



Maryland Health Care Commission

THE 2024 MARYLAND TRAUMA PHYSICIAN SERVICES FUND

DECEMBER 2024



Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund

- Fund established by Maryland General Assembly in 2003 to aid Maryland's trauma system by reimbursing trauma physicians for uncompensated care losses and by raising Medicaid payments to 100% of Medicare rate.
- The legislation established a formula for reimbursing trauma centers for trauma-related on-call expenses for trauma surgeons, orthopedists, neurosurgeons, and anesthesiologists.
- The legislation also provided for reimbursement to physicians who provide follow-up care to a trauma patient who is uninsured. The follow-up care must be provided in a trauma or specialty care center.
- The legislation also directed HSCRC to allow trauma center hospitals to include trauma-related standby expenses in HSCRC-approved rates.
- The statute has been modified several times since its passage in 2003. The latest changes to the fund occurred in the 2024 session of the General Assembly with the passage of Senate Bill 1032/HB1439.

Note: On-call payments are paid to hospitals for physicians, not at the hospital, but able to respond in 30 minutes. Standby payments are paid to physicians already at the hospital and ready to respond.



Changes to the Fund resulting from the passage of Senate Bill1032/House Bill1439 effective July 1, 2024

- Increases the surcharge on vehicle renewal registrations for Maryland to \$13.00 for a bi-annual renewal
- Raise on-call payments for Level II & III trauma centers to 60% of the Reasonable Compensation Equivalent
- Non-physician practitioners now become eligible for uncompensated care and Medicaid supplemental payments
- Raises the standby stipend to Children's National Hospital up to \$900,000. Now includes Level I - Johns Hopkins Pediatrics which will reimburse standby up to \$900,000
- Enables an expanded trauma grant program that can fund more than trauma equipment, ie. education, training, and unfunded standby costs
- Gives the MHCC greater flexibility to increase on-call and uncompensated care fee levels.
- Gives MHCC the authority to issue grants to trauma centers annually

Category	Cash Flow		
	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024
Fund Balance at Start of Fiscal Year	\$2,171,071	\$6,700,833	\$ 7,483.014
Collections from the \$5 Registration Fee	\$12,227,047	\$12,349,547	\$12,366,198
Credit Recoveries	\$70,872	\$85,893	\$64,369
Addition from the Budget and Reconciliation Financing Act Legislation – 2023 – HB 200	\$4,000,000	(\$0)	\$9,500,000
TOTAL (Balance, Collections, and Recoveries)	\$18,468,990	\$19,136,273	\$29,413,581

Category	Expenditures		
	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024
Uncompensated Care Payments	(\$1,818,042)	(\$1,485,205)	(\$1,851,344)
On-Call Expenses	(\$8,796,840)	(\$9,263,088)	(\$9,087,930)
Medicaid Payments	(\$280,424)	(238.423)	(\$236,529)
Children's National Medical Center Standby	(\$590,000)	(\$590,000)	(\$590,000)
Trauma Equipment Grants (Disbursed from the Fund)	(\$194,080)	(\$0)	(\$642,361) (\$9,500,000)
Administrative Expenses	(\$88,771)	\$76,543)	(\$108,053)
TOTAL (Payments, Grants and Expenses)	(\$11,768,157)	(\$11,653,259)	(\$22,016,217)
TRAUMA FUND BALANCE	\$6,700,833	\$7,483,014	\$7,397,364



Status of Fund at end of FY 2024

- Collections via \$5 MVA surcharge totaled slightly over **\$12.3 million** a slight increase over previous years.
- In addition to these funds, trauma centers received **\$9.5 million** from the General Fund
- The Fund disbursed approximately **\$22 million**.
- Uncompensated care costs totaled about **\$1.8 million** about same as in the previous year
- Payment for on-call services totaled about **\$9.0 million** compared to about **\$9.2 million** in previous year. The decrease is largely due to timing of payments for on-call
- The Fund balance was **\$7.3 million** compared to **\$7.4 million** in the previous year

Expectations for FY 2025 and Beyond



- **MHCC will work with Trauma Centers to implement new regulations under HGA 19-130-Maryland Trauma Physicians Services Fund . We anticipate the new regulations will be approved as final at this Commission Meeting.**
- **The new regulations will guide the trauma centers and physician practices through the new process.**
- **In FY 2025 The Commission will create new on-line applications for reimbursement to ease submission for On-Call, Standby and Grant Applications.**
- **In FY 2025, revenue from the MVA surcharge is projected to increase from \$12.3 million to \$25 million.**
- **In FY 2025, the largest increase in payment will be for on- call expenses. MHCC estimates on- call payments will increase from \$9 million to \$18 million due to change in the on- call formula.**
- **Grants to Level 1 pediatric trauma centers at Children’s National Medical Center and Johns Hopkins will increase from \$590,000 to \$900,000 per year. Funds will be received after documenting unfunded incurred expenses.**
- **Revenues at this time are only anticipated, we are not able to precisely estimate the Fund balance at FY 2025 close-out.**
- **The new authority to issue grants annually to trauma centers will help in reducing any Fund balance encountered by the Trauma Fund.**
- **Trauma Centers will benefit from the changes established in SB 1032/HB 1439 for many years to come.**



QUESTIONS?