



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

## Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – John M. Colmers, Secretary

SEP 21 2010

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.  
President of the Senate  
H-107 State House  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Michael E. Busch  
Speaker of the House  
H-101 State House  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: Health-General Article, §20-117, Annotated Code of Maryland  
2010 Legislative Report on the Maryland Cancer Fund – Income Tax Checkoff

Dear President Miller and Speaker Busch:

House Bill 1000, Chapter 392 of the Acts of 2004, established the Maryland Cancer Fund (the Fund) within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (the Department). The purpose of the Fund is to award grants for cancer research, prevention, and treatment through voluntary contributions made to the Fund from an income tax checkoff and any other donations to the Fund. The Fund is comprised entirely of special funds. The enacted legislation further directs the Department to annually report on the administration of the Maryland Cancer Fund (see Health-General Article, § 20-117, Annotated Code of Maryland).

Maryland is in its sixth year of collecting monies for the Fund from the income tax checkoff and any other donations. Since its inception through the close of FY 2010, donations in an amount of \$2,960,362 have been allocated to the Fund. The Comptroller of the Treasury did not deduct any expenses to administer the Fund in FY 2010. Therefore, this entire amount, less the cost needed to fund staff at the Department to administer the Fund, will be dedicated to the cancer grants.

During FY 2010, the Department awarded 33 cancer treatment grants to treat cancer and/or to pay for diagnostic testing to rule out a cancer diagnosis. The grant recipients were:

- Allegany County Health Department (\$107,000);
- Baltimore County Health Department (\$55,594);
- Calvert County Health Department (\$5,590);
- Charles County Health Department (\$6,420);
- Dorchester County Health Department (\$10,700);
- Frederick County Health Department (\$19,001);
- Harford County Health Department (\$21,829);
- Medstar Health: Harbor Hospital and Union Memorial Hospital (\$89,315);
- Wicomico County Health Department (\$43,264); and
- Worcester County Health Department (\$21,400).

The 33 grants totaled \$380,113, and 40 individuals received cancer treatment and/or a diagnostic work-up to rule out a cancer diagnosis through these grants.



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Additionally, during FY 2010, the Department awarded four secondary prevention grants for cancer screening and one primary prevention grant, in a total amount of \$471,198. These grants are three-year grants and will continue to be funded in FY 2011 and FY 2012, with the exception of Baltimore County which was funded for FY 2010 only. The grant recipients for the secondary prevention grants for cancer screening are:

- Baltimore County Health Department – colorectal cancer screening program: 57 individuals were screened;
- Cecil County Health Department – colorectal cancer screening program: 23 individuals were screened;
- Medstar Health – colorectal cancer screening program: 22 individuals were screened; and
- Shore Health System – prostate cancer screening program: 27 men were screened.

Furthermore, the Garrett County Health Department was awarded a cancer primary prevention grant to improve access to programs that promote healthy eating and physical activity; improve access to tobacco cessation; and increase linkages between residents of limited income housing facilities and health-related resources. In the first year of the program, 57 individuals from two low-income housing facilities in Garrett County received education about healthy eating and physical activity.

In January 2010, the Department worked with WJZ-TV (CBS in Baltimore) to promote donations to the Fund via the Manic Monday promotional segment. The Manic Monday segment is broadcast live during the Monday morning newscast. Staff from the Fund and the Department's Center for Cancer Surveillance and Control participated to encourage donations to the Fund during the 2010 tax season. There was no cost to promote the Fund during the Manic Monday segment. In addition, letters and other promotional materials were mailed to Maryland accountants' offices during the 2010 tax season in an effort to increase donations to the Fund.

The Department commends the Maryland General Assembly's dedication to supporting initiatives that will reduce the burden of cancer in Maryland. In years to come, the Department will continue to report on its administration of the Maryland Cancer Fund, including the amount of research, prevention, and treatment donations raised from the Fund and the number and kind of grants awarded. If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms. Wynee Hawk, Director of Governmental Affairs, at (410) 767-6481.

Sincerely,



John M. Colmers  
Secretary

cc: The Honorable Charles Barkley  
Wynee Hawk, R.N., J.D.  
Frances Phillips, R.N., M.H.A.  
Russell W. Moy, M.D., M.P.H.  
Kelly Sage, M.S.  
Ms. Sarah Albert, MSAR #2480