

**MARYLAND TRAUMA PHYSICIANS SERVICES FUND ANNUAL
REPORT
(2024)**

Maryland Health Care Commission

December 2025



December 18, 2025

The Honorable Wes Moore,
Governor
State of Maryland
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Bill Ferguson
President of the Senate
H-107 State House
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk
Speaker of the House
H-101 State House
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**Re: The Maryland Trauma Physicians Services Fund Annual Report (2024-2025)
(MASAR #7094)**

Dear Governor Moore, President Ferguson, and Speaker Pena-Melnyk:

The Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) and the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) are submitting this report on the status of the Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund in accordance with § 19-130 Health-General Article. The Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund (“Trauma Fund” or “Fund”) covers the costs of medical care provided by trauma physicians at Maryland’s designated trauma centers for uncompensated care, Medicaid-enrolled patients, trauma-related on-call and standby expenses, and other costs incurred for the delivery of trauma care, including equipment costs.

SB1032/HB1439, Chapter 718, Emergency Services Funding, passed in the 2024 session of the General Assembly with an implementation date of July 1, 2024. MHCC worked with Maryland’s trauma centers to begin implementing the new statute provisions and in December 2024, adopted regulations incorporating the new changes. In addition to developing and implementing the new regulations, the Commission staff worked with the Trauma Centers to create a new online application for reimbursement to ease submission for On-Call and Grant applications. Moving forward, the Commission will continue strengthening Trauma Fund operations through implementation of the significant changes passed in the 2024 legislation, including:

- Expanded eligibility from trauma physicians to include trauma health care practitioners as allowable to receive reimbursements for uncompensated care;
- Increased the grant to pediatric trauma centers, allowing up to \$900,000 to Johns Hopkins Children’s Center and up to \$900,000 to Children’s National Medical Center.

- Increased the maximum hours allowable to reimburse for on-call per year and increases the maximum reimbursement rates for specified on-call costs;
- Strengthened reporting requirements, requiring additional detail in reporting including requirements for the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) to report on trauma costs allowed in hospital rates;
- Increased surcharge on registrations and the registration renewals from \$2.50 per year to \$6.50 per year, and at least 20% of the fines collected for penalties for specified alcohol and/or drug-related driving offenses; and
- Expanded Trauma Fund grant program to enable grants beyond funding for equipment.

Reimbursement to all eligible trauma and specialty centers in FY 2025 totaled \$18,311,335. This included payment to eligible providers for uncompensated care, on-call and standby costs, compensation for Medicaid underpayments, and equipment grants. Payments to all eligible providers for uncompensated care and the administrative costs associated with making payments were \$1,754,689. Payment to the trauma centers with a special one-time equipment grant was \$4,466,321. The Fund, during FY 2025, is now financed through a \$6.50 annual surcharge and a \$13.00 bi-annual surcharge on motor vehicle registrations and renewals (increased from \$2.50 per year). Vehicle registration renewal fees totaled \$25,625,425.

In the past, MHCC had to maintain a 10% reserve in the Fund when issuing equipment grants. With the passage of SB1032/HB1439 the cap on reserves has been changed, beginning in FY 2025, to require a reserve of 15% of the total revenue collected in the previous fiscal year. To preserve a fund reserve that meets this threshold, in FY 2026 MHCC will issue equipment grants of an anticipated total of \$4.45 million.

MHCC recommends taking several actions to ensure data collection and accountability aligns with the new requirements in the 2024 legislation. These include: (1) Improvements to trauma center reporting & data integration; (2) Improving documentation for standard operating procedures; and (3) Improving the grant application process.



We appreciate your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at douglas.jacobs@maryland.gov or Ms. Tracey DeShields, Director of Policy Development and External Affairs at tracey.deshields2@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,



Douglas Jacobs, MD, MPH
Executive Director

cc:

The Honorable Pamela G. Beidle, Chair, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Bonnie Cullison, Vice-Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Marcia Boyle, Acting MHCC Chair
Maryland Health Care Commission Commissioners
The Honorable Wes Moore, Governor
The Honorable Meena Seshamani, Secretary, Maryland Department of Health (MDH)
Michael Huber, Deputy Chief of Staff, Governor's Office (on behalf of Governor Moore)
Hannah Dier, Deputy Legislative Office, Governor's Legislative Office
Jason Heo, Governor's Office
Sophie Bergmann, Governor's Office
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Erin Hopwood, Committee Counsel, House Health and Government Operations,
Nathan McCurdy, Committee Counsel, Senate Finance
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