



Larry Hogan | Governor Boyd K. Rutherford | Lt. Governor Rona E. Kramer | Secretary

**Maryland Department of Aging
Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Budget Hearings
Response To Department of Legislative Services Analysis**

**Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
Capital Budget Subcommittee
Senator Craig Zucker, Chair
Senator Cory McCray, Vice Chair
March 1, 2022**

**House Appropriations Committee
Capital Budget Subcommittee
Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair
Delegate Mark Chang, Vice Chair
March 2, 2022**

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) analysis of the Maryland Department of Aging's (Department's) FY 2023 capital budget request. The Department extends its appreciation to the DLS analyst, Grace Pedersen, who reviewed the budget and proposed senior center projects. Ms. Pedersen's research and analysis was insightful. The Department's response to the recommendation and discussion items noted in the analysis are included below.

Recommended Action

1. Approve the \$2,400,000 general obligation bond authorization for the Senior Center Capital Grant Program.

The Department concurs with the recommendation.

Discussion Items

1.) Given the merits of the intergenerational model, the department should comment on whether it plans to prioritize the development of intergenerational services throughout the State.

To date, the Department has not had to prioritize projects due to the limited number of applications received yearly. One contributing factor is the local jurisdiction having

sufficient local funding to develop a project and utilize this state grant program. Therefore, the requests to use this funding have been limited. Additionally, as these centers are entities of the local jurisdictions, each jurisdiction must have the flexibility to consider what type of center would best serve the needs of the older adults in that area and what would work best with the county's plans for development.

Currently, the regulations state that eligible projects be classified according to the type of work proposed and that projects classified under certain types of work receive priority. While the Department appreciates the intergenerational model, there is no priority for one model of senior center over another. The Department has had the opportunity to provide grant funding to a variety of different forms of senior centers, all of which provide much needed services and socialization opportunities.

2.) The Department of Legislative Services recommends that consideration be given to increasing the \$800,000 funding ceiling for projects that expand programming space, especially those that provide an intergenerational service model.

The Department of Aging, as always, is open to discussion on any topic and would look forward to those discussions with the Department of Legislative Services.