

Martin J. O'Malley  
*Governor*

Anthony G. Brown  
*Lt. Governor*



**DEPARTMENT OF AGING**  
*Choice, Independence and Dignity*

Gloria G. Lawlah  
*Secretary*

Carol R. Baker, Ph.D.  
*Deputy Secretary*

February 21, 2007

The Honorable Martin O'Malley  
Governor  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1925

**RE: Family Caregiver Assistance Program**

Dear Governor O'Malley:

In accordance with the 2006 Laws of Maryland, Chapter 224, Section 2, I am writing to provide information on activities and funding for the Family Caregiver Assistance Program.

**Background**

The 2006 General Assembly passed HB315 – Family Caregiver Assistance Program, in recognition of the need to support families in their caregiving role. Caregivers provide a tremendous amount of care, which places a burden on them in term of health, family relationships, and employment. The Family Caregiver Alliance estimates that in 2004, 547,647 caregivers provided a market value of \$5.8 million in care to their loved ones.

The bill established a program that provides grants of up to \$500 to caregivers who are caring for family members from age 18 through the lifespan. The grants may be used for respite care and other goods and services such as medical equipment, home modifications, and prescriptions. The services in the bill are modeled after similar services that are currently available in the federally funded National Family Caregivers Support Program that is administered by the Department of Aging.

Following the 2006 session the bill was signed into law and is now codified in Article 70B, Section 45.

**2006 Activities**

On June 27, 2006, The Department of Aging held a stakeholders meeting to receive input on regulations and implementation of the Family Caregiver Assistance Program (FCAP). Attendees included State agency staff from the Department of Human Resources, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, which included the Office of Health Care Quality, Mental Hygiene Administration, and Developmental Disabilities Administration, and the Department of Disabilities, local aging agencies, provider agencies such as Alzheimer's Association, National

Multiple Sclerosis Society, and home care agencies. Using input from the stakeholder meeting, the Department drafted an implementation proposal, which is attached to this report

The Department has drafted regulations for the program. These regulations were also developed with stakeholder input. We plan to have these ready for AELR review by April 2007.

### **Funding**

There is currently no funding for the Family Caregiver Assistance Program. The Department has explored the following funding possibilities:

1) The National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) is a federal program funded by the Administration on Aging as a Title III program under the Older Americans Act. MDoA receives approximately \$2.4 million to serve caregivers of any age who are caring for family and friends age 60 and older, and to relative caregivers age 55 and older who are caring for children age 18 or under or for adults with disabilities. There are 5 services provided for in the NFCSP: Information, Assistance, Counseling/Education/Training, Respite, and Supplemental Services. In FY 06, the NFCSP served 2,938 caregivers with respite and supplemental services.

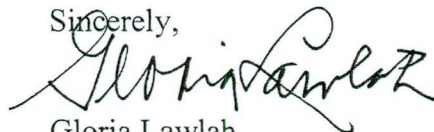
While the Older Americans Act targets those with the most social and economic need, it prohibits means testing. Since funding for the NFCSP is through the Act, these funds may not be used to support caregivers through the Family Caregivers Assistance Program.

2) Congress recently passed the Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2006, Federal H.R. 3248. These funds support the development and enhancement of respite care services to family caregivers across the continuum of age and disability-type at the state and local level. If funded, the Lifespan Respite Care Act will result in the offer of federal grants to states to develop new or to enhance already-existing respite care services to family caregivers across the lifespan and disability type. The grants will also fund the recruitment and training of respite workers and volunteers, as well as improving caregiver access to services, in order to support the family caregiver in their efforts to care for family members with disabilities at home. The Lifespan Respite Act of 2006 could be a potential source of funding for FCAP, and at present is the only hope of Federal funding.

3) MDoA will also seek foundation funding for this program. To date, there have been no private sources identified.

Thank you for your consideration of this information. If you have questions or require further clarification of the information included in this report, please contact Sue Vaeth, Chief of Client and Community Services at the Department of Aging at (410) 767-1108 or [sjv@oa.state.md.us](mailto:sjv@oa.state.md.us).

Sincerely,



Gloria Lawlah  
Secretary

Cc: Dr. Carol Baker  
Sara Albert  
Sue Vaeth

MAR 8 2007

## Maryland Department of Aging Family Caregiver Assistance Program

### Description

The Family Caregiver Assistance Program (FCAP) is a statewide program that offers grants for up to \$500 to eligible caregivers who provide long-term care to an adult dependent. These consumer-directed grants may be used to defray the cost of goods and services required to provide ongoing care, including durable medical equipment, medical bills, medical supplies, prescriptions, home repairs or modifications and respite care for the family caregiver.

### Operations

The Maryland Department of Aging (MDoA) will oversee the implementation of FCAP and work in cooperation with the Department of Disabilities, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the Maryland Caregivers Support Coordinating Council to promote and grow the program. Each of the 24 jurisdictions, through their Interagency Committee on Aging Services (IAC), will identify a lead agency to provide local access to FCAP and disburse consumer directed grants. IACs include the local departments of health, social services, and aging. Grants will be provided to AAAs who will then pass the funds through to the lead agency, as is currently done in the Senior Care program. AAAs, local health departments, or local DSS agencies could be the lead agency. Lead agencies will be allowed up to 10% administrative funds from their total allocation to administer the program. Responsibilities of the lead agency will include: accepting applications, verifying eligibility, authorizing payment, maintaining a waiting list for eligible caregivers, data collection, and submitting quarterly statistical and fiscal reports. The lead agency must be able to process and dispense grants directly to caregivers or vendors selected by caregivers. A staff position at MDoA will administer the program and provide fiscal oversight, monitoring, training, collecting and analyzing data, reporting on the program, developing partnerships, investigating new funding, and promoting FCAP with partners at the state and local levels.

FCAP may provide grants of up to \$500 per household per year. Jurisdictions will be allocated funding based on the percentage of population aged 18 and older. Any unspent funds shall revert to the program and be redistributed. Grants will be dispersed on a first come first served basis. Once a waiting list is established, a priority ranking at the local level will allow those most at risk to receive assistance first.

MDoA will compile and report data annually to the Governor and the General Assembly. The report will include the number of grants received, the value of the grants, the purpose for which grants were provided, the number of grant requests unable to be funded and why.

### Eligibility

Family caregivers with a household income 200% or less of the State median income who live with and are related to an adult dependent who has long term care needs, may apply for a grant to supplement the unmet expenses of providing care. Applications may be accepted by any agency and forwarded to the lead agency for payment authorization and disbursement. Applications must be accompanied by household income verification and a licensed physician's certification of the adult dependent's long-term care need for at least 180 consecutive days during the year.

### Funding

The attached chart shows a funding structure that envisions several funding level possibilities. The first columns give population data on which the allocations are based as required in the bill. The additional columns show the proposed allocations and estimated numbers of caregivers who could be served.

Maryland Department of Aging							
Family Caregiver Assistance Program Estimates							
2/20/2007							
Geographic Area	Estimated Total Population 2005	Estimated Total Population 18+	% population 18+	Total funding	admin allowed	Funding available for grants	Number of \$500 grants
				\$3,000,000			
MD Department of Aging					\$86,657		
Lead agencies				\$2,913,343	\$291,334	\$ 2,622,009	
Allegany County	73,639	59,132	1.4%	\$ 41,069	\$ 4,107	\$ 36,962	74
Anne Arundel County	510,878	383,669	9.1%	\$ 266,470	\$ 26,647	\$ 239,823	480
Baltimore City	635,815	474,954	11.3%	\$ 329,870	\$ 32,987	\$ 296,883	594
Baltimore County	786,113	603,735	14.4%	\$ 419,313	\$ 41,931	\$ 377,382	755
Calvert County	87,925	64,625	1.5%	\$ 44,884	\$ 4,488	\$ 40,396	81
Caroline County	31,822	23,835	0.6%	\$ 16,554	\$ 1,655	\$ 14,899	30
Carroll County	168,541	125,732	3.0%	\$ 87,325	\$ 8,733	\$ 78,593	157
Cecil County	97,796	72,662	1.7%	\$ 50,466	\$ 5,047	\$ 45,419	91
Charles County	138,822	100,924	2.4%	\$ 70,095	\$ 7,010	\$ 63,086	126
Dorchester County	31,401	24,430	0.6%	\$ 16,967	\$ 1,697	\$ 15,270	31
Frederick County	220,701	162,215	3.9%	\$ 112,663	\$ 11,266	\$ 101,397	203
Garrett County	29,909	23,090	0.6%	\$ 16,037	\$ 1,604	\$ 14,433	29
Harford County	239,259	176,334	4.2%	\$ 122,469	\$ 12,247	\$ 110,222	220
Howard County	269,457	196,704	4.7%	\$ 136,617	\$ 13,662	\$ 122,955	246
Kent County	19,899	16,098	0.4%	\$ 11,268	\$ 1,127	\$ 10,141	20
Montgomery County	927,583	693,832	16.5%	\$ 481,888	\$ 48,189	\$ 433,699	867
Prince George County	846,123	620,208	14.8%	\$ 430,754	\$ 43,075	\$ 387,679	775
Queen Anne's County	45,612	34,620	0.8%	\$ 24,045	\$ 2,405	\$ 21,641	43
St. Mary's County	96,518	70,844	1.7%	\$ 49,203	\$ 4,920	\$ 44,283	89
Somerset County	25,845	21,115	0.5%	\$ 14,665	\$ 1,467	\$ 13,199	26
Talbot County	35,683	28,368	0.7%	\$ 19,702	\$ 1,970	\$ 17,732	35
Washington County	141,895	109,401	2.6%	\$ 75,982	\$ 7,598	\$ 68,384	137
Wicomico County	90,402	68,796	1.6%	\$ 47,781	\$ 4,778	\$ 43,003	86
Worcester County	48,750	39,244	0.9%	\$ 27,256	\$ 2,726	\$ 24,530	49
<b>Lead agencies</b>	<b>5,600,388</b>	<b>4,194,690</b>	<b>100.000%</b>	<b>\$ 2,913,343</b>	<b>\$ 291,334</b>	<b>\$ 2,622,009</b>	<b>5,244</b>
MDoA				\$86,657			
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$3,000,000</b>			
<i>Source U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts. Data derived from Population Estimates, 2000 Census</i>							
MDoA Admin (Staff)	\$56,657						
MDoA other admin	30,000						
Total admin < 3%	86,657						

			Maryland Depa Family Caregivi					
2/20/2007								
Geographic Area	Estimated Total Population 2005	Estimated Total Population 18+	% population 18+	Total funding	admin allowed	Funding available for grants	Number of \$500 grants	
				\$2,000,000				
MD Department of Aging					\$86,657			
Lead agencies				\$1,913,343	\$191,334	\$ 1,722,009		
Allegany County	73,639	59,132	1.4%	\$ 26,972	\$ 2,697	\$ 24,275	49	
Anne Arundel County	510,878	383,669	9.1%	\$ 175,005	\$ 17,501	\$ 157,505	315	
Baltimore City	635,815	474,954	11.3%	\$ 216,643	\$ 21,664	\$ 194,979	390	
Baltimore County	786,113	603,735	14.4%	\$ 275,384	\$ 27,538	\$ 247,846	496	
Calvert County	87,925	64,625	1.5%	\$ 29,478	\$ 2,948	\$ 26,530	53	
Caroline County	31,822	23,835	0.6%	\$ 10,872	\$ 1,087	\$ 9,785	20	
Carroll County	168,541	125,732	3.0%	\$ 57,351	\$ 5,735	\$ 51,616	103	
Cecil County	97,796	72,662	1.7%	\$ 33,144	\$ 3,314	\$ 29,830	60	
Charles County	138,822	100,924	2.4%	\$ 46,035	\$ 4,604	\$ 41,432	83	
Dorchester County	31,401	24,430	0.6%	\$ 11,143	\$ 1,114	\$ 10,029	20	
Frederick County	220,701	162,215	3.9%	\$ 73,992	\$ 7,399	\$ 66,593	133	
Garrett County	29,909	23,090	0.6%	\$ 10,532	\$ 1,053	\$ 9,479	19	
Harford County	239,259	176,334	4.2%	\$ 80,432	\$ 8,043	\$ 72,389	145	
Howard County	269,457	196,704	4.7%	\$ 89,723	\$ 8,972	\$ 80,751	162	
Kent County	19,899	16,098	0.4%	\$ 7,400	\$ 740	\$ 6,660	13	
Montgomery County	927,583	693,832	16.5%	\$ 316,481	\$ 31,648	\$ 284,833	570	
Prince George County	846,123	620,208	14.8%	\$ 282,898	\$ 28,290	\$ 254,608	509	
Queen Anne's County	45,612	34,620	0.8%	\$ 15,791	\$ 1,579	\$ 14,212	28	
St. Mary's County	96,518	70,844	1.7%	\$ 32,314	\$ 3,231	\$ 29,083	58	
Somerset County	25,845	21,115	0.5%	\$ 9,631	\$ 963	\$ 8,668	17	
Talbot County	35,683	28,368	0.7%	\$ 12,940	\$ 1,294	\$ 11,646	23	
Washington County	141,895	109,401	2.6%	\$ 49,902	\$ 4,990	\$ 44,912	90	
Wicomico County	90,402	68,796	1.6%	\$ 31,380	\$ 3,138	\$ 28,242	56	
Worchester County	48,750	39,244	0.9%	\$ 17,901	\$ 1,790	\$ 16,111	32	
<b>Lead agencies</b>	<b>5,600,388</b>	<b>4,194,690</b>	<b>100.000%</b>	<b>\$ 1,913,344</b>	<b>\$ 191,334</b>	<b>\$ 1,722,010</b>	<b>3,444</b>	
MDoA				\$86,657				
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$2,000,001</b>				
<i>Source U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts. Data derived from Population Estimates</i>								
MDoA Admin (Staff)	\$56,657							
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Total admin < 3%	86,657							

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2/20/2007								
Geographic Area	Estimated Total Population 2005	Estimated Total Population 18+	% population 18+	Total funding \$1,000,000	admin allowed	Funding available for grants	Number of \$500 grants	
MD Department of Aging					\$86,657			
Lead agencies				\$913,343	\$91,334	\$ 822,009		
Allegany County	73,639	59,132	1.4%	\$ 12,875	\$ 1,288	\$ 11,588	23	
Anne Arundel County	510,878	383,669	9.1%	\$ 83,539	\$ 8,354	\$ 75,185	150	
Baltimore City	635,815	474,954	11.3%	\$ 103,415	\$ 10,342	\$ 93,074	186	
Baltimore County	786,113	603,735	14.4%	\$ 131,456	\$ 13,146	\$ 118,310	237	
Calvert County	87,925	64,625	1.5%	\$ 14,071	\$ 1,407	\$ 12,664	25	
Caroline County	31,822	23,835	0.6%	\$ 5,190	\$ 519	\$ 4,671	9	
Carroll County	168,541	125,732	3.0%	\$ 27,377	\$ 2,738	\$ 24,639	49	
Cecil County	97,796	72,662	1.7%	\$ 15,821	\$ 1,582	\$ 14,239	28	
Charles County	138,822	100,924	2.4%	\$ 21,975	\$ 2,198	\$ 19,778	40	
Dorchester County	31,401	24,430	0.6%	\$ 5,319	\$ 532	\$ 4,787	10	
Frederick County	220,701	162,215	3.9%	\$ 35,320	\$ 3,532	\$ 31,788	64	
Garrett County	29,909	23,090	0.6%	\$ 5,028	\$ 503	\$ 4,525	9	
Harford County	239,259	176,334	4.2%	\$ 38,395	\$ 3,840	\$ 34,556	69	
Howard County	269,457	196,704	4.7%	\$ 42,830	\$ 4,283	\$ 38,547	77	
Kent County	19,899	16,098	0.4%	\$ 3,533	\$ 353	\$ 3,180	6	
Montgomery County	927,583	693,832	16.5%	\$ 151,074	\$ 15,107	\$ 135,967	272	
Prince George County	846,123	620,208	14.8%	\$ 135,043	\$ 13,504	\$ 121,539	243	
Queen Anne's County	45,612	34,620	0.8%	\$ 7,538	\$ 754	\$ 6,784	14	
St. Mary's County	96,518	70,844	1.7%	\$ 15,425	\$ 1,543	\$ 13,883	28	
Somerset County	25,845	21,115	0.5%	\$ 4,598	\$ 460	\$ 4,138	8	
Talbot County	35,683	28,368	0.7%	\$ 6,177	\$ 618	\$ 5,559	11	
Washington County	141,895	109,401	2.6%	\$ 23,821	\$ 2,382	\$ 21,439	43	
Wicomico County	90,402	68,796	1.6%	\$ 14,979	\$ 1,498	\$ 13,481	27	
Worchester County	48,750	39,244	0.9%	\$ 8,545	\$ 855	\$ 7,691	15	
<b>Lead agencies</b>	<b>5,600,388</b>	<b>4,194,690</b>	<b>100.000%</b>	<b>\$ 913,344</b>	<b>\$ 91,334</b>	<b>\$ 822,010</b>	<b>1,644</b>	
MDoA				<b>\$86,657</b>				
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$1,000,001</b>				
<i>Source U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts. Data derived from Population Estimat</i>								
MDoA Admin (Staff)	\$56,657							
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Geographic Area	Estimated Total Population 2005	Estimated Total Population 18+	% population 18+	Total funding \$500,000	admin allowed	Funding available for grants	Number of \$500 grants
MD Department of Aging					\$86,657		
Lead agencies				\$413,343	\$41,334	\$ 372,009	
Allegany County	73,639	59,132	1.4%	\$ 5,827	\$ 583	\$ 5,244	10
Anne Arundel County	510,878	383,669	9.1%	\$ 37,807	\$ 3,781	\$ 34,026	68
Baltimore City	635,815	474,954	11.3%	\$ 46,802	\$ 4,680	\$ 42,122	84
Baltimore County	786,113	603,735	14.4%	\$ 59,492	\$ 5,949	\$ 53,543	107
Calvert County	87,925	64,625	1.5%	\$ 6,368	\$ 637	\$ 5,731	11
Caroline County	31,822	23,835	0.6%	\$ 2,349	\$ 235	\$ 2,114	4
Carroll County	168,541	125,732	3.0%	\$ 12,390	\$ 1,239	\$ 11,151	22
Cecil County	97,796	72,662	1.7%	\$ 7,160	\$ 716	\$ 6,444	13
Charles County	138,822	100,924	2.4%	\$ 9,945	\$ 995	\$ 8,951	18
Dorchester County	31,401	24,430	0.6%	\$ 2,407	\$ 241	\$ 2,166	4
Frederick County	220,701	162,215	3.9%	\$ 15,985	\$ 1,599	\$ 14,387	29
Garrett County	29,909	23,090	0.6%	\$ 2,275	\$ 228	\$ 2,048	4
Harford County	239,259	176,334	4.2%	\$ 17,376	\$ 1,738	\$ 15,638	31
Howard County	269,457	196,704	4.7%	\$ 19,383	\$ 1,938	\$ 17,445	35
Kent County	19,899	16,098	0.4%	\$ 1,599	\$ 160	\$ 1,439	3
Montgomery County	927,583	693,832	16.5%	\$ 68,370	\$ 6,837	\$ 61,533	123
Prince George County	846,123	620,208	14.8%	\$ 61,115	\$ 6,112	\$ 55,004	110
Queen Anne's County	45,612	34,620	0.8%	\$ 3,411	\$ 341	\$ 3,070	6
St. Mary's County	96,518	70,844	1.7%	\$ 6,981	\$ 698	\$ 6,283	13
Somerset County	25,845	21,115	0.5%	\$ 2,081	\$ 208	\$ 1,873	4
Talbot County	35,683	28,368	0.7%	\$ 2,795	\$ 280	\$ 2,516	5
Washington County	141,895	109,401	2.6%	\$ 10,780	\$ 1,078	\$ 9,702	19
Wicomico County	90,402	68,796	1.6%	\$ 6,779	\$ 678	\$ 6,101	12
Worchester County	48,750	39,244	0.9%	\$ 3,867	\$ 387	\$ 3,480	7
<b>Lead agencies</b>	<b>5,600,388</b>	<b>4,194,690</b>	<b>100.000%</b>	<b>\$ 413,344</b>	<b>\$ 41,334</b>	<b>\$ 372,010</b>	<b>744</b>
MDoA				<b>\$86,657</b>			
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$500,001</b>			
<i>Source U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts. Data derived from Population Estimat</i>							
MDoA Admin (Staff)	\$56,657						
MDoA other admin	30,000						
Total admin < 3%	86,657						