



Larry Hogan | Governor    Boyd K. Rutherford | Lt. Governor    Rona E. Kramer | Secretary

**DATE:** February 11, 2020  
**BILL NUMBER:** HB 498 (Delegate Hill, *et al.*)  
**COMMITTEE:** Appropriations  
**BILL TITLE:** Department of Aging – Grants for Aging-in-Place Programs - Funding  
**POSITION:** Letter of Information

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The Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) takes no position on House Bill 498, but offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

The Maryland Department of Aging appreciates the intent of this legislation and the consideration given to support older adults so they may live independently in their own homes. The Department has established a similar program, Maryland Community for Life<sup>SM</sup> (CFL), which delivers some of the services reflected in this legislation.

The Community for Life<sup>SM</sup> program is designed to bring non-medical services and supports to older adults in Maryland to allow them to live independently at home for as long as possible. The services offered by CFLs have been shown by experts in the aging field to be those most important to help older Marylanders age-in-place. The core Community for Life<sup>SM</sup> services are transportation, home repair services, and service navigation. Community for Life<sup>SM</sup> services are evidence-based which allows the Department to collect data and ensure the efficacy of this program.

The Department of Aging partners with non-profit providers to deliver these CFL services to Marylanders. Our non-profit partners are required to develop a multi-year, self-sustaining model to ensure that these services will be offered to Maryland residents well into the future. Ultimately, the Department’s goal is to expand the Community for Life<sup>SM</sup> program statewide.

The grant program created by HB 251 (2019) and funded, through a mandated appropriation, by HB 498 (2020) would require additional staffing at the Department of Aging. The Department would require a minimum of at 0.5 FTE to manage the program, along with a 0.3 FTE auditor to operate such a program. The Department estimates, at a minimum, there would be an increased needed of \$86,806 in FY21 expenditures to administer a non-complex grant program. Additional staff may be necessary to operate a program of greater complexity.

The Community for Life<sup>SM</sup> program offers nonprofit organizations a way to partner with the Department of Aging to deliver consistent, evidence-based services to seniors in a cost-effective and supportive manner. We encourage nonprofit organizations interested in providing these aging-in-place services to apply to become a Maryland Community for Life<sup>SM</sup>.