



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 – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

SEP 19 2011

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
2011 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 prevention and treatment through voluntary contributions made to the Fund from an income tax checkoff and 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 seventh year of collecting monies for the Fund from the income tax checkoff and other donations. During the 2011 tax season, the Department mailed letters and other promotional materials to the offices of Maryland accountants and tax preparers in an effort to increase donations to the Fund. Since its inception through the close of FY 2011, donations in an amount of \$3,403,534 have been allocated to the Fund. The Comptroller of the Treasury did not deduct any expenses to administer the Fund in FY 2011. Therefore, this entire amount, less the cost needed to fund staff at the Department to administer the Fund, is dedicated to the cancer grants.

During FY 2011, the cancer treatment grants available from the Fund totaled \$815,027. The Department awarded the cancer treatment grants to the following organizations on behalf of 54 individuals in order to treat cancer for one year and/or to pay for diagnostic testing to rule out a cancer diagnosis:

- Allegany County Health Department - \$251,450;
- Baltimore City Health Department - \$10,700;
- Baltimore County Health Department - \$128,400;
- Calvert County Health Department - \$10,700;
- Carroll County Health Department - \$10,700;
- Cecil County Health Department - \$20,000;
- Charles County Health Department - \$84,900;
- Frederick County Health Department - \$126,969;
- Garrett County Health Department - \$30,000;
- Harford County Health Department - \$10,897;
- MedStar Health (Harbor Hospital and Union Memorial Hospital) - \$97,431; and
- Worcester County Health Department - \$32,880.

Toll Free 1-877-4MD-DHMH – TTY/Maryland Relay Service 1-800-735-2258

Web Site: www.dhmh.state.md.us



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Additionally, during FY 2011, the Department awarded three secondary prevention grants for cancer screening and one primary prevention grant for cancer wellness, in a total of \$435,838. These three-year grants will continue until the end of FY 2012. The grant recipients of the secondary prevention grants for cancer screening are:

- Cecil County Health Department – colorectal cancer screening program – 21 individuals screened
- MedStar Health – colorectal cancer screening program – 48 individuals screened; and
- Shore Health System – prostate cancer screening program – 37 individuals 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. During FY 2011, 49 individuals from two low-income housing facilities in Garrett County received education about healthy eating and physical activity.

The Department commends the Maryland General Assembly's dedication to supporting the initiatives that will reduce the burden of cancer in Maryland. The Department will continue to report on its administration of the Maryland Cancer Fund, including the amount of donations raised for the Fund and the number and types of grants awarded. If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms. Marie L. Grant, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs, at (410) 767-6481.

Sincerely,



Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.
Secretary

cc: The Honorable Charles Barkley
Marie L. Grant, J.D.
Frances B. Phillips, R.N., M.H.A.
Donna Gugel, M.H.S.
Courtney Lewis, M.P.H., C.H.E.S.
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