



# MLDS CENTER

Maryland Longitudinal Data System

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** MLDS Governing Board  
**FROM:** Ross Goldstein, Executive Director  
**DATE:** September 3, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Managing for Results (MFR)

### Purpose

The purpose of this agenda item is to review the MLDS Center's *Managing For Results* (MFR) submission to the Maryland Department of Budget and Management. The MFR provides a meaningful indication of the agency's performance over the past year.

### Background

*Managing for Results* is a strategic planning, performance measurement, and budgeting process utilized by the Department of Budget and Management. It is used to ensure that state resources achieve measurable results, accountability, efficiency and continuous improvement. Data is collected by fiscal year and the data collection is due annually in September.

### Summary

The MLDS Center's MFR contains two primary goals:

1. Maintaining a public facing website that provides timely and relevant information for stakeholders; and
2. Providing research and analyses, as well as other research projects that are used by the MLDS Governing Board, policy makers and the public to make data driven decisions and respond to concerns of constituents.

The performance measures for those goals and the outcomes for the prior and current fiscal years are as follows:

Measure	FY 20 Outcome	FY 21 Outcome
Number of independent security audits conducted annually	0	1
Percentage of audit criteria requiring corrective action	N/A	N/A
Number of new dashboards and other data analyses and summaries added to the website.	61	61
Number of page views on the MLDS Center website	23,805	27,561
Number of seminars conducted on the use and analysis of longitudinal data	24	20
Number of data requests from various stakeholders	36	24
Percent of data requests fulfilled within 30 days of the date of the request	100%	92%

Measure (cont.)	FY 20 Outcome	FY 21 Outcome
Number of new reports generated annually	10	14
Number of times MLDS data are cited	3	2
Number of written responses to formal requests for information from State policy makers	18	22
Number of reports that are published in scholarly journals annually	4	1
Number of external funding opportunities applied for or supported each year	6	10
Dollar value of external funding applied for or supported each year	\$4.2 million	\$12.4 million
Number of grants awarded each year for projects applied for or supported by the Center	3	4
Dollar value of grants awarded each year for projects applied for or supported by the Center	\$1.0 million	\$2.6 million
Number of external researchers provided secure staff access to conduct research at no cost to the Center	9	16

### Discussion

The MLDS Center had improvements in over half of the performance measures. First, the number of security audits performed increased from zero to one. Second, the number of page views on the MLDS Center website increased by 3,756 page views compared to last year. The website is still not back to its 2019 peak of almost 33,500, but this represents a positive development. Third, the Center increased the number of new reports generated annually from 10 to 14. Fourth, there was an increase in the number of written responses to formal requests for information from State policy makers from 18 to 22. Finally, the Center showed increases in all of the performance measures related to “seeking opportunities to expand the scope of research and analysis of critical Maryland policy questions” through external research and grant funded projects. There was an increase, from 6 to 10, in the number of external funding opportunities that the Center supported. There was also an increase, from 3 to 4, in the number of grants awarded to projects that the Center supported. There were also increases, sometimes double or triple, in the dollar amount of funding applied for and received. The number of external researchers granted access to conduct research also increased from 9 to 16.

The Center produced 61 new or updated dashboards which is the same number as last year. There was a decrease, from 24 to 20, in the number of seminars conducted. This may be a continued result of COVID-19, which has reduced the number of meetings and conferences where such presentations would take place. The number of data requests also decreased from 38 to 24. The reduced number of data requests is a trend that started in 2019. It may be partly a result of having more online content that addresses data needs that would otherwise result in a data request. The percent of data requests fulfilled within 30 days was 92% (the 8% of requests not completed in 30 days represents two requests). This is a reduction from last year, during which 100% of requests were fulfilled in 30 days. There was also one less citation of MLDS data. Finally, there was only one publication in a scholarly journal this year compared to four last year. Given that the publication development and review process is so lengthy, it is

reasonable for the number of scholarly publications to fluctuate from year to year. (Note: The Research Branch currently has three manuscripts that received positive reviews, including one with a top education journal in the field, and another three manuscripts that are under review at scholarly journals.)

**Action**

Informational.