

FM-10 (9 Contracts)

Council District(s) All

Department of Health and Human Services

Prevention, Detection, and Treatment Services for Cancer

The Administration is requesting approval of nine contracts to provide cancer prevention, early detection, and diagnosis and treatment services for low-income County residents. Four contracts commence upon Council approval, continue through the earlier of the County’s expenditure of \$25,000 or July 31, 2023, and if approved, continue through March 31, 2024 and will renew automatically for 10 additional 1-year periods. Three contracts commence upon Council approval, continue through the earlier of the County’s expenditure of \$25,000 or March 31, 2024, and if approved, will renew automatically for 10 additional 1-year periods. Two contracts commence upon Council approval, continue through the earlier of the County’s expenditure of \$25,000 or December 31, 2024, and if approved, will renew automatically for 10 additional 1-year periods. Compensation for all contractors combined is limited to the amount appropriated for these services for the entire contract term. The Department advised that estimated compensation for all contractors combined (including providers under other existing contracts for these services) totals \$387,150 for the initial term and \$4,258,650 for the entire term, including the renewal periods. The contracts state that the contractors have the right to be reimbursed for services provided retroactively (to March 31, 2022 for seven contracts or to December 31, 2022 for two contracts). See Exhibit A.

Fiscal Summary

Funding Source	Initial Term	Combined Total Compensation
County	--	--
State ⁽¹⁾	\$ 215,374	\$ 2,369,114
Federal ⁽²⁾	171,776	1,889,536
Other	--	--
Total	<u>\$ 387,150</u> ⁽³⁾	<u>\$ 4,258,650</u> ⁽⁴⁾

⁽¹⁾ Maryland Department of Health (MDH) funds.

⁽²⁾ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funds passed through MDH.

⁽³⁾ Estimated compensation for all contractors combined (including providers under other existing contracts for these services) for the initial term (including reimbursements for services provided retroactively to March 31, 2022 or December 31, 2022).

⁽⁴⁾ Estimated compensation for all contractors combined (including providers under other existing contracts for these services) for the entire term, including the renewal periods. The contracts do not specify a maximum compensation for the entire contract term. Compensation may not exceed the amount appropriated for these services for the entire contract term.

Analysis

The nine contractors are:

- Advanced Radiology, P.A.
- Chase Brexton Health Services, Inc.
- Stephanie M. Dunbar, LLC
- Eastside Anesthesia, LLC
- Drs. Gabbay, Feldman & Pearlman, P.A.
- LifeBridge Community Gastroenterology, LLC dba Woodholme Gastroenterology Associates P.A.
- Northwest Hospital Center, Inc.
- University of MD St. Joseph Medical Group, LLC
- Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, Inc.

The contractors will provide a variety of cancer services which will include screening for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancers and diagnosis and treatment services for all types of cancer. The County is the direct provider of nurse case management services and service coordination for eligible Baltimore County residents requiring diagnosis and treatment services for any type of cancer. Client eligibility is based on residency, income, insurance status, and age. The

Department advised that it expects its cancer screening contractors to serve approximately 793 clients in FY 2023 and did not provide an estimate for FY 2024.

The County reimburses the contractors for services performed at the current approved rates, which are based on State Medicare, Medicaid, and Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission reimbursement rates for screening, diagnosis and treatment, and for hospitals, respectively. The contracts provide that these are funds of last resort (after the contractors submit claims for reimbursement to all other insurance providers). The County contracts with any provider that serves Baltimore County residents and meets County and State requirements in order to allow eligible patients choices regarding medical providers. Under no circumstances will eligible patients be charged for services provided under these contracts. The Department annually places an ad in *The Jeffersonian* to recruit providers and advised that it intends to expand its advertising in the future.

Four contracts (Drs. Gabbay, Feldman & Pearlman, P.A., LifeBridge Community Gastroenterology, LLC, Northwest Hospital Center, Inc., and Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, Inc.) commence upon Council approval, continue through the earlier of the County's expenditure of \$25,000 or July 31, 2023, and if approved, continue through March 31, 2024 and will renew automatically for 10 additional 1-year periods. Three contracts (Advanced Radiology, P.A., Chase Brexton Health Services, Inc., and University of MD St. Joseph Medical Group, LLC) commence upon Council approval, continue through the earlier of the County's expenditure of \$25,000 or March 31, 2024, and if approved, will renew automatically for 10 additional 1-year periods. Two contracts (Stephanie M. Dunbar, LLC and Eastside Anesthesia, LLC) commence upon Council approval, continue through the earlier of the County's expenditure of \$25,000 or December 31, 2024, and if approved, will renew automatically for 10 additional 1-year periods. Compensation for all contractors combined is limited to the amount appropriated for these services for the entire contract term. The Department advised that estimated compensation for all contractors combined (including providers under other existing contracts for these services) totals \$387,150 for the initial term and \$4,258,650 for the entire term, including the renewal periods. The contracts provide that the contractors have the right to be reimbursed for services provided retroactively to March 31, 2022 (seven contracts) or December 31, 2022 (two contracts). The Department advised that the \$387,150 initial term estimated amount provides for such reimbursements. The County may terminate each agreement by providing 30 days prior written notice, except for the Northwest Hospital and Sinai Hospital contracts, which either party may terminate by providing 30 days prior written notice. The contracts are subject to the availability of State and federal funds and to termination by the County in the event of a reduction and/or loss of funding.

The Department advised that the nine proposed contracts are with existing service providers; seven contracts were established in 2012 and expired in March 2022, and two contracts were established in 2021 and expired in December 2022. The Department further advised that it expects the County to incur a total of \$187,096 in costs for these nine contractors prior to Council approval in order to avoid a disruption of services to clients. According to the Department, the cost of services to be provided prior to Council approval by one of the nine contractors will exceed \$25,000 (\$44,805 in FY 2023 payments to date).

On April 3, 2023, the Council approved amendments to 12 contracts (which commenced on various dates in 2011 and 2012) to continue to provide cancer prevention, early detection, and diagnosis services for low-income County residents for one additional year, through April 1, 2024, in order to allow the County sufficient time to execute new contracts.

County Charter, Section 715, requires that “any contract must be approved by the County Council before it is executed if the contract is...for services for a term in excess of two years or involving the expenditure of more than \$25,000 per year....” As previously mentioned, the cost of services provided by at least one contractor prior to Council approval will exceed \$25,000. Accordingly, this situation constitutes a violation of the aforementioned section of the County Charter.

Executive Summary
Baltimore County Department of Health Cancer Contracts

The Baltimore County Department of Health, Bureau of Community Health Services, seeks County Council approval of nine (9) contracts to provide cancer prevention, early detection, and diagnosis and treatment services for low-income residents.

BACKGROUND

The Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the State of Maryland Department of Health have awarded funds to Baltimore County Department of Health for the purpose of prevention, early detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer for low-income Maryland residents.

The Baltimore County Department of Health, Cancer Program contracts with local providers to provide clinical services in accordance with the CDC and the State of Maryland mandated standardized requirements. The nine (9) Provider Contracts below were established to allow consumers the option to choose from a list of providers located throughout Baltimore County.

1. Advanced Radiology, P.A.
2. Chase Brexton Health Services, Inc.
3. Stephanie M. Dunbar, LLC
4. Eastside Anesthesia, LLC
5. Drs. Gabbay, Feldman & Pearlman, P.A.
6. LifeBridge Community Gastroenterology, LLC/DBA Woodholme Gastroenterology Associates P.A.
7. Northwest Hospital Center, Inc
8. University of Maryland St. Joseph Medical Group, LLC
9. Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, Inc

FISCAL

All nine (9) Provider Contracts listed have been reviewed and approved by the Baltimore County Office of Law. If County Council approves the contracts, then at the end of the Initial Term, the County has the right to renew these Agreements for ten (10) one year renewal terms.

Prepared by: Department of Health and Human Services