



# MLDS CENTER

Maryland Longitudinal Data System

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** MLDS Governing Board  
**FROM:** Ross Goldstein  
**DATE:** Septembre 4, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** MLDS Center FY 21 Budget Update

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### Purpose

This agenda item will provide the Governing Board with an update to the Center's budget plans.

### Summary of Budget

At the June 2020 Governing Board meeting it was reported that the Center would be subject to a mandatory 10% budget reduction (\$248,000). However, when the final reduction went to the Board of Public Works, the Department of Budget and Management reduced the Center's reversion amount to only \$50,000.

As a result of this change, the Center is working to update its spending plan. Specifically, we intend to utilize the additional available funds as follows:

1. Consulting Contract for a Part-Time Data Analyst - This short term contract, which was approved by Dr. Fielder in his capacity as Chairman of the Governing Board, will allow the Center to obtain the services of Robert Murphy. Mr. Murphy recently retired from State service after six years with the Center. Having him available to consult and work on special projects will help the Center train the next data analyst and meet workflow demands.
2. The surplus funds will allow us to fully fund the consulting contract for a senior Oracle database engineer. This position is vital for maintaining the Center's system in the most secure manner possible.
3. The Center will be able to engage an independent IT Audit firm to conduct a system security audit.
4. Finally, the Center is considering a contract vehicle to establish a longer term contract for a data analyst consultant. This would allow the Center to have a data analyst dedicated to special projects - many of which could eventually be funded by external grants. This would ensure the Center's ability to take on unique projects without disrupting the workflow or regular staff.

### Action

I request the Governing Board's review and approval of the MLDS Center FY 20 Budget.