



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

February 19, 2025

Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.  
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: Senate Bill (SB) 942 - Correctional Services – Medication – Assisted Treatment Funding - Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of information for Senate Bill (SB) 942 -Correctional Services – Medication–Assisted Treatment Funding which would require the Maryland Department of Health to provide funding to counties for medication-assisted treatment programs and would require counties to report on related programming. Additionally, the bill would authorize the use of Opioid Restitution Funds (ORF) to be used for medication-assisted treatment programs.

The opioid settlement funds present a unique opportunity to enhance Maryland’s overdose response efforts, but special attention must be paid to State Finance and Procurement Article 7-331 (i), which states that “money expended from the Fund for the programs and services described under subsection (f) of this section is supplemental to and is not intended to take the place of funding that otherwise would be appropriated for the programs and services”.<sup>1</sup> Maryland currently offers multiple grant opportunities for local detention centers to fund medication-assisted treatment programs, including grants from the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention & Policy (GOCPP), the Maryland Office of Overdose Response (MOOR) and the Department.

Accessing grant opportunities before drawing down ORF funds leverages the ability to diversify the funding streams to support MOUD as well as ensure the ORF is able to fund multiple priority areas as identified by Maryland’s ORF Advisory Council. The Department has historically worked with detention centers to leverage state and federal grant funding, such as STOP and State Opioid Response, that can be used for these programs and services. These grants have specific federal application and reporting requirements for funding.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/site/Laws/StatuteText?article=gfs&section=7-331&enactments=false>

One note of reference, effective fall 2024, the Maryland Office of Opioid Response (MOOR) has transitioned to under the Lieutenant Governor's Office and the maintenance and operations of the Opioid Restitution Fund resides with MOOR.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at [sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov](mailto:sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laura Scott", is positioned above the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.  
Secretary