



**Wes Moore**  
Governor

**Aruna Miller**  
Lt. Governor

**Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D.**  
Chair

**Maryland Higher Education Commission  
FY 2024 Operating Budget  
Maryland Higher Education Commission  
Response to Department of Legislative Services Analysis**

**House Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Education and Economic Development  
Delegate Stephanie Smith  
February 27, 2023**

**Senate Budget and Taxation  
Subcommittee on Education, Business, and Administration  
Senator Nancy King  
March 2, 2023**

**Pg. 23.** MHEC should comment on the status of the project.

As noted in the analysis, the project charter has been approved and MHEC continues to work with the Department of Information Technology's (DoIT) Delivery Program Management Office (DPMO) to secure a senior project manager (PM). The PM will be assigned to this project for its duration and therefore the anticipated cost exceeds \$1 million dollars, which requires Board of Public Works (BPW) approval. The selected PM is still available and DPMO will present it to the Board of Public Works at the March 1, 2023 meeting. MHEC anticipates having the PM on-board by March 15, 2023. In the absence of a PM, monthly status reports have been submitted as required by DoIT's Enterprise Project Management Office (EPMO) and work has begun on the project management plan (PMP).

In addition to the PM resource, MHEC submitted a business analyst position for approval to begin with recruitment efforts. This position is crucial to the project for evaluation and improvement of business processes, defining and gathering system requirements, and developing a Request for Proposal (RFP). MHEC looks forward to completing the recruitment and building the project management team.

Finally, MHEC has been proactive by preparing for possible RFP responses by reaching out to other states to inquire about system development, companies they contract with, initial costs, annual maintenance cost, and customizations. Maryland's most recent RFP template has been retrieved for early review.

## Recommended Actions

1. Adopt the following narrative:

### **Institutional Aid, Pell Grants, and Loan Data by Expected Family Contribution (EFC)**

**Category:** In order to more fully understand all types of aid available to students, the committees request that data be submitted for each community college, public four-year institution, and independent institution on institutional aid, Pell grants, and student loans. Data should include, by EFC, the number of loans and average loan size of federal subsidized and unsubsidized loans and loans from private sources as reported to the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC). Additionally, data should be provided on Pell grants, including the number and average award size by EFC. Finally, data should include the number of institutional aid awards and average award size by EFC for institutional grants, institutional athletic scholarships, and other institutional scholarships. The data in the response should differentiate between need-based aid and merit scholarships. Data should also include the number of institutional aid awards and average award size by EFC for tuition waivers/remissions of fees to employees and dependents and students. Waiver information for students should be reported by each type of waiver in State law. This report should cover fiscal 2022 data received by MHEC from State institutions and is to be submitted in an electronic format (Excel file).

#### **Information Request**

Institutional aid, Pell grants,  
and loan data by EFC

#### **Author**

MHEC

#### **Due Date**

June 30, 2023

**MHEC Response:** MHEC concurs with the recommended action.

2. Adopt the following narrative:

**Report on Best Practices and Annual Progress Toward the 55% Completion Goal:** The budget committees understand that in order to meet the State's goal to have at least 55% of Maryland's residents ages 25 to 64 holding at least one degree credential by 2025, accurate and timely information on degree progression and best practices is needed to ensure that the State is on track to meet the goal. The budget committees request that the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) annually collect and analyze student and transcript-level data on progression, graduation, and other relevant metrics from each public institution of higher education, including community colleges and regional higher education centers. MHEC should submit a report by December 15 each year that analyzes the data and shows each institution's progress toward the State and institutional goals in 2025. The report should also include a summary of best practices and findings on the effectiveness of institutions' programs as well as any concerns regarding lack of progress or best practices that are not being implemented by institutions.

#### **Information Request**

Report on best practices and  
annual progress toward the 55%  
completion goal

#### **Author**

MHEC

#### **Due Date**

December 15, 2023

**MHEC Response:** MHEC concurs with the recommended action.

3. Adopt the following narrative:

**Report on Nontraditional Pathways:** Nationally, nontraditional students, those 25 years and older, comprise approximately 40% of undergraduate students and, according to the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), these students account for about one-third of undergraduates in community colleges and the public four-year institutions. While there is no standard definition of a nontraditional student, age is often used as a defining characteristic of this population. Nontraditional students face different obstacles than traditional students in obtaining a college education such as having to balance school, work, and life. In order to grow enrollment, institutions will need to develop programs and initiatives targeting this population to help it succeed. MHEC will work with the University System of Maryland (USM) and the Maryland Association of Community Colleges to develop a strategy to strengthen pathways for nontraditional students. MHEC intends to use the \$5 million provided in the fiscal 2024 budget to provide grants to USM institutions and community colleges to execute the strategy. The committees request that MHEC submit a report on how the funds are used to strengthen the pathways for nontraditional students.

**Information Request**

Report on nontraditional pathways

**Author**

MHEC

**Due Date**

December 15, 2023

**MHEC Response:** MHEC concurs with the recommended action.