

Department of Emergency Management

Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget

Response to Department of Legislative Services Analysis

Budget and Taxation Committee

Public Safety, Transportation, and
Environment Subcommittee
Senator Michael A. Jackson, Chair
Hearing Date: 21 FEB 2025

Appropriations Committee

Public Safety and Administration
Subcommittee
Delegate Jazz Lewis, Chair
Delegate Julian Ivey, Vice Chair
Hearing Date: 28 FEB 2025

Introduction

The Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) appreciates this opportunity to update the Committee on the activities of the Department and to respond to the recommendations and requested updates contained in the Operating Budget analysis prepared by the Department of Legislative Services (DLS).

Department Response to DLS Analysis

Operating Budget Summary

Personnel Data

The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) recommends deleting funding for the 2 new administrative positions. MDEM should instead reclassify 2 of the existing long-term vacant positions (p. 8).

Given the high level of uncertainty surrounding federal funding and the importance of the State Disaster Recovery Fund program development and administration, the Department disagrees with the DLS recommendation to remove funding for the positions identified in the Governor's Allowance.

MDEM currently has four PINs which have been vacant for at least one year, all of which are in process of reclassification or hiring. Table 1 below demonstrates the status of those PINs.



Table 1. Departmental PIN Status

PIN #	Position Vacated	Status
002449	10/4/2023	Study submitted to DBM
074948	3/8/2022	Position was reclassified; candidate selection pending
075002	5/16/2023	Position was reclassified; interviews underway
083420	1/18/2023	The position was transferred to MDEM on July 1, 2024. It has since been reclassified; selected candidate begins work on 2/19/2025

Key Observations

1. Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund

a. **MDEM should comment on the status of the five-year plan that it has been developing for the RMRLF and provide updates on the approved RMRLF awards for the project applications listed in Exhibit 5 (p. 11).**

MDEM is in the process of adjusting the five year plan based on staffing changes and budget reductions to sustain the program. The estimated overall cost is \$350,000 per year to administer the program, \$1.75 million over five years, which includes program staffing, software, and costs associated with travel, training, and equipment to support technical assistance and outreach to local jurisdictions.

Table 2. Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund Application Status as of February 2025

Applicant	Project	Status
City of Crisfield	City Dock	Pending loan document finalization from the City and federal drawdown of funds for partial issuance for scoping, likely to be complete late SFY 25/early SFY26
	Storm Infrastructure	Pending loan document finalization from the City and federal drawdown of funds for partial issuance for scoping, likely to be complete late SFY 25/early SFY26
Howard County	North Tunnel	MDEM has submitted a budget amendment for the required funds. The County is in the process of adopting the required resolution for the loan.



		Anticipated timeline for the resolution and issuance is April 2025.
	Maryland Ave Culvert	MDEM has submitted a budget amendment for the required funds. The County is in the process of adopting the required resolution for the loan. Anticipated timeline for the resolution and issuance is April 2025.
	Pond T-1	Subject to the issuance of the 2024 STORM Act. Given ongoing FEMA delays, issuance is not anticipated until SFY26.
	Pond NC-3	Subject to the issuance of the 2024 STORM Act. Given ongoing FEMA delays, issuance is not anticipated until SFY26.
Montgomery County	Wheaton Branch Flood Mitigation	Subject to the issuance of the 2024 STORM Act. Given ongoing FEMA delays, issuance is not anticipated until SFY26.

b. DLS recommends amending the BRFA provision to increase the authorized transfer by \$3.0 million, for a total of \$12 million transferred from the RMRLF to the General Fund in fiscal 2025. Additionally, DLS recommends adopting committee narrative requesting that MDEM submit a report on the RMRLF, including efforts taken by MDEM to assist local governments with developing project proposals and applications for future federal awards (p. 11).

Further reduction of the Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund beyond the \$9 million identified by the Governor's Allowance could jeopardize the State's ability to support local jurisdictions to meet matching requirements for disaster risk reduction funding including the Congressionally Directed Spending Pre-Disaster Mitigation program and the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. MDEM has successfully leveraged RLF funds to bring in \$20 million in STORM funds and more than \$38 million in BRIC and PDM funding in just the last two fiscal years. While the program was initially delayed due to federal NOFO delays for the companion STORM Act, the Department continues to receive notice of interest from local governments seeking to reduce risk of disasters to their residents. MDEM submitted a budget amendment in SFY25 in order to draw down funds for RLF operations. As federal funding increases in uncertainty, MDEM encourages the Committees to only reduce the Resilient Maryland Revolving Loan Fund by the Governor's Allowance amount of \$9 million in order to ensure vital community



projects aimed at saving lives and reducing disaster impacts to properties remain viable in the future.

MDEM continues to perform outreach to local emergency managers and other key disaster risk stakeholders. The Department is currently working closely with the Anne Arundel County Resilience Authority, who is interested in a future project to benefit areas such as Annapolis and/or Glen Burnie.

2. State and Local Cybersecurity Efforts

- a. **MDEM should comment on when federal fiscal 2023 and 2024 funding will be allocated and provide fund allocations by local project and by purpose (p. 14).**

The table below outlines the funds grants to Maryland under the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP), administered by MDEM.

Table 3. State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program Awards

Federal Fiscal Year	Total Federal Award Amount	State Share (20%)	Local Share (80%)	Non-Federal Match	
FFY22	\$3,213,088.00	\$642,617.60	\$2,270,470.40	10%	\$0.00 (waiver approved)
FFY23	\$6,514,533.00	\$1,302, 906.60	\$5,211,626.40	20%	\$1,628,633.25
FFY24	\$4,924,161.00	\$984,832.20	\$3,939,328.80	30%	\$1,477,248.30

As described in the November 1 Joint Chairmen's Report response, the Department Co-Chairs and staffs the SLCGP Committee, an interdisciplinary body including representation from State and local governments, academic institutions and school systems which collectively determines the use of federally-awarded funds. The SLCGP Committee has approved the projects outlined in Appendix A of this document for federal fiscal year 2023 (FFY23) funding. All projects are awaiting FEMA approval.

Once the spend plan for FFY24 is determined and finalized by the SLCGP, MDEM will submit the plan for FEMA review and approval. MDEM would note for the Committees that SLCGP is an IIJA-funded grant, and MDEM is awaiting guidance from FEMA on funding opportunities for future years given recent federal actions. MDEM will include any updates in future JCR reports as recommended in 2(b) of this analysis.



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- b. DLS recommends adopting a committee narrative requesting a report updating the budget committees on the status of federal fiscal 2023 and 2024 SLCGP funding distributions and use of general funds in the Local Cybersecurity Support Fund, including the distribution of grant applicants and grant awards by jurisdiction. The report should provide a brief description of each project (p. 14).

MDEM acknowledges this recommendation.



Appendix A: FFY23 SLCCGP Projects

The projects below have been approved by the SLCCGP Committee and have been submitted to FEMA by MDEM and are pending FEMA approval.

Local - Rural

Jurisdiction	Project Title	Amount Requested	Amount Allocated (Pending FEMA Approval)
Kent County	Utility Network Assessment	\$ 64,000.00	\$ 64,000.00
Kent County	Firewall Update	\$ 7,825.00	\$ 7,825.00
Kent County	Encryption Project	\$ 25,800.00	\$ 25,800.00
Kent County	Layer 3 Switch Upgrade	\$ 38,439.00	\$ 38,439.00
Cecil County Government	Penetration Testing, Mobile Device Asset Management, and Vulnerability Management	\$ 212,151.25	\$ 212,151.25
Worcester County Board of Education	Network Segmentation & Secure Backs up	\$ 61,532.00	\$ 61,532.00
Garrett County	Garrett County Cybersecurity Strengthening Through IT Training and Infrastructure	\$ 265,685.00	\$ 175,688.20
Queen Anne County	Vulnerability & Asset Management Program for Incident Response Enhancements (VAMPIRE)	\$ 1,423,700.00	\$ 1,107,982.56
Cecil County PS	MDR SIEM	\$ 218,964.00	\$ 218,964.00
St. Mary's County PS	St. Mary's County Public Schools Firewall Modernization	\$ 389,052.00	\$ 376,968.00
Somerset County	Cyber Resilience	\$ 90,885.00	\$ 90,885.00
Riverdale Park	Ongoing Risk Mitigation Update	\$ 64,590.00	\$ 27,120.00
Ocean City	Network Switch Refresher Initiative	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
Queenstown	Cybersecurity Best Practices	\$ 39,183.00	\$ 20,991.50



Garrett County Public Schools	Cybersecurity Enhancements	\$ 83,977.00	\$ 83,977.00
Washington County Public Schools	Sentinel Implementation	\$ 248,616.00	\$ 193,724.00

Local Non-Rural

Jurisdiction	Project Title	Amount Requested	Amount Allocated (Pending FEMA Approval)
City of Havre De Grace	Cybersecurity Enhancements	\$ 152,386.00	\$ 152,386.00
Charles County	Firewall Central Management Project	\$ 20,525.00	\$ 20,525.00
Taneytown	Cybersecurity Improvements	\$ 10,095.00	\$ 10,095.00
City of Greenbelt	Security Assessment by Red Siege	\$ 13,104.00	\$ 13,104.00
City of Hyattsville	Safety Plan	\$ 1,594,430.00	\$ 45,000.00
Anne Arundel County	Cybersecurity with Onelogin SSO Integration	\$ 107,915.28	\$ 107,915.28
Allegany County	SecuLore Cybersight Security Project	\$ 67,500.00	\$ 67,500.00
City of Laurel	Secure Remote Work Solution	\$ 8,316.00	\$ 8,316.00
City of Laurel	Zero Trust Implementation	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 21,000.00
Anne Arundel County Public Library	Implementing and purchasing	\$ 134,000.00	\$ 134,000.00
City of Laurel	MS365 Data Classification & Protection	\$ 296,405.00	\$ 296,405.00
Howard County Public Schools	Acq. & Implementation of GRC	\$ 174,445.00	\$ 174,445.00
Baltimore County	Threat & Risk Assessments Service	\$ 66,797.72	\$ 66,797.72
City of Greenbelt	Managed Data & Response	\$ 53,460.00	53,
Calvert County Government	Vulnerability Scanning & Management	\$ 46,375.00	\$ 46,375.00



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Baltimore County Schools	Endpoint Safeguard for School Devices	\$ 405,990.00	\$ 405,990.00
City of Greenbelt	SANS Cybersecurity SLTT Government Aggregate Buy Program	\$ 15,192.00	\$ 15,192.00
City of Gaithersburg	Cybersecurity Governance, Policy, and Procedure Development Project	\$ 187,400.00	\$ 187,400.00

State Projects

Department	Project Title	Amount Requested	Amount Allocated (Pending FEMA Approval)
MSDE	Governmental, Risk, & Compliance (GRC) Platform	\$ 144,000.00	\$ 144,000.00