



News Release

Comptroller Lierman Denounces Federal Funding Freeze During Board of Public Works Meeting

Board of Public Works Approves \$280 Million for Projects Across Maryland

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (January 29, 2025) — During today’s Board of Public Works meeting, **Comptroller Brooke E. Lierman** spoke against the Trump Administration’s attempt to freeze federal grants, which was rescinded Wednesday afternoon.

Comptroller Lierman, Governor Wes Moore, and Treasurer Dereck Davis each spoke of the concerns they have heard from constituents to Tuesday’s memo issued by the Trump administration, which would impact funding flowing to the state.

During the meeting, Comptroller Lierman shared that the Office of the Comptroller’s FY 2023 single audit shows the federal government awarded more than \$23 billion in grant funding to the State of Maryland. She noted that in Maryland, money is authorized through the budget process and that the Comptroller’s Office works with the Treasurer to pay grantees, contractors, and others.

“Over the next several months, we’ll be putting together more information in our next audit about Fiscal year 24 grants from the federal government,” Comptroller Lierman said. “In this new world, it’ll also be important for agencies to keep the federal grants they rely on. We must be mindful of budgeting out years ahead and assuming federal programs will still exist. They may not.”

In all, the Board of Public Works approved more than \$280 million for 85 initiatives and projects throughout Maryland. The approvals included a three-year, \$21 million contract request from the Department of Health to DentaQuest of Maryland, LLC, for dental benefits and administrative services for eligible Medicaid participants. The Department requested the award in the face of a protest/appeal before the Board of Contract

Appeals, arguing it is in the State's best interest to ensure the delivery of dental services to 1.6 million Medicaid recipients from a pool of 1,600 providers.

Maryland Department of Health Deputy Secretary Ryan Moran explained that every Marylander enrolled in Medicaid is eligible to receive dental services and that the provider list would be expanded. Last year, more than 630,000 people, including adults and children, received at least one dental service.

Comptroller Lierman noted that the legislature approved dental coverage via the Maryland Healthy Smiles program and an expanded budget in 2022.

The approvals by the board also included:

- Grant agreements for 17 recipients for 17 projects located in nine counties and Baltimore City with a total value of \$9,845,208.
- 12 items awarding \$33,154,524.53 to prime certified small business primes
- Four items awarding \$21,808,193.80 to certified minority business enterprise primes
- 11 items awarded with established participation goals for minority business enterprises
- Five items awarded with established participation goals for veteran-owned small business enterprises

The next meeting of the Board of Public Works is February 12, 2025.

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