



MLDS CENTER

Maryland Longitudinal Data System

Address 550 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
Phone 410-706-2085
Email mlds.center@maryland.gov
Website www.MLDSCenter.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: MLDS Governing Board
FROM: Ross Goldstein
DATE: December 7, 2018
SUBJECT: Budget Update
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Purpose

The MLDS Governing Board Bylaws require expenditures over \$10,000 to be approved by the Governing Board. The purpose of this agenda item is to seek approval for a proposed expenditure that was not contemplated when the FY 19 Budget was submitted to the Governing Board last year.

Background

As a result of MSDE discontinuing the RTTT dashboards and therefore no longer needing the shared Oracle license, Center is at a decision point about how to proceed with the location and management of its data system. At the current time, it appears that there are three options:

1. Work with DoIT to build an Oracle environment within the State's enterprise data center;
2. Move the system to Oracle's cloud; or
3. Migrate the system to SQL Server and reside within DoIT's enterprise data center.

Ms. Cherry and I propose hiring a consultant who can analyze the Center's technical, functional, financial, and security needs and make a recommendation on which of the above options is most effective when considering the following:

1. Security - The analysis should review the Center's current security posture and the potential of each of the options to provide equivalent or improved security to the Center. Security needs should be considered the top priority when considering the options.
2. Management and Oversight - The analysis should review the ability of Center staff under each option to manage and oversee the maintenance, security and operations of the system.
3. Cost - The analysis should consider which solution is most cost effective. The analysis should consider both the short and long term costs and conditions that might cause changes in the cost assumptions. Further, if a more expensive option is recommended due to security and technical needs, the analysis should provide sound and compelling justification for that recommendation.
4. Technical specifications - The analysis should consider the size of the data set, the expectations for growth, storage, backup, performance, and other database technical needs in the recommendation.

In addition to wanting to make the best decision for the MLDS, a strong analysis will be needed to help justify and explain changes to various stakeholders. The anticipated cost of this analysis is \$20,000.

Action

Approve the proposed expenditure.