

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2024 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader - Revised**

Senate Bill 875  
 Finance

(Senator Kelly)

Health and Government Operations

**Miriam Kilty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program**

This bill establishes the Miriam Kilty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program in the Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA). 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. MDOA must select the Montgomery County Village Consortium to implement the pilot program for a three-year period. For fiscal 2026 through 2028, the Governor must include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$80,000 for the pilot program. Funds must be transferred by MDOA to the Montgomery County Village Consortium to be used for (1) employing an operations manager; (2) fundraising; (3) marketing and outreach; and (4) programming. By September 1, 2027, the Montgomery County Village Consortium must submit a final report to MDOA on the implementation of the pilot program. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024, and terminates June 30, 2028.**

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** MDOA general fund expenditures increase by \$80,000 in FY 2026 through FY 2028 to reflect the mandated appropriation for the pilot program. Revenues are not affected. **This bill establishes a mandated appropriation for FY 2026 through FY 2028.**

(in dollars)	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	0	80,000	80,000	80,000	0
Net Effect	\$0	(\$80,000)	(\$80,000)	(\$80,000)	\$0

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease*

**Local Effect:** The bill does not directly affect local government operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

## Analysis

**Bill Summary:** “Village” means local, volunteer-led organizations that aim to support community members who choose to age-in-place, including by fostering social connections through activities and events, and coordinating volunteer help at home using neighbor-helping-neighbor model.

The purpose of the pilot program is to (1) learn, test, and develop best practices using a hub and a 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.

### *Strategic Plan and Annual Report*

The Montgomery County Village Consortium must (1) establish a three-year strategic plan for the implementation of the pilot program and (2) submit a report to MDOA each year, using quantitative data if available, regarding the implementation of the strategic plan.

The report must include a description of the progress of the plan in the following areas: administration, direct services provided, communications, operations, programming, fundraising, outreach, financials, and client satisfaction among leaders of villages that participate in the pilot program.

### *Final Report*

By September 1, 2027, the Montgomery County Village Consortium must submit a report to MDOA on the implementation of the pilot program, including (1) comprehensive best practices for creating and operating a hub and spoke model, as specified; and (2) recommendations regarding how to support interested diverse and underserved communities with the development of villages.

**Current Law:** Aging-in-place programs allow individuals to remain in their home while participating in their community safely, independently, and comfortably, regardless of their age, income, or ability level. Under § 10-801 of the Human Services Article, the Maryland Communities for a Lifetime Program within MDOA must establish a comprehensive State plan to address the aging-in-place preference of current and future seniors. MDOA must collect and make available best practices on policies to encourage aging-in-place.

**State Expenditures:** MDOA general fund expenditures increase by \$80,000 as a result of the bill’s mandatory appropriation in fiscal 2026 through 2028. Funds must be passed through MDOA to the Montgomery County Village Consortium to implement the pilot

program as required under the bill. Any limited administrative expenditures for MDOA, such as executing an agreement, monitoring, and oversight can be absorbed with existing budgeted resources.

**Additional Comments:** There are several [villages](#) in Montgomery County aimed to support community members who choose to age-in-place.

In general, the hub and spoke model allows for specified services to be provided at the “spokes” and central leadership to be provided by the “hub.” In November 2022, Millcreek Village in Montgomery County completed a hub and spoke villages [survey](#).

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### Additional Information

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 1103 (Delegate Wolek, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Aging; Montgomery County; Department of Budget and Management; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 21, 2024  
rh/jc Revised - Correction - February 28, 2024  
Third Reader - March 16, 2024  
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