



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** MLDS Governing Board  
**FROM:** Ross Goldstein  
**DATE:** June 6, 2025  
**SUBJECT:** MLDS Center FY 26 Budget

### Purpose

The Governing Board is responsible for approving the Center's annual budget (see Ed. Art. § 24-704(g)(4), Annotated Code of Maryland). This agenda item will provide the Governing Board with the FY 26 budget for review and the Center's planned expenditures.

### Background

The budget development process starts over a year prior to the start of the fiscal year. The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) develops budget instructions and a maximum general fund agency request amount (target). The agencies compile and submit the proposed budget to DBM, which reviews the budget and makes any necessary cuts or adjustments. Once the Governor's budget is finalized, it is submitted to the General Assembly. The amounts in the Governor's budget may be altered by legislative action. The budget under review is the FY 26 budget allowance provided by the Governor and approved by the General Assembly during the recently concluded legislative session. The Governor's allowance was not changed by the General Assembly.

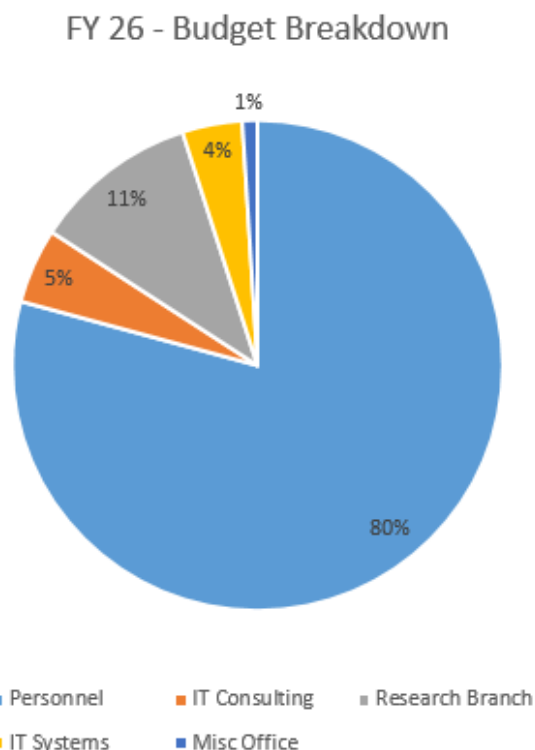
### Summary of FY26 General Fund Budget

This year, the Center's general fund operating budget is \$3.4 million, an increase of approximately \$375,000 from last year. The change is due to an overall increase in salaries (\$282,508) and contractual services (\$107,302).

As in past years, the majority (80%) of the Center's general operating budget is used for staff salaries. The remaining funds are for the Research Branch (11%), IT consulting (5%), support for IT systems (4%) and office needs (0.5%).

As shown in Table 1 below, the Center's annual budget continues to increase year-over-year. This is the first year with a significant increase in funding for contractual services (Object 08). This increase will allow the Center to continue to fully fund the Research Branch (at \$380,000), contract for needed IT support services, and fully fund all of the system software and security needs. In past years, the Center relied on funds from the WDQI<sup>1</sup> grant. That grant ends in FY 25, so no funds will be available in FY 26.

**Table 1. MLDS Center General Fund Appropriation**



<sup>1</sup> The WDQI grant is from the U.S. Department of Labor and is the result of a partnership between the State Department of Labor, the Maryland Higher Education Commission, and the MLDS Center to improve data collection and reporting on WIOA Title I and III workforce development programs.

Object	Title	FY 24 Allowance	FY25 Allowance	FY 26 Allowance	Difference FY25 to FY 26
Obj 01	Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits	2,266,833	2,465,453	2,747,961	282,508
Obj 02	Technical and Special Fees	0	0		
Obj 04	Travel	2,110	2,110	1,049	(1,061)
Obj 07	Motor Vehicle Operation and Maintenance	5,000	5,000	3,483	(1,517)
Obj 08	Contractual Services	571,965	577,302	684,604	107,302
Obj 09	Supplies and Materials	500	500	0	(500)
Obj 10	Equipment - Replacement	0	0	0	
Obj 11	Equipment -Additional	15,425	10,000	0	(10,000)
Obj 13	Fixed Charges	150	150	0	(150)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,861,983</b>	<b>3,060,515</b>	<b>3,437,097</b>	<b>376,582</b>

In addition to General Funds, the Center has two additional funding sources (see Table 2): reimbursable funds (RF) and special funds (SF). Special funds are the result of organizations reimbursing the Center for the costs incurred by the Center in supporting their research projects. The reimbursable funds are from a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The MLDS Center is a subawardee of the grant that was received by Dr. Henneberger to study *Long-Term Effects of PBISplus: A Randomized Controlled Trial in Maryland Public Elementary Schools*.

**Table 2. Additional Funding**

Source	Object	Amount
Special Funds (fee revenue)	08 Contracts	\$30,000
Reimbursable Funds (PBIS Grant)	08 Contracts	\$36,928

Table 3 provides a breakdown of Subobject 08, contractual services. Given the slight increase in available funding, the Center is dedicating \$20,000 for IT Security related costs. This will be used for auditing, updating security documentation, and other activities to continuously strengthen the Center's security profile. Table 4 provides a further breakdown of the planned IT Software expenditures.

**Table 3. Contracts (all funding)**

<b>Contracts</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>SF</b>	<b>RF</b>
<b>Research Branch</b>	380,000	0	0
<b>Software</b>	60,604	0	0
<b>IT Consulting</b>	159,000	30,000	36,928
<b>Informatica Software</b>	50,000	0	0
<b>IT Security</b>	20,000	0	0
<b>Misc. Small Contracts</b>	15,000	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$684,604</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$36,928</b>

**Table 4. Software**

AWS Backup	\$25,000
Oracle	15,000
VMWare	4,700
JIRA	\$688
MFT	5,000
SSL	\$2,600
EV Code - Digicert	\$1,380
Webflow	\$816
ERWIN	\$3,500
Altaro	0
STATA	\$1,920
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$60,604</b>

**Action**

I request the Governing Board's review and approval of the MLDS Center FY 26 Budget Plan.