained in BARS itself, but for a list of remaining outside-of-BARS DA-form requirements, see the agency checklist, Section B.2.

#### A.3.1 *First Step: Chart of Accounts Data Changes*

The BARS Chart of Accounts (COA) must be up-to-date in order for an agency to select valid account codes when making adjustments. **Therefore, agencies are encouraged to update this information prior to budget development.** Agencies are encouraged to review their agency’s units, programs, subprograms, or agency subobjects in BARS through the Agency Administration - COA Maintenance tab. Note that DBM will not process any COA disable requests during budget season, as disabling can result in data errors.

Agencies may wish to set-up new subprograms to provide a greater level of detail, to more easily track the budget for a particular project, or to budget for a new agency activity. Agencies should follow the process below to update the agency COA. Please plan ahead for needed COA changes and work on them early in budget season so that the processing of COA additions does not hold up agency budget work.

1. **New/Revised Subprograms** – An agency approver can add new or revise existing subprograms in BARS using the Agency Administration – COA Maintenance – Maintain Sub-Program module. When complete, the user should e-mail [dlbudgethelp\\_dbm@maryland.gov](mailto:dlbudgethelp_dbm@maryland.gov) and CC the OBA analyst with the BARS item# so that the item can be approved and released. Agencies must include a subprogram description with each subprogram that is created, at least a sentence long (preferably longer) explaining to DBM and DLS readers the purpose and work of that subprogram. Make sure to include in the email an explanation of the reason for the changes. The Technical Data and Systems Team (TDS) will reply by email when updated and approved in BARS.
2. **New/Revised Agency Subobjects** – An agency approver can edit agency subobjects options in BARS using the Agency Administration – COA Maintenance – Maintain Agency Sub-object module. An agency subobject must be unique to only one comptroller subobject. When complete, the user should e-mail [dlbudgethelp\\_dbm@maryland.gov](mailto:dlbudgethelp_dbm@maryland.gov) and CC the OBA analyst with the BARS item # so that the item can be approved and released. Make sure to include in the email an explanation of the reason for the changes. The TDS team will reply by email when updated and approved in BARS.
3. **New/Revised Units and Programs (OBA Only in BARS)** – Agencies can submit requests via email for COA changes to units or programs (name or description changes and creation of new COA components as part of a reorganization). The agency should submit these updates via an Excel spreadsheet showing current and proposed COA detail (codes and full names as they would appear in the budget books) by e-mail to [dlbudgethelp\\_dbm@maryland.gov](mailto:dlbudgethelp_dbm@maryland.gov) and CC the OBA budget analyst. If it is a program that is added or revised, please also include a program description for the budget book. Make sure to include in the email an explanation of the reason for the changes. The TDS team will reply by email when updated and approved in BARS.

Modifications to the BARS COA account code structure (adds or edits) are not part of the FMIS and Workday interfaces. **Agencies will need to update account codes separately in FMIS and Workday as appropriate.**

### A.3.2 *General Budget Considerations*

Agencies should answer the following questions before beginning to build their budget:

- Are any new facilities becoming operational and therefore increasing operating costs?
- Are there required rate changes from the federal government, service providers, or DBM?
- Are there any approved salary adjustments?
- Are there other budget drivers that should be considered?
- If the agency budget is dependent on a caseload forecast, how will that forecast change in the coming fiscal period?
- Are there any new or changed funding mandates that were not reflected in the target?

### A.3.3 *Common Strategies for Development*

Averages: When determining the budget for some subobjects, it may make sense to budget the average of the last three completed fiscal years. Averages can be applied to recurring expenditures that are not controlled statewide subobjects. For example, if the number of inspections an agency conducts stays the same each year, the travel costs related to these inspections may be relatively stable, depending upon fuel costs. Using the average of the last three years may allow for a stable funding level that changes marginally to reflect actual travel costs. Note: if subobject spending was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic (such as travel), consider looking back to pre-pandemic fiscal years.

Most Recent Year Actuals: In some cases, it may be more appropriate to budget the same amount as was spent in the most recently closed fiscal year. Using the most recent actual expenditures is particularly valuable if the agency recently began a new program and does not have enough data or experience to fully predict the potential expenditures. Over time, the agency should be able to better determine which budgeting strategy is appropriate.

Inflationary Factor: In some cases, such as when calculating expenditures that are consumer-based, it makes sense to inflate the previous year's budget. In general, the State uses the Implicit Price Deflator for State and Local Expenditures. Additional information on the implicit price deflator can be found [at this link](#). Click on the link to [Table 1.1.9](#) and scroll down to State and Local (line 26).

Specific Commitments: In some cases, there are discrete additional charges that the agency may include for specific commitments. These are often one-time expenditures for new equipment or expenditures related to a new initiative. The agency may budget these within the target, reducing spending in other areas if necessary. This should include contracts that are multi-year commitments.

### A.3.4 *Into BARS: Submission Methodology*

Agencies should view the baselines in BARS for each FY (request year, current year, and prior year) and then make adjustments to update their actuals and finalize the FY 2026 request. Agencies with approved reorganizations should contact their OBA analyst for guidance.

While DBM is providing some basic guidance and ideas for how to approach the budget request, we recognize each agency will complete the request in BARS differently. We are providing one possible



approach below. We encourage you to share best practices as you work in the system so we can continue to refine and improve the guidance we provide over time. For more detailed guidance on BARS, please see the user guides and instruction videos on DBM's website.

Overall, the process entails (1) completing Position Reconciliation which sets the permanent employee salary and fringe budget for FY 2026, (2) updating actuals information for FY 2024 in BARS which will help an agency to determine their non-salary and fringe needs for FY 2026, (3) adjusting Supporting Detail (SD) information in BARS for contractual employees, contracts/grants, and real estate leases, and (4) adjusting all types of expenditures not handled on the SD tabs.

Smaller agencies may be able to handle this process with one adjustment per fiscal year, plus their Position Reconciliation adjustment. However, larger agencies will likely need to split up their adjustments by type of data (one for each type of SD information) and/or Chart of Account values (by unit, program, subprogram).

### **1. Reconcile Positions**

Even before the target and agency request is available in BARS, agencies can work ahead by ensuring that Workday data is up-to-date as much as possible, consulting reports in BARS that indicate where differences exist between the budget system and Workday. If there are differences between the two datasets, create a separate tracking spreadsheet to plan for the needed changes in BARS (as presumably Workday is more up-to-date). These changes may include differences in location, class code and grade/step, and fund split. In the event BARS data is correct and Workday is not, agencies should update Workday accordingly. Agencies should also be tracking the differences in salaries and fringes between FY 2025 and FY 2026 and assess changes for the budget request. For example, if a position has been reclassified upwards and is now more expensive, funding may need to be reduced elsewhere in the budget to cover those additional costs.

During the official "Position Reconciliation" (POS REC) process directed by DBM, agencies should go into BARS and begin using position adjustments to correct the position data. Through POS REC, agencies can prorate the same fund type split (general, special, federal, reimbursable) across all positions within a given subprogram to simplify position revenue data consistent with expenditures in a given program or subprogram. For example, if salaries for the subprogram are overall 50% general and 50% federal, apply this same fund split across all positions rather than calculating the funds supporting each one by one. This method is far easier than managing fund type splits on a PIN-by-PIN basis within the budget system.

### **2. Update the Prior Year (PY) Actuals Data**

As feasible, agencies should balance actuals data in BARS to expenditures reported in FMIS, as shown in DAFR 6000 and G200 reports (expenditures plus encumbrances). Agencies are encouraged to use this as a guide, but the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or Budget Director will know best what the final numbers should look like from a budget perspective. DBM will be reviewing actuals data to ensure that submitted BARS values match the DAFR 6000 at the program/fund type level.

For reporting actual spending on contractual positions (subobject 0220), contracts (Object 08), grants (Object 12), and non-DGS real estate (subobject 1301), agencies should prepare SD tab adjustments as noted below and instructed in this document.

### 3. Contractual Positions

Contractual position data must be entered into BARS on the Contractual Supporting Detail (SD) tab, which in turn must match Expenditure (budget) data across all three years. Key concepts regarding the use of this tab, which was developed to meet Department of Legislative Services (DLS) requirements:

- Included Data. BARS requires every budgeted contractual to have a specific budgeted location at the subprogram/fund type level, a class code, and a helpful description describing the work being performed. Multiple FTEs with the same subprogram/class code/fund type combination are merged into one line, so please include a description of the work of each FTE in the one row.
- FTE/Salary Validation. DBM asks that agencies ensure a ratio of 1.00:\$28,800, as anything below that would be below minimum wage and therefore incorrect.
- Actuals. Contractual actual FTEs are reported based on how much of the year the position was filled, not the budgeted FTE amount. For example, if a contractual was budgeted for \$40,000 per year at 1 full-time-equivalent (FTE) but was only filled for a quarter of the year and paid \$10,000, then BARS should have 0.25 FTE for that position in the actuals.
- Other Years. Adjust FY 2026 as necessary to reflect revised needs since the previous budget request. Agencies are not required to make changes to the Current Year.

### 4. Contracts/Grants

Funding for contracts and grants (objects 08 and 12) must be entered into BARS on the Contract/Grant SD tab, which in turn must match Expenditure (budget) data across all three years. Key concepts regarding the use of this tab, which was developed to meet DLS requirements:

- Included Data. Duration, total contract cost, description, and an easily-identifiable name indicative of the purpose (not simply the vendor name). Agencies are required to provide this information, along with descriptions of the contracts and grants that describe their purpose and utility, through the Maintain Contracts and Grants module in BARS
- Process. Begin by making adjustments in the Contracts/Grants SD tab against the rollover FY 2024 appropriation (for the FY 2024 Actuals). Continue by planning funding changes for existing contracts and assessing needs versus the FY 2025 legislative appropriation (which rolled over to become the FY 2026 target). If new contracts are needed or existing ones require different names/descriptions/etc., first utilize the Maintenance module in BARS. Small agencies may be able to complete this process in one work item per fiscal year, while large agencies are encouraged to break down contracts into smaller units for both ease and performance in the system. Keep in mind anticipated fund split changes, and track differences against the target using resources provided by the budget system and DBM. Please be mindful of using the appropriate object 08 subobject and do NOT use 0899 "Miscellaneous" unless absolutely necessary.

### 5. Non-DGS Real Estate Leases

Funding for non-DGS leases (comptroller subobject 1301) must be entered into BARS on the Real Estate SD tab, which in turn must match Expenditure (budget) data across all three years. Similar to the Contracts/Grants process, agencies should have accumulated a list of real estate leases that have a specific

duration, total cost, description, name, and cost of the lease. This list should be reviewed and edited as necessary using the Maintain Real Estate Leases module prior to the agency working on their 1301 submission in BARS adjustments. Make necessary adjustments in FY 2024 to reconcile to the actuals, and make changes where necessary in FY 2026.

## 6. All Other Expenditures

Agencies use the Expenditures tab to allocate funds against non-Personnel 01 subobjects, non-Contractual salary 02 subobjects, and Object 03, 04, 05, 06, 07 (including 0701), 09, 10, 11, non-lease 13, and 14 subobjects. Agencies should consider inflation rates, effects of the rollover from the previous fiscal year, and all specific programming that is included in the rollover and necessary in order to fund the agency within the target for FY 2026.

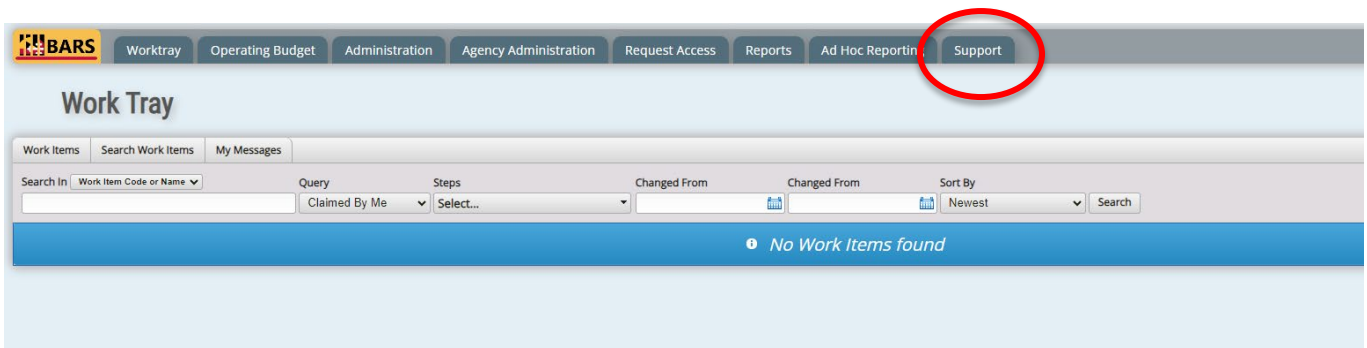
Use the Export/Import feature with formulas if you are more comfortable inputting whole numbers while working on the budget request instead of adjusted numbers.

- This can also help agencies quickly budget the average of three years of actuals or some other calculated budgeting methodology in their request.
- Again, the data uploaded into the “Expenditures” tab must reconcile to the SD tabs for contractual positions, contracts/grants, and non-DGS leases.

Additional best practices can be found in Section B.1, and additional guidance can be found in Section B.6.

## 7. Finding Guides in BARS

In addition to being on DBM’s [website](#), guides can be found under the “Support” button in BARS.



## 8. Budget Amendments

Budget amendments needed to realign (between programs) or increase current year non-General Fund appropriations must be submitted to DBM in BARS, not in the old non-BARS form. See DBM’s budget amendment guidance on the Budget Instructions webpage for more information.

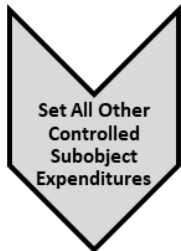
### Building Blocks of the Budget



- Budget the number of employees the agency will need in order to achieve the goals of the upcoming fiscal period and set the salaries for these employees using the subobject 0101 target set during the Position Reconciliation exercise. New positions must be submitted as over-the-target requests.
- Budget the health and pension benefits and turnover rate that relate to the positions budgeted above.
- The most important subobjects for the agency for this step are 0101, 0112, 0125, 0151, 0152, 0154, 0161, 0169, 0174, and 0189.



- Budget the number of contractual employees the agency will need in order to achieve the goals and objectives of the upcoming fiscal period and set the salaries for those contractuels. Be diligent about ending contractual positions that are no longer necessary.
- The most important subobjects for the agency for this step are 0220, 0213, 0214, 0217, and 0289.
- The State provides health insurance for certain contractual employees, level fund from the most recent legislative appropriation.
- When budget developers build their salary and fringe budgets, they should include the following considerations:
  - Will the agency be reclassifying individual employees?
  - Will the agency be converting contractual employees to permanent employees?
  - What are the current vacancies and how many of those will be filled in the budget?



- Controlled subobjects are nondiscretionary. The amounts in the request must be exactly the same, by fund source, as those in the legislative appropriation. While BARS will validate this, the agency should ensure this is correct and contact the assigned DBM budget analyst if there are any questions or concerns. These specific subobjects are 0152, 0154, 0175, 0217, 0305, 0322, 0697, 0831, 0833, 0839, 0874, 0875, 0876, 0882, 0894 and 0897. Other controlled subobjects that must be budgeted according to guidance in Section A.1 include 0698, 0704, 1302, and 1303.



- The budget should include any mandated (non-discretionary only) increases or expenditures set forth in statute and carry forward any required contractual expenditures and capital lease financing payments. The staffing considerations for these mandated increases should be considered in the previous steps.
- Agencies should only include mandated increases where the legislature has passed a law that includes language that the “Governor shall” appropriate or include in the budget a specific expenditure amount or budget formula. These are non-discretionary. Agencies should *not* include funding for new laws that do not specify an amount or provide a formula, unless they are able to include the funding within the target. Alternatively, agencies may request this funding in an over-the-target request.
- CAVEAT: The Legislature will sometimes pass laws that include an intent section with budget language. Intent language in a law is not a legal requirement and agencies should *not* consider these mandates. Agencies should budget these expenditures within existing funds or submit an over-the-target request.

## **A.4 Personnel Budgeting - Objects 01 and 02**

### *A.4.1 Position Reconciliation and PIN Budgeting - Object 01*

The first step in building a budget request is to establish the cost of the agency’s permanent employee salaries and fringe benefits (in Object 01). During the summer, agencies are asked to complete a Position Reconciliation (POS REC) exercise in BARS to update the FY 2025 personnel data that serves as the baseline for the FY 2026 personnel budget request. At that time, agencies can make adjustments for any position data elements that need to be updated (step, location, fund split, etc.). This process must be completed **no later than August 30, 2024** or with the agency’s larger budget submission, whichever comes first.

Before agencies complete the POS REC exercise, DBM applied across the board updates in BARS as follows:

1. Updated position data with salaries based on the July 1, 2024 salary schedule to reflect FY 2025 salary enhancements (including increments as of July 1, 2024) and associated fringe values calculated with current rates.
2. Updated Object 01 data in each respective comptroller subobject (0101, 0151, retirement, 0174) by fund type based on the PIN fund splits provided with the FY 2025 position data.

Like last year, salaries and fringes (0101, 0151, retirement, 0174) will be "Read Only" in the Expenditures tab in BARS once the Position Reconciliation exercise has been completed. Unlike last year, health insurance (0152 and 0154) will also be calculated at the PIN level and will be “Read Only” in the Expenditures tab in BARS once the Position Reconciliation exercise has been completed. DBM will update rates as needed for Health Insurance in December.

OBA provides the following guidance regarding position realignment between programs:

- FY 2026:** During POS REC, agencies may realign positions between programs provided the FTE counts are equal to the agency total. After Position Reconciliation, this action is discouraged and DBM recommends that agencies do not take the additional effort to further realign positions as it complicates the budget submission process.
- FY 2025:** DBM will limit FY 2025 adjustments to material changes such as DBM-approved reorganizations. Agencies may only realign positions between programs through a FY 2025 budget amendment adjustment so that Object 01 position and budget data reconcile. Contact your DBM analyst if you want to implement a FY 2025 position realignment – DBM discourages mid-year reorganizations.
- FY 2024:** DBM will limit FY 2024 adjustments to material changes such as DBM-approved reorganizations. DBM will provide separate guidance in August for completing the FY 2024 Central Payroll Bureau (CPB) actual expenditures and FTE counts.

### **Position Reconciliation (POS REC) Guidance**

Agencies will begin the POS REC process for the FY 2026 Budget Submission in July 2024. During POS REC, agencies will have the ability to process all needed position adjustments in BARS through to the “Released” (i.e. finalized) stage. Position adjustments processed during POS REC will be fully incorporated into the Expenditures grid in BARS and become a final part of the budget request. Once POS REC is complete, agencies will be instructed to notify DBM that the task is complete by sending an email to [dlbudgethelp\\_dbm@maryland.gov](mailto:dlbudgethelp_dbm@maryland.gov) and copying the OBA analyst. Agencies must complete POS REC by the due date provided in the DBM guidance letter.

For more detailed guidance regarding POS REC, including how to complete all work in BARS and review prior year actuals, refer to the Position Reconciliation Guidance and Instructions user guide, sent via email and also on the Budget Instructions page.

### Salary Tables for the FY 2026 Budget

Refer to Appendix 1 for salary rates.

- The salary schedule effective July 1, 2024 is the basis for FY 2026 salaries in BARS and incorporates:
  - Annualized Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) of 3% as of July 1, 2024
  - Annualization of FY 2025 increments as of July 1, 2024 and January 1, 2025 for eligible State regular employees
  - Annualization of FY 2025 increment as of January 1, 2025 for eligible State employees with continuous service since June 30, 2019
- **For FY 2026, DBM will provide funding in the DBM Allowance budget for any FY 2026 salary adjustment for COLA and/or SLEOLA negotiated collective bargaining provisions. For positions supported by general funds, additional general funds will be provided. For non-general fund positions, the agency will need to use non-general funds to cover the increased cost.**

#### A.4.2 Fringe Benefits - Object 01

Agency budget submissions include both regular earnings (subobject 0101) as well as additional earnings such as additional assistance, overtime, shift differential, miscellaneous adjustments and reclassifications. **It is critical that agencies properly calculate fringes for these different types of earnings and budget the fringes in the correct subobject per the detailed guidance on fringe calculations in Section A.1.** Below are descriptions regarding a subset of fringes with particularly complicated calculations or nuances.

#### Accrued Leave Payout (Comptroller Object 0111)

This object is used for accrued leave payout for long-term employees who leave State service. Please adhere to OMB Circular A-87, Title 2 of Code of Federal Regulations, when budgeting for accrued leave payouts related to federal funded positions. **Some portions of leave/severance payments cannot be charged directly to federal programs because such charges violate this regulation. The pertinent sections of the regulation are copied below.**

#### Appendix B to Part 225, 8.d.:

(2) The cost of fringe benefits in the form of regular compensation paid to employees during periods of authorized absences from the job, such as for annual leave, sick leave, holidays, court leave, military leave, and other similar benefits, are allowable if: (a) they are provided under established written leave policies; (b) the costs are equitably allocated to all related activities, including Federal awards; and, (c) the accounting basis (cash or accrual) selected for costing each type of leave is consistently followed by the governmental unit.

(3) When a governmental unit uses the cash basis of accounting, the cost of leave is recognized in the period that the leave is taken and paid for. Payments for unused leave when an employee retires or terminates employment are allowable in the year of payment provided they are allocated as a general administrative expense to all activities of the governmental unit or component.

(4) The accrual basis may be only used for those types of leave for which a liability as defined by Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) exists when the leave is earned. When a governmental unit uses the accrual basis of accounting, in accordance with GAAP, allowable leave costs are the lesser of the amount accrued or funded.

[https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/legacy\\_drupal\\_files/omb/federal\\_register/FR2005/083105\\_a87.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/legacy_drupal_files/omb/federal_register/FR2005/083105_a87.pdf)

### **COVID-19 Salary Costs - Comptroller Subobject 0125**

BARS validation requires that the salary position data by fund type must reconcile to the expenditure data by fund type. To the extent that positions are supported by COVID-19 funding, the salary data would need to be linked to fund 25 (CARES), 35 (CRRSAA), or 45 (ARPA) to reflect COVID-19 federal funding depending on which stimulus bill the funding came from. This would be time-prohibitive for agencies. To capture COVID-19 salary costs while not requiring each BARS position to be updated using federal relief fund types, DBM has created comptroller subobject 0125 to allow agencies to designate COVID-19 salary and fringe costs. Agencies should use comptroller subobject 0125 to budget for total salary and fringe expenditures (comptroller subobjects 0101, 0151, 0152, 0154, 0161-0170, 0174, 0189), associated with position funding supported with COVID-19 federal fund support.

Use of 0125 does not apply to higher education institutions.

More specifically, in the agency Position detail grid within BARS, related positions will remain funded by standard federal funds (fund 05). Therefore, the Expenditure grid (which must match Positions) funding will have 05 for all salary and fringe comptroller subobjects. Then, in comptroller subobject 0125 those fund type 05 values will be netted out with a negative, along with a positive in fund type 25 (CARES), 35 (CRRSAA), or 45 (ARPA). Example:

- Two positions in a subprogram are to be supported by ARPA funding, fund source 11.111e.
- On the Position tab in BARS, both positions will be listed as 100% federal funds.
- On the Expenditure tab in BARS, comptroller subobjects for these positions are listed under federal funds/fund type 05 (0101, 0161-0169, 0174, and 0189) and net to \$200,000.
- In comptroller subobject 0125, the agency would put negative \$200,000 in FF/05 and positive \$200,000 in fund type 45.
- On the Revenue tab, the program would have \$0 in standard federal funds for those two positions as they have been netted out, but there would be \$200,000 in 11.111e.

### **FICA Contributions (0151)**

Subobject 0151 – FICA will be automatically calculated within BARS during the Position Reconciliation process based on each position’s class code and step, using the calculation in Section A.1. **As in FY 2025, FICA (subobject 0151) in BARS will only be calculated on regular earnings (0101), while FICA for other earnings subobjects—including 0102, 0104, 0105, 0110, 0111, and 0112—should be budgeted within the subobject.** Agencies may be asked to provide supporting information that outlines the computation of these other earnings subobjects.

## **Employee Health Insurance (0152) and Retiree Health Insurance (0154)**

Beginning with the FY 2026 budget request, BARS will calculate employee health insurance (0152) and retiree health insurance (0154) at the PIN level. This functionality is not fully implemented so agencies will still submit their budget requests with 0152 and 0154 level-funded by program and fund to the prior year. DBM will still determine the final health insurance rate in December and effectuate it in BARS.

### *A.4.3 Additional Position Requests - Object 01*

Agencies must submit new position requests as an over-the-target request through a BARS Over-the-Target adjustment type. Every effort should be made to meet agency needs within the existing workforce before requesting new positions. ALL new position requests, including contractual conversions, must be requested as over-the-target items. The over-the-target requests should be limited to demands from major workload growth already in effect, new facilities already approved, new mandates, program transfers that cannot be met by reallocations, and federal contracts and grants.

Any new position, if approved, will be updated in BARS through DBM's approval of the agency's over-the-target adjustment item in January. The BARS adjustment requires R\*STARS location, number of positions (decimal equivalent), class code, step, increment month, retirement code, fund type percentage and justification. Contractual conversions should be budgeted no greater than one step above the grade/step of the current contract.

Any request for additional positions will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- There is a justified need for and a benefit from the new position (quantifiable workload).
- The work cannot be absorbed by existing staff, student help, patient/inmate labor, or positions reallocated from other areas (program discontinuations or excessive vacancies).
- The function is expected to be needed for at least three fiscal years.
- The need is for a full-time employee at least 40 weeks during the year, unless the request is for less than one full-time equivalent (FTE) position.
- If the agency is not requesting general funds for the position, the funding for the position (federal/private/local government grant program or student government fees) is reasonably expected to be available for more than three years.

Please feel free to contact your DBM analyst for process clarification.

### **Contractual Conversions**

Agencies should request contractual conversions as an over-the-target. New positions should be requested to replace contractual employees (subobject 0220). Such requests should be based on the plan development in coordination with the agency's HRBP to ensure adherence to the State's agreement with AFSCME whereby the State will cease hiring new contractual employees into classifications that are assigned to AFSCME bargaining units, effective July 1, 2024, unless:

1. The individual is hired pursuant to a short-term grant or for a defined temporary project (defined as 24 months or less).
2. The hire is short-term (i.e., 12 months or less) on an emergency basis to a nonrenewable contract.
3. The individual is a State retiree.
4. The percentage employed is less than fifty percent (50% FTE).



While the agreement is expressly related to AFSCME bargaining units, the Moore-Miller Administration believes that existing long-term contractuals should be converted to permanent positions and we should decrease our reliance on contractual employment relationships in general across the SPMS.

Please reach out to your OBA analyst if you have any questions.

#### *A.4.4 Pay Plan Adjustments and New Classifications*

The Moore-Miller Administration intends to emphasize the allocation of budget resources toward across-the-board increases for State employees in order to continue progress on improving the competitiveness of our salaries overall rather than emphasizing individual classification upgrades or ASRs. Agencies are advised, therefore, to limit to a significant extent any ASR requests for the FY 2026 planning and negotiations cycle to only requests that are deemed absolutely critical for state operations. Significant analysis will be required to substantiate any such ASR requests.

Additionally, agency requests for pay plan and salary adjustments to existing classifications and for the creation of new classifications must be submitted earlier than the agencies budget request in order facilitate negotiations. Agencies should submit any requests for pay plan adjustments **no later than September 1, 2024.**

Agencies must complete DA-25A and DA-25B forms when requesting a salary adjustment to one or more job classifications or the creation of one or more classifications in FY 2026. **If salary adjustments are approved by DBM and the Governor and successfully negotiated with any relevant collective bargaining unit, DBM will include related funding in the DBM budget at the time the Governor submits the budget to the General Assembly, and if approved by the General Assembly, will disburse funding to the requesting agency via a budget amendment at the beginning of the fiscal year.**

DA-25A and DA-25B forms can be found on DBM's website under "Forms" on the Budget Instructions page.

DA-25A Form – WORD Document: This form is used to provide sufficient supporting justification for the request by addressing the following items:

1. Why are the pay plan adjustments or new classifications necessary? Why is this job series critical to the agency or program goals and objectives? The explanation should outline how the current or proposed salary structures will impact the outcomes for the agency and/or program (list the specific Managing for Results goal, objective, and measures).
2. List any alternatives to address the issues that would not require the establishment of a new classification series or salary adjustment. List steps that have been taken to address recruitment and retention issues with existing resources.
3. List the impact of this proposal on other classifications within the agency.
4. Provide any additional documentation that supports this request.

DA-25B Form – EXCEL Document: This form is used by agencies to outline specific positions and costs associated with the request. The following information is required:

1. List **current** grade, step, and salary by PIN to be impacted by the pay plan adjustment.
2. List **proposed** grade, step, and salary by PIN to be impacted by the pay plan adjustment.
3. Outline the fringe benefit costs associated with the proposed pay plan adjustment.

**Requests must be submitted electronically in priority order no later than September 1, 2024, to [dlbudgethelp\\_dbm@maryland.gov](mailto:dlbudgethelp_dbm@maryland.gov) at DBM, copying your budget analyst at OBA.** Agencies do not need to submit duplicate requests to the Office of Personnel Services and Benefits (OPSB). OBA works closely with OPSB to review requests for pay plan adjustments or new classifications and provides OPSB with the supporting documentation to review such requests.

#### *A.4.5 Reorganizations*

An agency reorganization is defined as a change in the organizational structure of an existing unit, section, program or division within an agency or department or State principal service operation that creates new supervisory, managerial, or executive positions or results in the realignment of existing supervisory, managerial, or executive positions. These reorganizations typically create new reporting relationships for supervisors, managers, or executives and prompt a request to upgrade existing positions or create new and higher-level classifications.

Agency reorganizations that impact the salary level of a position or positions will require OBA approval. **Agencies must obtain OBA approval prior to the Office of Personnel Services and Benefits (OPSB) review of the appropriateness of the requested salary level(s).**

DBM is no longer accepting reorganization requests for FY 2025. For FY 2026 reorganizations, agencies should submit reorganization requests no later than September 1, 2024 so that the proposal can be reviewed. If the proposed reorganization is approved, the new account code structure can be implemented within Workday and FMIS effective for July 1, 2025. The proposal should be forwarded to the OBA budget analyst for review of funding and organizational design. The proposal should include at a minimum:

1. The existing organization chart for the unit, division, program, or section affected.
2. The proposed new organization chart for the unit, division, program or section affected.
3. A justification for the proposal to include:
  - a. How the proposed change of organization or reporting relationships will benefit the agency; and
  - b. How the proposed change of organization or reporting relationships will promote efficient operations for the agency.
4. Estimates of the additional costs (or savings) of the proposed change of organization or reporting relationships for the next fiscal year.
5. Designation of where the funds for any additional costs in the next fiscal year will come from.

Once approved by OBA, the agency may submit any reclassification requests associated with the reorganization to the Classification and Salary Division (CAS) within DBM's OPSB. Reclassification requests associated with reorganization that are submitted to CAS without the required OBA approval will be returned to the agency.

#### A.4.6 *Technical and Special Fees - Object 02 (Contractual Employee Budgeting)*

Contractual positions (State Personnel and Pensions §13-101) are workers having an employee-employer relationship with the State, but they are hired for a specific project or time period. Agencies must use the Contractual Positions Supporting Detail (SD) module within BARS to enter contractual positions for FY 2026.

**For the FY 2026 Budget Submission, BARS will collapse contractual position lines of the same class code into a single line within each chart of accounts down to the fund type by subprogram level. Agencies are required to provide justification for each contractual position using the Contractual Positions SD tab using the “Description” field.** Agencies only need to enter detail for any changes from FY 2025 to the Budget Year (BY) in FY 2026, as well as any necessary edits to the Prior Year (PY) actuals in FY 2024. More detail regarding use of the Contractual Positions SD tab can be found in the related user guide.

Agencies should take a “zero-based” approach to budgeting contractual positions. Any contractual position that can be eliminated should not be renewed (reductions can be initiated in FY 2025) and should not be funded in FY 2026.

Note that additional funding will **not** be provided via target adjustment to allow increases to contractual salaries similar to those provided to regular positions due to collective bargaining agreements. If agencies choose to adjust contractual salaries, that is their prerogative, but funding must be found within the budget target.

Section A. 1 provides detailed guidance on contractual fringe calculations. However, turnover has specific nuances that require further detail.

#### **Turnover (0289)**

Contractual turnover should be computed on the sum of subobjects 0220, 0213, and 0214 for each subprogram (or program if subprograms are not used) and entered as a negative amount for comptroller object 0289. In FY 2026, each agency should budget contractual turnover based on the agency’s turnover rate for permanent positions plus an additional 4.61% to account for a “reasonable” vacancy rate for the 12 annual holidays that contractual employees will not receive compensation for in FY 2026. For example, if the vacancy rate for permanent positions in a given program is zero, 4.61% should be the turnover rate, since the employees will not receive compensation for the 12 holidays. If the vacancy rate for permanent positions is 5%, the total turnover will be 9.61%.

**A.5 Budgeting for Operations (Non-Personnel)**

Much of the information needed to determine correct budgeted amounts for object 03 - 14 can be found in Section A.1 of this document. This section provides information regarding certain subobjects that warrant additional information.

*A.5.1 Travel - Object 04*

**In-State Travel: Routine Operations (0401) and Conferences/Seminars/Training (0402)**

Agencies should budget in-state travel expenditures in subobject 0401. These costs include tolls, parking fees, and the private mileage reimbursement rate of 67 cents per mile.

Note that the mileage reimbursement rate is tied to the Federal reimbursement rate which usually changes in January each year and is updated in the State travel regulations. The rate can change mid-year under extraordinary circumstances, and agencies will be notified during those instances. Meals may be reimbursed in accordance with State travel regulations at the following amounts:

Breakfast:	\$15.00
Lunch:	\$18.00
<u>Dinner:</u>	<u>\$30.00</u>
Maximum per day:	\$63.00

Please refer to the State travel regulations on the DBM website for further guidance, including information regarding out of state travel.:

<http://www.dbm.maryland.gov/Pages/TravelManagementServices.aspx>

*A.5.2 Fuel and Utilities - Object 06*

Calculations for fuel and utilities generally reflect a historically-based usage projection multiplied by a rate or the FY 2024 actual adjusted by an inflation rate. Agencies should include any necessary adjustments related to space utilization in the calculation.

**Inventory of Buildings:** Agencies should calculate fuel and utilities based on the square footage of each building served and be able to provide that data on a line-item level (i.e. “Gas heat/electricity for X square feet for Field Office in Cumberland”) upon request. This data does not need to be entered into BARS.

**University System of Maryland (USM) Institutions:** Due to the specific energy usage changes and needs of each institution, USM should utilize its own electricity and natural gas projections for FY 2026.

**MES Charges:** If an agency is working in collaboration with the Maryland Environmental Service (MES) that may result in a facility being added to the MES reimbursable charges schedule, please inform the OBA analyst as well as Mario Sto. Domingo at [mario.stodomingo@maryland.gov](mailto:mario.stodomingo@maryland.gov) as soon as possible.

**Fuel – Natural Gas/Propane (0606):** Agencies that use natural gas procured by the Department of General Services (DGS) should level fund the FY 2026 request with the FY 2024 actual expenditures, except for University System of Maryland (USM) institutions.

**Utilities – Electricity (0620):** Agencies consuming electricity procured by DGS should request FY 2026 funding in line with the FY 2024 actual expenditures, except for University System of Maryland (USM) institutions. Due to specific energy usage changes and needs at each institution, USM should utilize its own electricity projections for FY 2026.

No state agency may purchase electricity in the State's competitive electric utility market until DGS and the Maryland Energy Administration ensure that the purchase is consistent with the State's strategy.

**Loan Repayment - Energy Conservation Project/State Agency Loan Program (0698):** Agencies can find the schedule for EPCs and SALP as of June 2024 in Appendix 2. If an agency plans to initiate a new EPC and/or SALP loan, the amounts on the schedule should be increased. If the request deviates from the schedule in Appendix 2, agencies should be prepared to explain how the request is derived and why it differs from the schedule. Questions about the appendix should be directed to Mario Sto. Domingo at [mario.stodomingo@maryland.gov](mailto:mario.stodomingo@maryland.gov).

### *A.5.3 Motor Vehicle Operations and Maintenance - Object 07*

The budget process is the most appropriate method for requesting vehicles versus “out-of-cycle” requests.

Each agency should carefully consider the use of its motor vehicle fleet in terms of annual mileage and consistent use before submitting requests for replacement or additional vehicles. This fleet review should include an effort to downsize the fleet, especially for vehicles assigned to headquarters staff. Fleet analysis must include a review of field staff vehicle usage. From a cost savings standpoint, field staff currently traveling in private vehicles that generate excessively high mileage (10,000 miles annually) and consequently high privately owned vehicle (POV) reimbursements, are strong candidates for State motor vehicle assignments.

Agencies must submit the FY 2026 budget request for vehicles with a **DA-8 form**, in Excel format, described in additional detail later in this section.

#### **Electric Vehicles**

In FY 2026, 25% of vehicles purchased for the State Fleet must be electric vehicles (zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) equivalent). This requirement will increase to 50% of vehicles purchased in FY 2026. As a result, the DA-8 form has been revised to include two new columns where agencies must indicate whether the vehicle being replaced can be a ZEV, and a justification for any non-ZEV requests.

Due to the current fluctuations in the estimated purchase price for ZEVs, agencies are instructed to budget for and request gasoline vehicles. DBM, in consultation with the Department of General Services (DGS), will determine which vehicles will be replaced with ZEVs. The price difference between the ZEV and the gasoline-powered vehicle will be paid by DBM utilizing funding from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund.

- Note that the justification for requesting a non-ZEV should NOT be related to the availability of charging infrastructure. DGS will consider all requests, including those at leased facilities, to determine what charging infrastructure can be implemented in FY 2026. The exception to this rule is take-home vehicles, which are not being considered for ZEV replacement at this time.

- DBM Fleet expects that ZEV equivalents will be available for all vehicle sizes and classes up to a ½ ton pick-up (6-C).

### Replacement Vehicles

An agency should determine whether all the vehicles in its fleet are essential to program operations. A concerted effort to downsize fleets will assist the overall budget process. All replacement vehicles will be budgeted and requisitioned by size and type. A vehicle may be considered for replacement if its mileage will exceed 100,000 miles by March 2025 and/or the vehicle is ten (10) years old or older. However, both standards are only indicators that a vehicle may be replaced; it is not the benchmark used for approval. DBM will review each vehicle request on a case-by-case basis. Requests to replace vehicles with lower mileage must be justified.

### Additional Vehicles

Additional vehicles should be requested only if:

- No existing vehicle can be reassigned to fill the need.
- The vehicle will be driven at least 10,000 miles per year.
- There is a cost savings (provide written justification).

### Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs) (does not apply to law enforcement agencies)

Agencies are required to include justification for each replacement and additional SUV request using DBM's Fleet Administration Unit (FAU) criteria:

- Description of the primary purpose or use of the vehicle and the frequency of its use. *Incident weather is not a valid justification.*
- Detailed explanation of why the existing agency SUV fleet cannot be realigned to meet the need.
- Detailed explanation proving that purchasing a smaller or alternative type of vehicle does not meet the needs of the agency.
- Detailed explanation demonstrating that the vehicle will be operated off-road more than 20% of the year.

### Pricing

The price list for vehicles using regular and alternative fuel is located in Appendix 3. The price list provides estimated purchase prices to replace different types of vehicles. The prices must be adjusted by the estimated trade-in value of each vehicle, found in Appendix 4. Agencies should be prepared to provide justification for any deviation in price and trade-in value from those provided in this table.

### DA-8 Detail Requirements

Each agency must fill out all sections of the DA-8 for replacement or additional vehicles for FY 2026, but not for prior year budgeted vehicles. The DA-8 must match the BARS submission total amount for new vehicle purchases (0701 or similar subobject) by subprogram by fund type.

As noted earlier, agencies must indicate if the requested vehicle can be a ZEV. Lack of charging infrastructure should NOT preclude an agency from requesting ZEVs except for take-home vehicles. Any vehicle on a DA-8 that is not marked as being a possible ZEV MUST include a justification for the request for a gasoline powered vehicle. To assist with the ZEV selection process, agencies must also provide:

- Daytime Location (Full Address)
- Nighttime Location (Full Address)

- Does Parking Location have 24/7 public access?

Agencies must choose between the following options in the “Vehicle Category” column:

Sedans	Rail
LTVs	Buses
Watercraft	Heavy Trucks
Aircraft	Misc./Other

All new and replacement sedans, if approved, will be the Type 1-Standard State Sedan unless adequate justification is provided for a different type of vehicle.

Agencies must also choose between the following options in the “Alternative Fuel” column:

None	Hybrid
CNG	Ethanol
Flex	

Each agency also should include the following information in the comment field:

- Explanation of why low-mileage replacement vehicles should be considered for approval (damaged beyond economical repair, will incur extraordinary maintenance costs, etc.).
- Reason that vehicles of one type are being replaced with a different vehicle type.

Agencies such as the Maryland Department of Transportation and the Department of Natural Resources that apply “add-on” characteristics to vehicles must use the Add-On Value and Comment column in the DA-8 form to indicate the price and detail for those purchases.

**Out-of-Cycle Vehicle Requests**

When an agency submits an out-of-cycle (OOC) vehicle request to DBM Fleet, agencies will be required to submit, on official agency letterhead, a certification of funding availability for purchase. This must be signed by the Agency Head/Chief Fiscal Officer/Official Designee.

*A.5.4 Contractual Services- Object 08*

**BARS Detail**

Agencies are responsible for providing complete contract detail for each year with the agency budget submission, including detailed descriptions that outline the purpose of the specific contract. This is done using a combination of the Contract/Grants tab in adjustments and the Contract/Grant Maintenance module in BARS. The following rules should be used when labeling contracts in BARS, based on DLS reporting requirements:

- Each contract greater than \$50,000 must be labeled separately with a specific contract name (i.e. not “Miscellaneous”).
- Even if a given contract spans multiple subprograms or fund types, the data lines across those subprograms and/or fund types should be labeled consistently with that contract name.

- If contracts are less than \$50,000, they should be combined into one line for each subprogram/subobject/fund type combination with “Miscellaneous” or “Miscellaneous Contract” as the contract name. For example, if an agency has four printing contracts that each amount to \$30,000 but total to \$120,000 in a given subprogram, they should be labeled as Miscellaneous in BARS and budgeted under comptroller subobject code 0804 (printing).
- Agencies should avoid budgeting any Miscellaneous expenses in subobject 0899, because then DBM/DLS has no context as to what the expenses are for. Be prepared to explain the detail behind any items budgeted under 0899.

Exceptions can be made for the \$50,000 threshold. Agencies should touch base with their OBA analyst if they believe they require exceptions.

Agencies should be prepared to provide justification regarding contractual services, explaining how larger shifts in costs were determined. Examples may include:

- Planned actual cost of the next year of an approved multi-year contract,
- Three-year average of expenditures plus inflation,
- Current contract plus inflation, or
- Projected rate times units of service.

For more information regarding how to use the Contract/Grants tab and the Contract/Grants Maintenance module, please see related user guides on the Budget Instructions page of DBM’s website.

#### **Agreements Between a State Agency and a Public Institution of Higher Education**

Section 27 of the FY 2025 Budget Bill requires State agencies and public institutions of higher education to report to DBM by August 1, 2024 on any interagency agreements in place for any part of FY 2024 between them **in which total expenditures exceed \$100,000**. This detail must include the following components:

1. a common code for each interagency agreement that specifically identifies each agreement and the fiscal year in which the agreement began;
2. the starting date for each agreement;
3. the ending date for each agreement;
4. a total potential expenditure, or not-to-exceed dollar amount, for the services to be rendered over the term of the agreement by any public institution of higher education to any State agency;
5. a description of the nature of the goods and services to be provided;
6. the total number of personnel, both full- and part-time, associated with the agreement;
7. contact information for the agency and the public institution of higher education for the person(s) having direct oversight or knowledge of the agreement;
8. total indirect cost recovery or facilities and administrative (F&A) expenditures authorized for the agreement;



9. the indirect cost recovery or F&A rate for the agreement and brief description of how the rate was determined;
10. actual expenditures for the most recently closed fiscal year;
11. actual base expenditures that the indirect cost recovery or F&A rate may be applied against during the most recently closed fiscal year;
12. actual expenditures for indirect cost recovery or F&A for the most recently closed fiscal year; and
13. total authorized expenditures for any subaward(s) or subcontract(s) being used as part of the agreement and a brief description of the type of award or contract.

Section 27 also requires agencies and institutions to receive approval from the Secretary of DBM before entering into any new higher education agreements in FY 2025 **in which total expenditures may exceed \$500,000.**

For additional information on reporting requirements, please refer to the reporting requirements on the website, <https://dbm.maryland.gov/contracts/Pages/InteragencyAgreementReporting.aspx>.

For additional information on the approval of contracts that exceed \$500,000, please refer to the website as well, <https://dbm.maryland.gov/contracts/Pages/InteragencyAgreementApprovals.aspx>.

#### *A.5.5 Supplies and Equipment - Objects 09, 10, and 11*

##### **Supplies and Materials (Object 09)**

Please refer to the Department of General Services website for statewide contracts for agency supplies at <http://dgs.maryland.gov/Pages/Procurement/BidsAwards.aspx>. For food and supplies for food preparation, select the “Food (Related)” category.

Agencies should be prepared to justify food requests - generally, the justification reflects the number of people served, multiplied by number of meals per day, multiplied by the number of days. In addition, the cost of the meals should be justified.

##### **Equipment: Replacement and Additional (Object 10: Replacement; Object 11: Additional)**

Agencies should be prepared to provide itemized justifications for requests for replacement and additional equipment. According to State law, agencies shall purchase equipment and furniture from Maryland Correctional Enterprises whenever possible, found at <https://mce.md.gov/Products.aspx>.

Another alternative is to use statewide contracts for equipment. Please refer to the Department of General Services website for furniture and equipment. The category of note would be “Office Equipment and Furniture,” at <http://dgs.maryland.gov/Pages/Procurement/BidsAwards.aspx>.

The Department of Information Technology has master contracts for computer equipment, found at <http://doit.maryland.gov/contracts/Pages/HWMasterContractHomepage.aspx>. In addition, see [Appendix 6](#) for more information regarding computer equipment prices as well as information on the technical definitions of various Comptroller Objects.

The schedule for payments of equipment purchased through the State Treasurer’s Office Master Equipment Lease Purchase Program can be found in Appendix 5. The schedule should be used to derive the amount to be budgeted in Comptroller Objects 1021, 1041, 1121, and 1141 (Capital Lease Payments to Treasurer).

*A.5.6 Grants, Subsidies, Contributions - Object 12*

Agencies are responsible for providing grant detail for each year with the agency budget submission for all object 12 expenditures, including detailed descriptions that outline the purpose of the specific grant. This is done using a combination of the Contract/Grants tab in adjustments and the Contract/Grant Maintenance module in BARS. Overarching rules for labeling grants in BARS, based on DLS reporting requirements:

- Each grant greater than \$50,000 must be labeled separately with a specific grant name (i.e. not “Miscellaneous”).
- Even if a given budgeted grant spans multiple subprograms or fund types, the data lines across those subprograms and/or fund types should be labeled with that one grant.
- If grants are less than \$50,000, they should be combined into one line for each subprogram/subobject/fund type combination with “Miscellaneous” or “Miscellaneous Grant” as the grant name.
- Agencies should avoid budgeting any Miscellaneous expenses in subobject 1299, because then DBM/DLS has no context as to what the expenses are for. Be prepared to explain the detail behind any items budgeted under 1299.

Exceptions can be made for the \$50,000 threshold, particularly if other chart of account labels (i.e. subprograms and related descriptions) help users identify the purpose of grant funding. Agencies should touch base with their OBA analyst if they believe they require exceptions.

*A.5.7 Fixed Charges - Object 13 (Real Property Leases)*

**Non-DGS Rent (1301)**

Subobject 1301 must be used for private lease agreements in which rental payments are not paid to the Department of General Services (DGS). Agencies should budget for the entire rental amount in accordance with the terms negotiated by DGS. **Agencies are encouraged to schedule a review of private lease agreements with the DGS Lease Management Division prior to submitting the FY 2026 budget proposal to assure that the lease data is still valid.** For further information, contact:

Wendy Scott-Napier  
 DGS Division of Lease Management and Procurement  
 410-767-4088  
 wendy.scott-napier@maryland.gov

**NOTE:** Garage space rental must appear as subobject 0705 unless the entire garage or parking lot is being leased or such spaces are included in the building lease.

### **Insurance Premiums (1302)**

Agencies should budget 1302 at the FY 2025 Legislative Appropriation level. DBM will update these values to reflect STO's schedule. Specific questions regarding premiums should be directed to the State Treasurer's Office (STO) at 410-260-7684.

### **Rent Paid to DGS (1303)**

Subobject 1303 is restricted and must be used for rental payments made to DGS. Agencies should budget 1303 at the FY 2025 Legislative Appropriation level. DBM will update these values to reflect rent costs and the Governor's decisions.

#### *A.5.8 Land and Structures - Object 14 (Operating Maintenance)*

### **Agency Maintenance**

An agency's ongoing, preventive maintenance should be reported and requested in the agency's budget submission under the appropriate subobject code. Higher education institutions should include all facility-related projects in their budget requests since these projects and funds are not administered by DGS.

### **DGS Administered Maintenance**

Operating maintenance projects administered with DGS funding should not be included in an agency's budget request submission. Additionally, the budget submission should exclude any funding for capital projects supported by general funds.

All agency operating maintenance needs should be coordinated directly with DGS prior to the submission. All new or additional operating maintenance projects to be considered for funding should be sent directly to DGS at the address below. Your assigned DBM budget analyst should be made aware of any submissions. DGS will send packets out to agencies for project justifications in November, at which time agencies are required to review all of their previously submitted projects.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Courtney League  
Chief, Facilities Engineering  
Department of General Services  
410-767-5516  
[Courtney.League@maryland.gov](mailto:Courtney.League@maryland.gov)

### **PAYGO Capital Projects**

PAYGO capital appropriations fund projects that are paid for with General, Special, and Federal Funds as part of an agency's operating budget. Make sure that PAYGO operating submissions match your capital budget submission to the DBM Office of Capital Budgeting. Do **NOT** allocate General Obligation Bond funding in the FY 2026 operating budget request. **Funding for PAYGO projects should not be budgeted in normal operating programs. It should be budgeted in the applicable PAYGO (capital) program within your agency.**

When multiple **PAYGO** capital projects are budgeted in the same eight-digit **non-transportation** program, each project is to be budgeted in a separate subprogram, including projects that may be added in the FY

2026 allowance. If a project spans more than one reporting year, the same subprogram should be used across all years for comparison purposes.

Agencies should work with their budget analyst to identify subprograms for **new PAYGO capital projects** to be added in FY 2026. One example of a designated PAYGO program having more than one capital project, each budgeted in its own subprogram, is D55P00.04, Department of Veterans Affairs, Cemetery Program/Capital Appropriation. This program is broken down into five separate subprograms, each representing different cemetery projects at separate locations.

The following programs have had more than one project in prior year budgets, and meet the stated reporting protocol:

<b>Department</b>	<b>Program(s)</b>
Department of Planning	D40W01.11
Military Department	D50H01.04
Department of Veterans Affairs	D55P00.04
Department of Natural Resources	K00A05.10, K00A14.01
Department of Agriculture	L00A11.11, L00A12.13
Interagency Commission on School Construction	D25E03.02
Maryland Higher Education Commission	R62100.47
Department of Housing and Community Development	S00A24.02, S00A25.07, S00A25.08, S00A25.09, S00A25.15, S00A25.16
Department of the Environment	U00A01.03, U00A01.04, U00A01.05, U00A01.11, U00A01.12

If you need additional guidance, contact your DBM analyst.

## A.6 Over-the-Target Requests

**As with prior years, Over-the-target requests will not be considered on an agency-by-agency basis. Each request will compete with all other requests in the State.**

Prior to submitting an over-the-target request, agencies should attempt to identify efficiencies and low-priority programs that can be reduced, resulting in savings that can be reallocated instead of asking for additional resources. Agencies are also encouraged to pursue interagency collaborations and other innovative proposals to reduce costs.

Given the fiscal constraints facing FY 2026, over-the-target requests will be considered in five categories to assist with prioritization: operational shortfalls/entitlement programs, Major IT, fee increases, contractual conversions, and enhancements. The number of enhancement over-the-targets is limited to the number noted in your target memo. Please consult with your OBA analyst if you have any questions.

- Operational Shortfalls / Entitlement Programs: Over-the-Target requests for this category should include costs related to the administration (contract cost increases, existing personnel cost increases, etc.) of existing programs or shortfalls in entitlement programs supported by programmatic data (caseload, payments, benefits, etc.). These requests should **not** include expansions of existing programs or creation of new programs. Requests received in this category that are not related to **existing** operations or programs or submitted without robust documentation will not be evaluated by DBM
  - New this year: If an agency has an entitlement program in its budget, the expectation is that the budget submission includes projected costs for the program and an FY 2026 over-the-target (and potentially a FY 2025 deficiency request as needed) for the entitlement program.
- Major IT Projects: Requests in this category align with new Major Information Technology Project requests that agencies submit to the Department of Information Technology (DoIT). Note that this is for new projects only.
- Fee Increase Proposals: If your agency is proposing to increase fees to support increased agency operations or program demand, please submit this via an Over-the-Target adjustment. See the required information for the Narrative tab below.
- Contractual Conversions: Agencies looking to convert contractual positions (filled) into regular positions should submit an over-the-target request. BARS will prevent agencies from attempting to add positions through their baseline budget request.
- Enhancements: Over-the-target requests for program expansion or new programs, including those related to the implementation of legislation or requests for new positions, will be capped. Please reference the target memo for your agency's limit.

Maryland aims to become a model of evidence-based governance in the United States. Results-focused budgeting uses evidence about program effectiveness to ensure the best use of limited taxpayer dollars. Therefore, enhancement requests are **highly encouraged** to submit evidence information (outlined below). Maryland defines “evidence-based” as meaning that there is evidence from an experimental or quasi-experimental study that a key program component has been effective in improving a relevant outcome with similar populations or in similar settings.

Maryland defines “evidence-building” as a program planning to conduct an experimental or quasi-experimental study on a key program component in FY 2026.

In order to measure program impact, evaluators compare the outcomes produced by a program to the outcomes that would have occurred in the absence of the program. Experimental and quasi-experimental studies are the two research designs that credibly estimate what would have happened in the absence of the program. The primary difference between these two types of studies is that experimental design studies actively create comparable groups that do and don't have access to the studied program (e.g., a clinical trial testing a new drug versus a placebo), whereas quasi-experimental design studies use statistical analysis to produce such groups without influencing program participation (e.g., measuring differences in the change in test scores among schools that adopt a new policy and comparable schools that don't adopt the policy).

To determine if a program or initiative is evidence-based, agencies can provide information from an agency-sponsored evaluation, evidence-based research clearinghouses, academic research institutions, peer-reviewed journals, information from other states, local pilot programs, and your own agency research and data. Evidence-based research clearinghouses classify the quality of evidence supporting individual programs or program models and are designed to be accessible to non-researchers. Clearinghouses can be a great place to start for agencies wishing to locate evidence for existing program models or identify evidence-based interventions when an agency is starting a new program.

The sampling of clearinghouses listed below by policy area is designed to provide a starting point for agency staff as you engage in results-focused reviews of budget priorities. This list is not exhaustive, and inclusion on this list should not be construed as an endorsement of the specific policies or studies identified in any clearinghouse. DBM will coordinate a training session provided by Results for America - a nonpartisan nonprofit with expertise in evidence-based budgeting - to agencies on the topic.

You may also use ratings from the clearinghouses described below. Federal, philanthropic, and state “What Works” clearinghouses distill rigorous research using easy to understand summaries and ratings that portray how confident a policymaker can be that a certain program (or activity, strategy, intervention, practice, or policy) is likely to achieve a desired outcome. The clearinghouses linked on the following pages use different rating scales and not all ratings meet Maryland's definition of evidence. The terms in parentheses after each clearinghouse are the levels of evidence that meet or exceed the Maryland definition of “evidence-based”. For example, in the U.S. Department of Education's What Works Clearinghouse, only ratings of “strong” or “moderate” meet Maryland's evidence of effectiveness definition.

Issue Area	Clearinghouse Name	Rating that meets the definition of “evidence-based”
<b>Clearinghouses Across Issue Areas</b>	<a href="#">Results for America Economic Mobility Catalog</a>	<b>Proven and Strong</b> meet definition  <i>(Promising does not meet definition)</i>
	<a href="#">The Results First Clearinghouse Database</a>	<b>Green/Highest Rated and Yellow/Second Highest Rated</b> meet definition  <i>(Blue, Gray, and Red do not meet definition)</i>
	<a href="#">Arnold Ventures’ Social Programs that Work</a>	<b>Top Tier, Near Top Tier, and Suggestive Tier</b> meet definition
<b>Early Childhood</b>	<a href="#">U.S. Department of Education What Works Clearinghouse</a>	<b>Strong, Moderate, and Promising</b> meet definition  <i>(No Tier Assigned does not meet definition)</i>
	<a href="#">U.S. Department of Health and Human Services HomVee Clearinghouse</a>	<b>Meets U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Criteria</b> meets definition
	<a href="#">Center for Research and Reform in Education Evidence for ESSA</a>	<b>Strong, Moderate, and Promising</b> meet definition
<b>K-12 Education</b>	<a href="#">U.S. Department of Education What Works Clearinghouse</a>	<b>Strong, Moderate, and Promising</b> meet definition.

		<i>(No Tier Assigned does not meet definition)</i>
	<a href="#">Center for Research and Reform in Education Evidence for ESSA</a>	<b>Strong, Moderate, and Promising</b> meet definition
<b>Post-Secondary Education and Workforce Development</b>	<a href="#">U.S. Department of Education What Works Clearinghouse</a>	<b>Strong, Moderate, and Promising</b> meet definition.  <i>(No Tier Assigned does not meet definition)</i>
<b>Post-Secondary Education and Workforce Development (cont.)</b>	<a href="#">U.S. Department of Labor Clearinghouse for Labor Evaluation and Research</a>	<b>High or Moderate</b> meet definition if the intervention shows positive impact on important outcomes  <i>(Low does not meet definition; Interventions that show a negative impact on importation outcomes do not meet definition)</i>
	<a href="#">Center for Research and Reform in Education Evidence for ESSA</a>	<b>Strong, Moderate, and Promising</b> meet definition
<b>Health and Well-Being</b>	<a href="#">Institute of Behavioral Science Blueprints for healthy youth development</a>	All interventions listed meet definition.
	<a href="#">U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Teen Pregnancy Prevention Evidence Review</a>	<b>Favorable Evidence and Potentially Favorable Evidence</b> meet definition  <i>(Indeterminate evidence, Conflicting Evidence, Potentially unfavorable evidence, and</i>



		<i>Unfavorable evidence do not meet definition)</i>
	<a href="#">CA Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare</a>	<b>Well-Supported, Supported, and Promising</b> meet definition <i>(Evidence Fails to Demonstrate Effect, Concerning Practice, and Note Rated do not meet definition)</i>
<b>Housing</b>	<a href="#">Results for America Economic Mobility Catalog - Housing and Community Development</a>	<b>Proven</b> and <b>Strong</b> meet definition <i>(Promising does not meet definition)</i>
	<a href="#">The Results First Clearinghouse Database</a> - use search option to search for "Housing"	<b>Green/Highest Rated</b> and <b>Yellow/Second Highest Rated</b> meet definition <i>(Blue, Gray, and Red do not meet definition)</i>
<b>Justice/Public Safety</b>	<a href="#">US Department of Justice Crime Solutions</a>	<b>Effective</b> and <b>Promising</b> meet definition <i>(No Effects does not meet definition)</i>

Your OBA analyst is available for any technical questions you might have about this new evidence-based process for budget enhancements. Agencies should also coordinate regarding such requests with their Deputy Chief of Staff in the Governor’s Office to ensure alignment with Administration priorities and the State Plan.

*Entering Over-the-Target Requests in BARS*

With the exception of the few agencies that do not submit in BARS, all over-the-target requests **must** be submitted to DBM as an “Agency Over the Target Request” adjustment in BARS. If your agency does not use BARS, please work with your OBA analyst to ensure you are getting them all of the information they need to do so on your behalf. The information provided in this BARS adjustment is used by DBM staff to understand both the costs and the programmatic impacts of the request. Thorough yet concise information allows for a comprehensive analysis and comparison of all requests across the State.

If an agency submits more than one over-the-target request, the agency or department will be asked to prioritize the requests. **Multiple items (i.e. multiple funding purposes) should not be combined into one request.** Each Over-the-Target BARS adjustment should be for a distinct request.

Any requests for new positions, including contractual conversions, must be submitted as an over-the-target request and should not be included in the baseline budget submission or Position Reconciliation process. BARS will prevent agencies from attempting to add positions through their baseline budget request.

An over-the-target request must be submitted concurrently with (not after) the FY 2026 base budget submission. DBM is not required to consider over-the-target requests received after the budget submission or received as part of a late budget submission.

Key guidance/best practices for entering an over-the-target in BARS:

- Overview Tab – Adjustment Naming Convention. The adjustment name should reflect the purpose of the additional funding being requested and the type of request (Operational/Entitlement, Enhancement, Conversion, Fees). For example, if 2024 legislation passed requiring implementation of a new program but was not accompanied by a funding mandate and no funding was provided in the target, the name of the adjustment would be “Enhancement - the title of that new program (maybe even including the Chapter number of the corresponding legislation). As another example, if the request is for additional funding to support revised projections for an entitlement program, it could be named “Operational/Entitlement - Temporary Cash Assistance.” Again, **multiple items with different purposes should not be combined into one adjustment**.
- Overview Tab – Description Field. Use this field for a less formal description of the request, including any supplemental explanatory notes for the included costs that you want to share with your OBA analyst. Some text entry is required to pass BARS validations.
- Narrative Tab – Impact Field. Some text is mandatory. Use this space to provide in-depth explanations of the positive impact that the additional funding would have on your performance, operations, etc. Be thorough—the more information that is provided here, the fewer questions your OBA analyst will have. Note that this field is a carryover from old DA-21 forms that preceded BARS, if that helps provide context.

For fee increase proposals, agencies should also include the following:

- Name of the fee
- Brief description of the fee
- Is the fee set by statute, regulation, or administrative?
- Who pays the fee?
- What is the current fee?
- Value of the fee - estimated FY25 and FY26 revenues before the increase
- What is the proposed change to the fee?
- Value of the fee - estimated FY25 and FY26 revenues after the increase
- If approved, when would the increase take effect?
- If approved, what impact would it have on agency operations (e.g. improved financial sustainability, enhanced services, operational changes, etc.)?
- Fund Source and Code of the Fee (General Funds, Special Funds, etc.)

- Narrative Tab – Justification Field. Some text is mandatory. Use this space to provide additional in-depth information regarding why this request should be funded. Be thorough—the more information that is provided here, the fewer questions your OBA analyst will have. Note that this field is a carryover from old DA-21 forms that preceded BARS, if that helps provide context.
  - Enhancement requests supported by evidence of effectiveness must also include the following information in this field:
    1. Name of evidence-based program: Please input the name of the evidence-based program (e.g., High Impact Tutoring, Summer Learning Program).
    2. Clearinghouse/Research Source: Please input the name of the Clearinghouse or research source (e.g., Results for America’s Economic Mobility Catalog, The Results First Clearinghouse).
    3. Clearinghouse Rating: Please input the evidence rating if using a Clearinghouse (see ratings that meet the definition of “evidence-based” in the Clearinghouses and Ratings table). If the evidence is not from a clearinghouse please input “N/A”.
    4. Link to Clearinghouse/Research: Please input the web page link to the evidence-basis of this program (e.g., <https://catalog.results4america.org/programs/high-impact-tutoring>).
    5. Informed Rationale: Please input the informed rationale for implementing this program. “Informed rationale” means the reasoning (such as a theory of change, logic model or narrative description) behind why a program is likely to improve important outcomes in similar contexts and for similar populations, based on research and input from participants and relevant stakeholders.
    6. Evidence-based: Please input “Yes” if the program meets the evidence definition or “No” if not.
    7. Evaluation proposed for FY26: Please briefly describe any experimental or quasi-experimental evaluations for this program that are planned for FY26, including the timing, estimated cost, and research partner (if applicable)
    8. Evidence-building: Please input “Yes” if the proposed evaluation meets the “evidence-building” definition or “No” if not.
  
- Other Tabs. Complete the remainder of the tabs like any other adjustment type.

**Information Technology Over-the-Target Requests**

Agencies seeking to obtain approval and funding for a new Major Information Technology Development Project (MITDP) must submit an “Agency Over the Target Request” adjustment in BARS. Agencies must also submit an Information Technology Project Request (ITPR) to the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) and send a copy of the ITPR to the OBA budget analyst. **The amounts listed in the adjustment in BARS and the ITPR forms must match.**

Make sure that the “Narrative” tab in the BARS adjustment includes an estimate of the Total Project Cost (TPC), which is equal to the cost from project initiation through one full fiscal year of operations and maintenance after implementation. DBM will work closely with DoIT to validate the feasibility of the request, assess the agency’s capacity to manage a major project, and evaluate the affordability of the

project. **For ongoing MITDPs, the funding for each year of a MITDP must be carefully reviewed by the agency budget staff and DBM staff. Please carefully align the budget and ITPR to reflect any changes in the scope of the MITDP. Any special and federal fund sources to be used to support the project should be identified in the budget request.**

*For more information, please refer to the DoIT ITPR Guidelines and Instructions found at <https://doit.maryland.gov/policies/Pages/20-02-MITDP-Procedures.aspx>. Information Technology Master Plans are required of all agencies.*

### **Enhancement Over-the-Target Request FAQs**

Identifying evidence of impact is an important new step in our budget-building process that will help all of us focus our efforts on investing taxpayer dollars in “what works”. The questions below may address some of the common questions that you have.

1. Why are we prioritizing evidence of effectiveness?

In order to have a common understanding of “what works” across all budget proposals and orient investments in these strategies, Maryland has identified a definition of “evidence of effectiveness”. Definitions of evidence of effectiveness allow policymakers and those who deliver services to have a shared understanding of which interventions have qualifying evidence. These frameworks are structured to make it easier to use research to assess the effectiveness of a given intervention.

“Evidence-based” and “evidence-building” information identified in the budget process will be used in internal decision-making materials and external communications to clearly and consistently lift up investments in strategies that have been proven to work or are being evaluated for the purposes of contributing to the existing evidence for this program. By gathering this information for these proposals, we will have a better likelihood of dramatically increasing the impact of state resources.

2. How will the information in the “Evidence of Impact Template” form be used?

The Department of Budget and Management will use the information you provide in the Evidence of Impact Template to do the following, among other uses:

- Focus funding increases on evidence-based solutions and programs that are being evaluated for the purposes of contributing to existing evidence
- Highlight evidence-based efforts in the Governor’s FY26 Budget Highlights documents
- Communicate priorities with the legislative branch and to the general public

3. What is the state’s definition of “evidence-based” for the purposes of budgeting?

Maryland has defined “evidence-based” for the purposes of our FY 2026 budgeting as meaning that there is evidence from an experimental or quasi-experimental study that a key program component has been effective in improving a relevant outcome with similar populations or in similar settings. See the Evidence Definition and Clearinghouse section above for additional details and sources of evidence.

4. What is the state’s definition of “evidence-building” for the purposes of budgeting?

Maryland has defined “evidence-building” for the purpose of our FY 2026 budgeting as meaning a program planning to conduct an experimental or quasi-experimental study on a key program component in FY26.

5. What does “experimental or quasi-experimental study” mean?

In order to measure program *impact*, evaluators compare the outcomes produced by a program to the outcomes that would have occurred in the absence of the program (i.e. a control group). Experimental and quasi-experimental studies are the two research designs that credibly estimate what would have happened in the absence of the program. The primary difference between these two types of studies is that experimental design studies actively create comparable groups that do and don't have access to the studied program (e.g., a clinical trial testing a new drug versus a placebo), whereas quasi-experimental design studies use statistical analysis to produce such groups without influencing program participation (e.g., measuring differences in the change in test scores among schools that adopt a new policy and comparable schools that don't adopt the policy).

6. Which proposals need to be included in the Evidence of Impact Template?

All over-the-target requests for enhancement proposals will require the Evidence of Impact Template to be completed.

7. What happens if we do not have evidence for our over-the-target requests for enhancement proposals?

Requests that lack evidence supporting the related initiative or any proposal for evidence-building will not be evaluated as strongly as those that do. Please complete the Evidence of Impact template for the proposal, regardless of the level of evidence. If there are evidence-based interventions that align with your policy areas and desired outcomes for the proposal, consider including them. If not, you could consider proposing an evaluation to build the evidence for this intervention.

8. Who should I contact if I have questions about this process?

Your OBA analyst is available for any technical questions you might have about this new evidence-based process for budget enhancements. Agencies should also coordinate regarding such requests with their Deputy Chief of Staff in the Governor’s Office to ensure alignment with Administration priorities and the State Plan.

## A.7 Agency Reductions

To assist DBM in preparing a balanced budget proposal for the Governor’s consideration, State agencies will be asked to submit budget reduction proposals with the FY 2026 budget submission. General fund reduction targets will be provided when DBM distributes agency general fund targets in July.

Agencies are asked to submit Agency Reduction adjustments in BARS along with the FY 2026 base budget submission. If your agency does not use BARS, please work with your OBA analyst to provide all of the information needed. Agencies must submit reduction proposals that total to their given reduction target, and individual reduction “options” should be submitted as separate adjustments in BARS. **Agencies should not combine all reduction options into a single BARS Agency Reduction adjustment.**

Key guidance/best practices for entering a reduction in BARS:

- Overview Tab – Adjustment Name. The name should reflect the purpose of the funding being reduced. For example, if the agency is proposing to increase its expected turnover the name would be “Increase Turnover to X.X%.” Or if the agency proposes to reduce a specific grant program, the adjustment name would be the name of the grant program.
  - Again, **multiple items with different purposes should not be combined into one adjustment**. This will create more work for both the agency and the OBA analyst.
- Overview Tab – Description Field. Use this field for a short, informal description of the proposal, including any supplemental explanatory notes that you want to share with your OBA analyst. Some text entry is required to pass validations in BARS.
- Narrative Tab – Impact Field. Some text is mandatory. Use this space to provide in-depth explanations of the impact that the reduced funding would have on your performance, operations, etc. Be thorough, such as listing the specific number of individuals who would not be served due to a reduction. The more information that is provided here, the fewer questions your OBA analyst will have.

If the reduction is a fee increase proposal, the following information should be included:

- Name of the fee
  - Brief description of the fee.
  - Is the fee set by statute, regulation, or administrative?
  - Who pays the fee?
  - What is the current fee?
  - Value of the fee - estimated FY25 and FY26 revenues before the increase
  - What is the proposed change to the fee?
  - Value of the fee - estimated FY25 and FY26 revenues after the increase
  - If approved, when would the increase take effect?
  - If approved, what impact would it have on agency operations (e.g. improved financial sustainability, enhanced services, operational changes, etc.)?
  - Fund Source and Code of the Fee (General Funds, Special Funds, etc.)
- Narrative Tab – Justification Field. Some text is mandatory. Use this space to provide additional in-depth information regarding the agency’s position on the proposed reduction. Agencies should also explain how this proposal relates to and impacts the Governor’s State Plan or the agency’s Managing for Results plan.

- Other Tabs. Complete the remainder of the tabs in the same way as any other adjustment type.

DBM encourages agencies to identify ongoing reductions as opposed to one-time cost savings actions.