

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary
Christian J. Miele, Deputy Secretary

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor



**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES
FISCAL YEAR 2022 JOINT CAPITAL BUDGET HEARINGS
RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES ANALYSIS**

February 23, 2021

**HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
CAPITAL BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE
Delegate Benjamin S. Barnes, Chair
Delegate Mark S. Chang, Vice Chair**

**SENATE BUDGET & TAXATION COMMITTEE
CAPITAL BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE
Senator Douglas J.J. Peters, Chair
Senator Craig J. Zucker, Vice-Chair**

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Capital Budget Sub-Committee today as you review the proposed capital budget for the Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) Access Maryland Program for FY 2022. We would like to thank our assigned DLS analyst, Ms. Grace Pedersen, for her thorough analysis and are pleased with the recommendation to concur with the Governor's allowance.

Recommended Actions

Page 2, Approve the \$1,825,000 general obligation bond authorization for accessibility modifications.

We respectfully support this recommended action.

Agency Responses

Page 5, Exhibit 3 Encumbrances and Expenditures by Year of Capital Authorization:

The agency should comment on its approach to managing the demands of Access MD program administration, given the substantial number of outstanding projects and the high amount of obligated but unencumbered funds.

Program staff will continue coordinating with all assigned project managers to ensure the encumbrance of funds and the timely completion of projects. The pandemic has slowed design and construction work, leading to a slower encumbrance of funds than previously expected. We are beginning to see project progress pick up as agencies have adapted to COVID procedures and requirements for building access and site visits.

Page 6, Transition Plan Executive Summaries Accepted in Lieu of Completed Plans:

The agency should comment, explaining how it will encourage State agencies to plan for and proactively address accessibility issues at State facilities without requiring fully developed Transition Plans from agencies that receive program funding.

Since FY19, program staff have hosted 4 Transition Plan webinars with State and University System representatives. In 2019, MDOD's Secretary issued a letter to all State agency secretaries reminding them of their Transition Plan requirements. Additionally, in December 2020, Access MD staff presented on how to create and update a transition plan at the Statewide EEO and ADA Coordinator's meeting with a total of 127 attendees. On-going staff outreach includes one-on-one follow-up to individual State agency contacts where there is no Transition Plan on file. MDOD staff will continue to offer webinars on Transition Plan development and will work on an outreach plan to ensure that each agency is made aware of their requirements under the ADA.