

# State Aid to Frederick County

## Fiscal 2023

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### State Aid Overview

- Frederick County will receive \$399.8 million in State aid in fiscal 2023. Of this amount, \$364.7 million is direct aid, and \$35.1 million is for retirement payments.
- Frederick County will receive a 12.4% increase in State funding in fiscal 2023, with total State aid increasing by \$44.2 million over the prior year. Direct aid increases by \$46.4 million, while retirement payments decrease by \$2.3 million.
- On a per capita basis, Frederick County ranks eleventh with State aid totaling \$1,472 per resident. This compares to the statewide average of \$1,494 per resident.

### Proposed Enhancements

- The proposed State budget includes \$45.9 million in additional funding for the police aid formula, of which \$1.9 million is targeted to law enforcement agencies in Frederick County. The allocation is based on county population (\$6.46 per capita) and the number of municipal sworn officers (\$975 per officer). Baltimore City receives \$8 million under the formula enhancement.
- Regarding public school funding, the Administration provided an additional \$57.3 million in hold harmless grants under the compensatory aid program to offset declines in the free and reduced-price meal (FRPM) count. Since Frederick County's funding under this program did not decrease from the prior year, the school system was not eligible for a hold harmless grant.
- The Administration also provided an additional \$68.1 million for full-day prekindergarten programs that exceeded the requirements under the Blueprint Plan. The Administration provided per student funding regardless of family income. Under the Blueprint Plan, full-day prekindergarten funding is targeted for the lowest income families at 300% of the federal poverty level. Frederick County will receive \$4.4 million of this additional funding.
- However, the additional discretionary enhancements to education aid are offset by the Administration's underfunding of the Education Effort Index that provides additional funding to Baltimore City (\$99.0 million) and Prince George's County (\$26.5 million).

### County-Municipal Aid

- Frederick County will receive \$13.4 million in county-municipal aid, which represents a \$2.5 million, or 22.6%, increase from the prior year.

- State funding includes \$8.1 million for highway user revenues, \$4.5 million for police aid, and \$593,200 for fire and rescue aid.

## **Public Safety Grants**

- Frederick County will receive \$2.6 million in funding under the existing police aid formula and \$1.9 million under the proposed enhancement.
- The majority of State funding under the police aid formula is based on population density. More urbanized jurisdictions with a higher population density receive a higher per capita grant amount. A small component of the formula (representing 4.3% of overall funding) targets funding to municipalities based on the number of sworn officers. Funding in fiscal 2023 is based on \$1,950 per sworn officer. The Administration's proposal would increase the per sworn officer grant to \$2,925 (representing a \$975 per officer increase).
- Since fiscal 2004, local governments are responsible for covering 30% of the costs for the State Police crime lab. The local reimbursement is based on each jurisdiction's crime rate (one-third) and local wealth (two-thirds). The Frederick County share of these costs will total \$184,400 in fiscal 2023. The local reimbursement is deducted from each jurisdiction's police aid amount.
- Frederick County will receive \$593,200 in fire and rescue aid in fiscal 2023. Each county's funding is based on their share of property tax accounts relative to the statewide total. Each county is guaranteed a minimum 2% share of total funds (\$300,000).

## **Local Health Grants**

- Frederick County will receive \$3.4 million in local health grants in fiscal 2023. Statewide, local health departments will receive \$74.9 million, which represents a \$1.0 million increase from the prior year.

## **Transportation Aid**

- Legislation enacted in 2018 required the State to provide capital transportation grants to local governments based on the amount of revenue allocated to the Gasoline and Motor Vehicle Revenue Account. The local share will total 13.5% in fiscal 2020 to 2024. Baltimore City receives 8.3%, county governments receive 3.2%, and municipal governments receive 2.0%.
- Frederick County will receive \$8.1 million in local highway user revenues in fiscal 2023, which represents a \$502,200, or 6.6%, increase over the prior year.
- The county and municipal share is based on road mileage and vehicle registration. In fiscal 2023, the Frederick County government will receive \$3.3 million, and municipalities will receive \$4.8 million.

## **Local Library and Community College Aid**

- Frederick County will receive \$1.8 million in local library aid and \$17.4 million in State support for the local community college. State funding for the Frederick Community College will increase by \$3.0 million in fiscal 2023.

## **Education Aid**

- Approximately 90% of State aid to Frederick County will go to public schools. The Frederick County Public School System will receive \$328.7 million in direct aid in fiscal 2023, which represents a \$40.8 million, or 14.2%, increase from the prior year. In addition, the State will provide \$32.1 million in funding for teacher retirement payments.
- On a per pupil basis, Frederick County will receive \$8,237 in State funding: \$7,504 per pupil in direct aid; and \$734 per pupil for teacher retirement payments. Frederick County ranks thirteenth in the amount of per pupil direct aid.
- Frederick County will receive a 9.6% increase in per pupil direct aid in fiscal 2023.

## **Blueprint and Targeted Funding**

- Frederick County will also receive \$12.6 million in additional State funding under the Blueprint Initiatives in fiscal 2023. This includes \$2.1 million for supplemental instruction, \$1.8 million in concentration of poverty grants, and \$6.8 million for full-day prekindergarten.
- A considerable amount of State education funding is based on targeted student populations, with Frederick County receiving \$75 million in targeted grants under the compensatory aid, English Language Learners (ELL), and special education programs. Frederick County receives the fifteenth highest amount of funding on a per pupil basis (\$1,712).

## **Student Enrollment**

- The full-time equivalent student (FTES) enrollment count increases by 4.2% in Frederick County compared to the statewide average decrease of 0.7%. This growth rate results in 1,767 additional students for the Frederick County Public School System. Currently, the county school system accounts for approximately 5.2% of students statewide.
- The number of students approved for FRPM increases by 0.7% in Frederick County compared to the statewide average decrease of 6.9%. Frederick County currently has the nineteenth highest percentage of students approved for FRPM at 24.3% of total student enrollment.

- Frederick County has the ninth highest percentage of students identified as ELL at 7.3% of total student enrollment. In fiscal 2023, the number of ELL students increases by 11.6%, resulting in 334 additional students requiring language services.
- Frederick County has a relatively lower share of students receiving special education services. In fiscal 2023, the number of students receiving special education services accounts for 11.8% of total enrollment, compared to the statewide average of 12.8%.
- Frederick County has the eighteenth highest targeted student index in the State at 43.5%. This index adds together the percent share of FTES who are approved for FRPM, ELL, and special education services. The targeted student index ranges from 28.3% in Carroll County to 116.1% in Baltimore City, with the statewide average at 62.5%.
- Statewide, public-school enrollment represents 13.7% of the total State population. In Frederick County, public school enrollment represents 16.1% of the overall county population (the second highest in the State). Public school enrollment as a share of total county population ranges from 8.9% in Kent County to 16.8% in Howard County.

**Per Capita State Aid to Local Governments – Fiscal 2023**

