

Chapter 340

(Senate Bill 875)

AN ACT concerning

Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program

FOR the purpose of establishing the Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program in the Maryland Department of Aging; requiring the Montgomery County Village Consortium to establish a certain plan and submit certain reports; and generally relating to the Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program.

BY adding to

Article – Human Services

Section 10–1401 through 10–1405 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 14. Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Human Services

SUBTITLE 14. MIRIAM KELTY AGING AND SENIOR SOCIAL CONNECTION HUB AND SPOKE PILOT PROGRAM.

10–1401.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) “PILOT PROGRAM” MEANS THE MIRIAM KELTY AGING AND SENIOR SOCIAL CONNECTION HUB AND SPOKE PILOT PROGRAM.

(C) “VILLAGE” MEANS LOCAL, VOLUNTEER–LED ORGANIZATIONS THAT AIM TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO CHOOSE TO AGE IN PLACE, INCLUDING BY:

(1) FOSTERING SOCIAL CONNECTIONS THROUGH ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS; AND

(2) COORDINATING VOLUNTEER HELP AT HOME USING THE NEIGHBOR–HELPING–NEIGHBOR MODEL.

10-1402.

(A) THERE IS A MIRIAM KELTY AGING AND SENIOR SOCIAL CONNECTION HUB AND SPOKE PILOT PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.

(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM IS TO:

(1) LEARN, TEST, AND DEVELOP BEST PRACTICES USING A HUB AND SPOKE MODEL FOR VILLAGE ADMINISTRATION;

(2) CENTRALIZE ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS AND RELIEVE THE BURDEN ON VOLUNTEERS;

(3) BETTER COORDINATE RESOURCES AND OPERATIONS TO MAXIMIZE THE REACH OF SERVICES PROVIDED;

**(4) HELP DEVELOP NEW AND DEVELOPING OR EMERGING VILLAGES;
AND**

(5) BUILD SOCIAL CONNECTION AND COMBAT LONELINESS FOR SENIORS AGING IN PLACE.

(C) THE GOAL OF THE PILOT PROGRAM IS TO SUPPORT VILLAGES THAT SEEK TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPERATIONAL PROFICIENCIES AND EXISTING SYSTEMS, KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND RESOURCES TO EXPAND SERVICES TO MORE RESIDENTS IN THE GEOGRAPHIC REGION.

(D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE PILOT PROGRAM.

(E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SELECT THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY VILLAGE CONSORTIUM TO IMPLEMENT THE PILOT PROGRAM FOR A 3-YEAR PERIOD.

10-1403.

(A) THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY VILLAGE CONSORTIUM SHALL:

(1) ESTABLISH A 3-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM; AND

(2) SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT A REPORT EACH YEAR, USING QUANTITATIVE DATA IF AVAILABLE, REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN REQUIRED UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(B) THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(2) OF THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRESS OF THE PLAN IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- (1) ADMINISTRATION, INCLUDING HIRING, BOARD MEMBERSHIP, AND BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES;**
- (2) DIRECT SERVICES PROVIDED;**
- (3) COMMUNICATIONS;**
- (4) OPERATIONS;**
- (5) PROGRAMMING;**
- (6) FUND-RAISING;**
- (7) OUTREACH;**
- (8) FINANCIALS; AND**
- (9) CLIENT SATISFACTION AMONG LEADERS OF VILLAGES THAT PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT PROGRAM.**

10-1404.

(A) FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026 THROUGH 2028, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$80,000 FOR THE PILOT PROGRAM.

(B) THE FUNDS APPROPRIATED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE TRANSFERRED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY VILLAGE CONSORTIUM TO BE USED FOR:

- (1) EMPLOYING AN OPERATIONS MANAGER;**
- (2) FUND-RAISING;**
- (3) MARKETING AND OUTREACH; AND**
- (4) PROGRAMMING.**

10-1405.

ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2027, THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY VILLAGE CONSORTIUM SHALL REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SUBTITLE, INCLUDING:

(1) COMPREHENSIVE BEST PRACTICES FOR CREATING AND OPERATING A HUB AND SPOKE MODEL, INCLUDING:

(I) HOW TO CREATE A HUB;

(II) ESTABLISHING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY VILLAGE CONSORTIUM AS THE HUB AND THE VILLAGES AS THE SPOKES;

(III) ESTABLISHING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HUB AND THE SPOKES;

(IV) DESCRIBING THE POPULATION THAT WILL BE SERVED BY A HUB;

(V) HOW TO ESTABLISH A BOARD OF DIRECTORS;

(VI) HOW TO IDENTIFY RESOURCES WITHIN EACH HUB COMMUNITY, INCLUDING TIME, SKILLS, AND CAPABILITIES;

(VII) HOW TO IDENTIFY THE CAPACITY OF EACH HUB, INCLUDING GEOGRAPHIC AND POPULATION CAPACITY;

(VIII) DESCRIBING WHICH SERVICES CAN BE PROVIDED;

(IX) HOW TO TRAIN VOLUNTEERS;

(X) HOW TO ADDRESS OVERLAPPING NEEDS OF MULTIPLE VILLAGES' UNIQUE SENIOR COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING:

1. SUPPORT AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES;

2. HEALTH AND WELLNESS; AND

3. EDUCATION; AND

(XI) HOW TO WORK WITH VILLAGES, INCLUDING:

1. HOW TO INCREASE VILLAGE CAPACITY;

2. HOW TO RECRUIT NEW VILLAGES; AND

3. HOW TO EXPAND OFFERINGS OF DEVELOPING VILLAGES; AND

(2) RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING HOW TO SUPPORT INTERESTED DIVERSE AND UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF VILLAGES.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 4 years and, at the end of June 30, 2028, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, April 25, 2024.