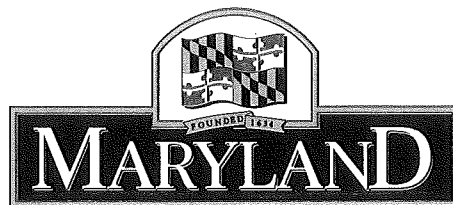


Martin O'Malley
Governor

Gloria Lawlah
Secretary



Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

DEPARTMENT OF AGING

Choice, Independence and Dignity for Older Marylanders

January 30, 2012

Jennifer Burnett
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group
7500 Security Boulevard
Mail Stop: S2-14-26
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Dear Ms. Burnett:

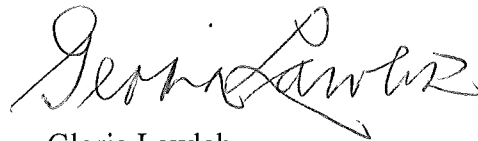
I am writing this letter to support the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (DHMH) application for participation in the State Balancing Incentive Payments Program (BIPP). The Department of Aging (MDoA) began developing Maryland's Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) known as Maryland Access Point (MAP) in 2003. Beginning with two local MAP sites in 2004, the program has grown to sixteen sites in 2011 and will be statewide with 20 sites providing access to all Maryland citizens by June 30, 2012. The MAP program has worked closely with DHMH, our state Medicaid Agency, to build the MAP program into a strong infrastructure that provides a statewide No Wrong Door/Single Entry Point (NWD/SEP) for individuals seeking long term supports, services and information. Our local MAP sites work through formal partnerships with local agencies and organizations serving individuals with disabilities and provide the single-entry-point for individuals seeking to transition from nursing homes into the community under the Money Follows the Person Demonstration. The MAP program operates a statewide public web-based resource directory providing information, opportunity for self-assessment and contacts for assistance with long term support needs and which will be used to guide individuals to local MAP options counselors under the BIPP program.

My Department in collaboration with the federal Administration on Aging has committed itself to assisting people in need of long term supports to remain in the community for over thirty years. Our MAP program has accelerated that commitment and allowed us to develop a number of federally funded innovative programs designed to divert people from nursing homes and Medicaid spenddown, e.g. the Community Living Program, the Person Centered Hospital

Discharge Program, the Veteran Directed Home and Community Based Services Program and several Care Transitions Program. We are pleased to be part of Maryland's BIPP plans which will further increase access to non-institutionally based long term services by way of increased Federal Medical Assistance Percentage. We will cooperate fully with DHMH in establishing the BIPP structural changes; including continued efforts to strengthen our (NWD/SEP), Conflict-free Case Management, and the development and use of a Core Standardized Assessment Instrument.

We look forward to this funding opportunity and the significant results it will produce for the citizens of our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gloria Lawlah". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Gloria Lawlah
Secretary