

# GLOSSARY

A number of words or phrases in the budget document have technical, budgetary or fiscal meanings. Definitions of commonly used terms are shown below.

## A

**ACCRUAL BASIS OF ACCOUNTING** - The method of accounting whereby revenues are recognized when earned and realized. Expenses are recognized as soon as the liability is incurred, regardless of cash inflows and outflows.

**ACTIVITY** - A primary organizational unit within a government agency. Activities are usually responsible for administering basic functions or major programs of a department. An activity is often titled a division or bureau in this document and is usually administered by a division chief.

**AD VALOREM TAX** - A tax based on the assessed value of the property. The tax is determined by multiplying the taxable value of the property by the tax rate (which is often expressed as an amount per \$100 of assessed value).

**ADMISSIONS AND AMUSEMENT TAX** - A tax imposed on the gross receipts derived from admissions and amusement charges at a rate of 10% in most cases.

**AGENCY** - A department or principal office of the County government such as the Department of Public Works and Transportation or the Office of Finance.

**AGENCY SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN** - A department's strategic plan that defines the core services that will be provided, the customers that will be served and the impact core services will have on its customers. It consists of mission, goal, objective and strategy statements.

**ALLOCATED REVENUE** - Those revenues which are collected for the provision of a particular service (e.g. Police Aid is a State grant to compensate the County for a portion of its police costs).

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP)** - Changes to the project scope, schedule or funding that require County Council action. Proposals must

meet strict criteria to be considered for amendment.

**APPROPRIATION** - Authority to spend money within a specified dollar amount for an approved project or activity. The Budget Ordinance contains separate appropriations for compensation, operating expenses, capital outlay, fringe benefits and project charges/cost recoveries for each agency. The exceptions are the Board of Education and Community College. Their funding is appropriated to a series of State defined funding categories.

**APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENTS** - A formal action taken during the fiscal year in accordance with Charter Sections 814, 815 or 816, which modifies the appropriated amounts contained in the approved budget. Such actions include:

- (1) Intra-departmental transfers,
- (2) Inter-departmental transfers,
- (3) Supplementary appropriations,
- (4) Emergency appropriations.

**APPROVED BUDGET** - The County's budget as approved by the County Council, including tax rates and expenditure limits by fund and department.

**ASSESSABLE BASE** - The value of all real and personal property within the County as determined by the State Supervisor of Assessments. The County government enacts property tax rates that, when levied against the assessable base, yield property tax revenues for use by the County.

**ASSET** - Any owned physical object (tangible) or right (intangible) having economic value to its owner.

**ASSET FORFEITURE FUND** - An accounting entity used to hold assets seized and held as a result of enforcement of drug laws.

**ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE** - The fund balance that the government intends to use for a specific purpose, but does not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed fund balances.

**AUTHORIZED POSITIONS** - The number of positions permitted by the approved operating budget.

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## GLOSSARY (Continued)

### B

**BALANCE SHEET** - A statement of financial position disclosing the assets, liabilities and reserves, and equities of a fund or governmental unit as of a specific date.

**BALANCED BUDGET** - A budget in which expenditures incurred for a given period are matched by expected revenues, including transfer-in, contingency and use of fund balance. A balanced budget is a requirement established in Section 806 of the County Charter.

**BOND** - A written promise to pay a specified sum of money (the principal), at a specified date in the future (the maturity date), together with periodic interest at a specified rate. Bonds are a form of long-term borrowing used for capital improvements and new construction.

**BOND RATING** - A grading of debt security given to the County by financial rating agencies (Standard and Poor's, Moody's Investors Services and Fitch Ratings, Inc.). The ratings range from AAA (highly unlikely to default) to D (in default). The rating indicates the probability of timely repayment of principal and interest on bonds issued.

**BOND SALE** - A method for the County to borrow money in which the County sells debt to investors to pay for capital projects. Capital projects include the construction of schools, libraries, roads and bridges.

**BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER TREATMENT PROGRAM** - Provides needed cancer treatment to eligible individuals diagnosed with breast and/or cervical cancer and who are in need of treatment.

**BUDGET** - A financial plan that includes a list of all planned expenses and revenues. It serves as a tool to plan, monitor and control fiscal operations.

**BUDGET AMENDMENT** - A revision to the adopted budget as approved by the County Council.

**BUDGET GAP** - The difference created when planned expenses exceed estimated revenue. Since the County must have a balanced budget, any budget gap must be resolved by reducing

expenses, increasing revenue or a combination of both.

**BUDGET SURPLUS** - A fiscal situation wherein revenues received exceed expenditures at the end of the fiscal year.

**BUREAU** - *Refer to activity.*

### C

**CAPITAL ASSETS** - Assets with a long-term useful life, which include land, buildings or machinery.

**CAPITAL BUDGET AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP)** - The CIP is a six-year plan for the provision of the County's capital facility and infrastructure needs (buildings, roads, etc.). The plan, which is updated each year, schedules by fiscal year the proposed capital construction phases. It also includes related expenditure and financing needs expected to be undertaken during this period. The capital budget consists of those projects scheduled for activity in the first year of the CIP and appropriates the amounts necessary to pay for the estimated costs in the first year.

**CAPITAL OUTLAY** - An appropriation and expenditure category for government assets with a value of \$5,000 or more and a useful economic lifetime of one year or more.

**CAPITAL PROJECT** - Governmental effort involving expenditures and funding for the creation, expansion, renovation or replacement of permanent facilities and other public assets having a relatively long life. Expenditures within capital projects may include costs of planning, design and construction management, land, site improvements, construction and initial furnishings and equipment required to make a facility operational.

**CHARACTER** - An expense group classification code (e.g. compensation, fringe benefits, operating expense, capital outlay, recoveries, etc.).

**CHARTER HOME RULE** - Charter counties operate under a formal charter adopted by the voters that describes the local governmental structure. The General Assembly grants charter

## GLOSSARY (Continued)

counties a measure of independence in adopting legislation relevant and specific to the county. In charter counties, executive and legislative powers can be divided between an elected county executive and an elected county council. Such powers can also be retained entirely by an elected county council that, in turn, appoints an administrator or manager. Section 806 of the Prince George's Charter requires that the County Executive propose a budget where expenditures do not exceed estimated revenues for the ensuing fiscal year.

**CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES** - A governmental agency tasked with receiving and investigating reports of child abuse or neglect. The Child Protective Services agency in each state must identify children who are being abused or neglected, monitor domestic violence that relates to children, and remove at-risk children to a safe environment when necessary. The agency also helps maintain preventive programs and provides children with safe homes.

**COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT** - A legal contract between the employer and a certified representative of a recognized bargaining unit for specific terms and conditions of employment (e.g. hours, working conditions, salary, fringe benefits and matters affecting employee health and safety).

**COMMITTED FUND BALANCE** - Fund balance used only for the specific purpose determined by a formal action of the government's highest level of decision making authority (County Executive/County Council).

**COMMITMENT ITEM** - An element that represents the functional grouping of expenditures and revenues within a financial management (FM) area.

**COMMUNITY RESOURCE ADVOCATE** - This is administrative and promotional work coordinating resources required to develop community support for a limited public relations program. An employee in this class develops promotional strategies to increase public awareness within the assigned programmatic area, and initiates communications with community representatives as appropriate to plan and schedule participants for the volunteer program or services for the County grant programs. Work involves developing the interest

and cooperation of individuals and/or groups to provide services or goods and providing technical assistance or direction needed in organizing and implementing approved volunteer recruitment projects. Contact with community groups, departmental staff, administrators and external service providers are a significant aspect of the work. Work is performed under the direction of an administrative superior.

**COMPENSATION** - The expenditure category which includes employee salaries, wages, overtime and differential pay.

**COMPONENT UNIT** - A legally separate organization for which the elected officials of the County are financially accountable. Component units can be other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with a primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

**CONSTANT YIELD TAX RATE** - A property tax rate that, when applied to new assessments, will result in the taxing authority receiving the same revenue in the coming taxable year that was produced in the prior taxable year. State law prohibits local taxing authorities from levying a tax rate in excess of the Constant Yield Tax Rate unless they advertise and hold public hearings on their intent to levy a higher rate.

**CONTINGENCY** - A budgetary reserve set aside for emergencies or unforeseen expenditures not otherwise budgeted.

**COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA)** - An increase in salaries to offset the effect of inflation on compensation.

**COUNTY SOURCE BUDGET** - The portion of the County budget that is funded by County Source Revenue.

**COUNTY SOURCE REVENUE** - Revenue that is primarily generated from County taxes, penalties, fees and investment income. County taxes include: property taxes, income tax, recordation tax, transfer tax, energy tax, telecommunications tax, hotel tax, and admissions and amusement tax. County Source Revenue does not include outside sources to other entities such as State aid for education.

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## GLOSSARY (Continued)

**COUNTYSTAT** - A performance management program designed to deliver results through analysis, accountability and innovation. It focuses on specific issues in order to ensure that County government is making measurable progress in areas that matter most.

**CURRENT EXPENSE BUDGET** - A one-year comprehensive fiscal plan for the financing and delivery of services to citizens and residents.

### D

**DATA WAREHOUSE** - A system developed to capture the massive amounts of data that come into County government and derive business intelligence and decision support information from the data.

**DEBT** - A financial obligation resulting from the borrowing of money or purchases of goods and services.

**DEBT SERVICE** - The annual payment of principal and interest on the County's bonded indebtedness. Bonds are issued to finance the construction of capital projects such as public buildings and roads.

**DEFICIT** - The excess of liabilities over assets or expenditures over revenues in a fund over an accounting period.

**DEPARTMENT** - *Refer to agency.*

**DEPRECIATION** - The expiration of a capital asset over its useful life attributable to wear and tear, deterioration, action of the physical elements, inadequacy and obsolescence.

**DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE** - The portion of unreserved fund balance that reflects the County's self-imposed limitations on the use of otherwise available expendable financial resources.

**DIVISION** - *Refer to activity.*

**DUALLY ALLOCATED POSITION** - A position that automatically upgrades to the next level if the employee occupying the position successfully completes a specified probationary period.

### E

**EFFICIENCY MEASURE** - One of the measures in the family of performance measures. This measure is calculated by dividing outputs into inputs. It indicates how well resources (input measure) are used per unit produced, or how well resources are applied to service demands (output).

**ELECTRIC UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROGRAM** - The Electric Universal Service Program (or "EUSP") is part of the Electric Customer Choice Act of 1999 ("the Act"), and was created by the Maryland General Assembly to assist low-income electric customers with arrearage retirement, bill assistance and weatherization during the restructuring of Maryland's electric and electricity supply market. Section 7-512.1 of the Act authorized the Public Service Commission ("the Commission") to establish the program, make it available to low-income electric customers Statewide and provide administrative oversight to Office of Home Energy Programs ("OHEP"), the agency within the Department of Human Resources (or "DHR"), responsible for actual program delivery.

**EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN** - Provides emergency cash assistance to families who need emergency help paying rent or utilities or for other emergencies. These funds are available through the local department once every two years when funds are available.

**ENCUMBRANCE** - Designated funds for a future expenditure, formally documented with a contract or agreement.

**ENERGY TAX** - A tax levied upon organizations transmitting, distributing, manufacturing, producing or supplying electricity, gas, steam, coal, fuel, oil or liquefied petroleum gas in the County. This tax is based on units of energy sold.

**ENTERPRISE FUND** - A fund used to record the fiscal transactions of government activities financed and operated in a manner similar to private enterprise, with the intent that the costs of providing goods and services, including financing, are wholly recovered through charges

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## GLOSSARY (Continued)

to consumers or users (e.g. the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund for refuse collection, landfill and recycling operations).

**ENTERPRISE PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE (EPMO)** - An organizational body assigned various responsibilities related to the centralized and coordinated management of enterprise-wide projects for the County. The EPMO has the ability to collect, analyze, and display project data in a manner that enables leadership to see at a glance how their projects are running as well as ensuring the critical projects aligned to County priorities are initiated and are proceeding according to plan.

**ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING (ERP)** - A large scale solution that will replace dated systems in Finance, Budget, Human Resources, Payroll, and Warehouse Management, and integrate data across these systems to support effective data exchange and will also offer consistent functionality across systems and support efficient and reliable processes.

**EXPENDITURE** - Decreases in net financial resources. Expenditures include current operating expenses which require the current or future use of net cash assets, debt service or capital outlays.

### F

**FAMILY OF PERFORMANCE MEASURES** - A group of performance measures used to provide as close to a comprehensive quantitative illustration as possible of an agency's performance. A family of performance measures consists of five types of measures: input, output, efficiency, quality and outcome.

**FIDUCIARY FUNDS** - Used to account for assets held by a trustee, or as an agent for others that cannot be used to support other programs. There are four types of fiduciary funds: private-purpose, pension (and other employee benefits), investment trust funds and agency funds.

**FISCAL YEAR (FY)** - A twelve-month period from July 1 through the following June 30 which constitutes the County's annual financial operating cycle, as required by State and local law.

**FIXED ASSETS** - Assets of a long-term character which are intended to continue to be held or used. Examples of fixed assets include items such as land, buildings or machinery.

**FOOD STAMP PROGRAM** - This program, which is officially titled the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), provides food-purchasing assistance for low-and no-income people living in the U.S. It is a federal aid program, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, under the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), though benefits are distributed by each U.S. state's Division of Social Services or Children and Family Services.

**FRINGE BENEFITS** - Generally encompasses all of those elements of total compensation provided to employees other than direct salary; for budgetary purposes this term applies to the annual cost of employee retirement, social security and insurance programs.

**FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)** - the number of total hours worked divided by the maximum number of compensable hours in a full-time schedule as defined by law. One FTE equals 2,080 hours.

**FUNCTION** - A grouping of the major responsibilities of the County government into a set of summary designations (e.g. Public Safety, Environmental, Human Services).

**FUND** - Resources segregated for the purpose of implementing specific activities or achieving certain requirements in accordance with special regulations, restrictions or limitations and constituting an independent fiscal and accounting entity.

**FUND BALANCE** - Reserves within a fund; the amount by which resources exceed the obligations of the fund. Fund balance types were recategorized based on GASB 54 effective FY 2011. The new classifications include: non-spendable, restricted, committed, assigned and unassigned fund balances. Prior to GASB 54, the classifications included: reserved, designated, and undesignated fund balances.

**FUND OPERATING SUMMARY** - A statement summarizing the financial operations of a fund for a specified period of time, including current revenues and expenditures.

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## GLOSSARY (Continued)

### G

**GASB 45** - The GASB Statement 45 provides for more complete financial reporting of costs and financial obligations arising from other post-employment benefits (OPEB) other than pensions. Post-employment healthcare benefits, the most common form of OPEB, are a significant financial commitment for many governments. Implementation of Statement 45 requires reporting annual OPEB costs and their unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities for past service costs. Prior to Statement 45, it was typical to use a "pay-as-you-go" accounting approach to report the cost of benefits after employees retire.

**GENERAL FUND** - The principal operating fund for the County government. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required by law, County policy and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) to be accounted for in another fund.

**GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND** - A bond which is backed by the full faith and credit of the issuing government. Bonds are a loan where the County sells debt to investors to pay for capital projects.

**GOAL** - A statement that specifies each of the agency's core services, customers and outcomes more specifically than in the mission statement; a component of agency plans.

**GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTING STANDARDS BOARD (GASB)** - An organization that establishes financial standards that must be met by all State and local governments.

**GRANT** - A contribution of assets (usually cash) from one governmental unit (federal, State, local) or private sources to a governmental or private entity. The contribution is usually provided in support of a particular public function, project or program.

### H

**HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT** - An act created by the U.S Congress in 1996 that amends both the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) and the Public Health Service Act

(PHSA) in an effort to protect individuals covered by health insurance and to set standards for the storage and privacy of personal medical data.

**HOMESTEAD TAX CREDIT** - To help homeowners deal with large assessment increases on their principal residence, State law has established the Homestead Property Tax Credit. The homestead credit limits the increase in taxable assessments each year to a fixed percentage. Every county and municipality in Maryland is required to limit taxable assessment increases to 10% or less each year. The County's credit percentage is the lesser of the change in consumer price index of all urban consumers or 5%.

**HOTEL/MOTEL TAX** - A tax levied on individuals who secure accommodations for ninety consecutive days or fewer in any hotel, motel or other organization that offers accommodations for five or more people.

### I

**IMPACT MEASURE** - *Refer to outcome measure.*

**INCORPORATED MUNICIPALITIES** - A political unit such as a city, town or village, incorporated for local self-government.

**INDIRECT COST** - A cost that is not directly related to supporting government-wide operations.

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE LIBRARY (ITIL)** - A broadly accepted approach to information technology consisting of processes and procedures to streamline operations and create continuous feedback for ongoing improvement.

**INFRASTRUCTURE** - Facilities that support the daily life and growth of the County (e.g., roads, public buildings and parks).

**IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION** - A contribution of equipment, supplies or other tangible resource, as distinguished from a monetary grant.

**INPUT MEASURE** - The value of resources utilized to produce work product, usually

## GLOSSARY (Continued)

expressed quantitatively; one of the measures in the family of performance measures.

**INTER COUNTY BROADBAND NETWORK (ICBN)** - A collaborative inter-governmental consortium comprised of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Frederick County, Harford County, Montgomery County and Prince George's County. ICBN directly connects 715 anchor institutions in Central Maryland, including hundreds of K-12 public schools, libraries, public safety agencies, community colleges and other government institutions. In addition, in each of these communities – the network will also connect to existing networks with thousands more anchor institutions. Also, the ICBN makes available nearly 800 miles of fiber optic cable for low-cost lease by commercial entities to expand the reach and quality of broadband access throughout the region.

**INTEREST INCOME** - Revenue associated with the County cash management activities of investing fund balances.

**INTERFUND TRANSFER** - A transfer of resources from one fund to another.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL NETWORK (I-NET)** - A secure, reliable and scalable fiber optic network connecting anchor institutions as partners in building successful communities and local economies. The I-Net provides a common framework for government, education and public safety to leverage shared resources for information and data sharing and regional interoperability. I-Net revenue is derived from cable franchise agreements with providers with the functional purpose of the network is to connect authorized users, including specific governmental, educational, and public facilities. Connectivity via the network offers participating governments a communication vehicle to reduce costs for services otherwise provided through commercially leased lines, ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network), etc.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE** - Funds received from federal, State and other local government sources in the form of grants, shared revenues and payments in lieu of taxes.

**INTERNAL SERVICE FUND** - A fund established in order to finance, administer and

account for the provision of goods and/or services by one agency to other agencies within County government (e.g., vehicle maintenance and information technology).

### L

**LAPSE** - The reduction of personnel costs by an amount below fully funded compensation levels. This can be due to turnover, vacancies and normal delays in filling positions. The amount of lapse, or vacancy savings, will differ among departments and from year-to-year.

**LEASE/PURCHASE AGREEMENT** - A contractual agreement, which is termed a "lease," but in substance is an installment purchase contract.

**LIABILITY** - Debt or other legal obligations arising out of transactions in the past that must be liquidated renewed or refunded at some future date.

**LICENSES AND PERMITS** - Documents issued in order to regulate various kinds of businesses and other activities within the community. Inspection may accompany the issuance of a license or permit, as in the case of food vending licenses or building permits. In most instances, a fee is charged in conjunction with the issuance of a license or permit to cover all or part of the related cost.

**LIMITED TERM EMPLOYEE** - A limited term status employee shall mean only an employee who is competitively or non-competitively appointed, reassigned, transferred or promoted to a classified service position (Sec 16-178 of Personnel Law).

**LIMITED TERM GRANT FUNDED POSITION (LTGF)** - A position that is funded by a grant or some other financial funding agreement with the federal or State government or a private funding source. Staff are employed under renewable personal service contracts for periods not exceeding one year.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT INSURANCE TRUST (LGIT)** - A statewide pool authorized to minimize local government insurance costs.

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## GLOSSARY (Continued)

### M

**MAINTENANCE LEVEL BUDGET** - A budget that is sufficient to maintain the same level of service from year to year. Usually, a maintenance level budget is only increased to meet inflationary costs associated with delivering the same level of service.

**MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT** - A State requirement that a local government must provide funds for its Board of Education for the next fiscal year, at minimum, at the same per pupil level as the current fiscal year.

**MANDATE** - Legislation passed by the State or federal government requiring action or provision of services and/or programs.

**MARYLAND ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM** - Provides assistance with home heating bills. Payments are made to your utility company on your behalf. Under this program there is limited assistance available to replace broken or inefficient refrigerators and furnaces.

**MERIT EMPLOYEE** - A County employee who is hired into a position governed by the County's Personnel Law, which ensures that personnel actions are based upon job-related fitness and merit.

**MERIT INCREASE** - An upward increment in an employee's pay within the salary range for a given pay grade.

**MISSION** - A broad statement of the agency's purpose that is clearly aligned with the countywide vision and includes the agency's core services, customers and outcomes; a component of agency plans.

**MODIFIED ACCRUAL BASIS OF ACCOUNTING** - Revenues are recognized when they become measurable and available and expenditures (whether paid or unpaid) are generally recognized when the liability is incurred.

**MUNICIPAL TAX DIFFERENTIAL** - The recognition, through the imposition of a lower County property tax rate, of those government services and programs which municipal governments perform in lieu of similar County government services, to the extent that these

similar services are funded through the County property tax rate.

### N

**NET ASSETS** - Total assets minus total liabilities.

**NON-DEPARTMENTAL ACCOUNTS** - A budget category used to account for resources used for County-funded activities that do not fall within the functional assignment of any department, or for expenditures related to more than one department. Examples include debt service, utilities and leased space costs.

### O

**OBJECTIVE** - A statement quantifying a goal's outcome; a component of agency plans.

**OFFICE** - *Refer to agency.*

**OFFICE AUTOMATION CHARGE** - Funding that is appropriated in County agencies for computer and system maintenance, network connectivity and other services. These funds serve as revenue for the County's Information Technology Internal Service Fund.

**OPERATING BUDGET** - A comprehensive fiscal plan by which the County's operating programs are funded for a single fiscal year. The operating budget includes descriptions of programs, appropriation authority and estimated revenue sources, as well as related program data and information on the fiscal management of the County (*refer to current expense budget*).

**OPERATING EXPENSE** - Those costs, other than compensation, fringe benefits and capital outlay, that are necessary to support the day-to-day operation of the agency, such as charges for contractual services, telephones, printing, training, office supplies or building maintenance.

**ORDINANCE** - A formal legislative enactment by the governing board of the County. If it is not in conflict with a higher form of law, such as a State statute or constitutional provision, it has full force and effect of law within the boundaries of the local government to which it applies.



## GLOSSARY (Continued)

**OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB)** - Non-pension (primarily health) benefits provided after termination of employment that are not administered by a pension plan. The County's health benefits program provides retired employees with medical, dental, prescription, vision and life insurance. These retiree benefits qualify as OPEB.

**OTHER STAFF** - The staffing associated with all funds other than the General Fund (e.g., Enterprise, Internal Service and Grant Program Funds).

**OUTCOME MEASURE** - A measure that indicates the ultimate end result or impact of a program or service on the intended customer, usually expressed quantitatively; one of the measures in the family of performance measures.

**OUTPUT MEASURE** - The quantity of work produced and/or the amount of work to be completed, usually expressed quantitatively; one of the measures in the family of performance measures.

**OUTSIDE AID** - Funding from sources outside of the County government such as federal and State aid. An example is State aid to education or libraries.

### P

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO (PAYGO)** - A technique for financing capital projects that uses cash from current revenues to pay for projects rather than selling bonds to raise cash. PAYGO financing avoids interest costs which are incurred when bond financing is used.

**PENSION TRUST FUNDS** - Accounting entities for assets held by the County from which retirement annuities and other benefits are paid to former employees.

**PERFORMANCE BUDGETING** - The use of data, agency service delivery plans and the family of performance measures to inform resource allocation decisions during the budget process.

**PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES** - Taxes levied on tangible personal property and

commercial and manufacturing inventory of businesses.

**PRE-TRIM TAX RATE** - The property tax rate authorized to retire debt existing prior to the enactment of the Tax Reform Initiative by Marylanders (TRIM) in 1978. The last debt payment funded by this rate was made in FY 2003.

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS** - A large public school district administered by the government of Prince George's County, Maryland, United States and is overseen by the Maryland State Department of Education. The school system is headquartered in Upper Marlboro and the district serves Prince George's County. The district is headed by the Chief Executive Officer and a 14-member Board of Education.

**PROGRAM** - *Refer to function.*

**PROJECT CHARGE** - The classification used to account for the recovery of certain costs incurred by an agency for services it provides to another agency or fund.

**PUBLIC HEARING** - Opportunities for citizens and constituent groups to voice opinions and concerns to public officials. Public hearings are advertised in County newspapers and via the Internet. If it is not possible to testify in person at the hearings, written testimony is acceptable and encouraged.

### Q

**QUALITY MEASURE** - An indication of a service's customer satisfaction, accuracy or timeliness, usually expressed quantitatively; one of the measures in the family of performance measures.

### R

**RAINY DAY FUND** - The County's required Contingency Reserve Fund, which must equal 5% of the General Fund expenditures.

**REAL ESTATE ACQUISITION PROGRAM (REAP)** - Financing used in 1991 to acquire two properties, formerly leased, for a net long-term savings to the County. Five additional facilities were purchased in 1994.

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## GLOSSARY (Continued)

**REAL PROPERTY** - Real estate, including land and improvements (buildings, fences, pavements, etc.), classified for purposes of assessments.

**REAL PROPERTY TAX** - A charge on real estate, including land and improvement (building, fences, etc.) classified for purposes of assessment.

**RECORDATION TAX** - A tax imposed on written instruments conveying title to real or personal property, liens or encumbrances on real and personal property, deeds, mortgages, chattel mortgages, bills of sale, leases, deeds of trust, filed financial statements and contracts, and agreements offered for record.

**RECOVERY** - The classification used to account for certain costs incurred by an agency for services it provides to another agency or fund. (*Refer to project charge.*)

**RESERVE** - An account used either to set aside budgeted resources that are not required for expenditure in the current budget year or to earmark resources for a specific future purpose.

**RESOLUTION** - Measures adopted by the legislative body having the force and effort of law but of a temporary or administrative character.

**RESOURCE MEASURE** - *Refer to input measure.*

**RESTRICTED FUND BALANCE** - Fund balance that is spent only for the specific purposes stipulated by constitution, external resources providers, or through enabling legislation.

**REVENUE** - All funds the County receives, including tax payments, fees for specific services, receipts from other governments, fines, forfeitures, shared revenues and interest income.

**REVENUE BONDS** - Bonds that are issued with repayment based on pledged revenues from a revenue generating facility.

**RISK MANAGEMENT** - A process used to identify and measure the risks of accidental loss in order to develop and implement techniques for handling risk and to monitor results. Techniques used may include self-insurance, commercial insurance and loss control activities.

## S

**SALARY SCHEDULE** - A listing of minimum and maximum salaries, fringe benefits, salary differentials, overtime provisions and other paid and unpaid benefits for each type and level of position, known as a guide, provided in the classification plan for merit system positions.

**SELF-INSURANCE** - The funding of liability, property, workers' compensation, unemployment and life and health insurance needs through the County's financial resources rather than commercial insurance plans.

**SEMI-AUTONOMOUS AGENCIES** - Agencies of the County which are not subject to full County appropriation authority due to State law, such as the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC), the Maryland - National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), the Board of Education, the Library System and Prince George's Community College.

**SPECIAL REVENUE FUND** - A fund established in order to account for resources allocated by law for specified purposes only.

**SPENDING AFFORDABILITY COMMITTEE (SAC)** - The SAC is composed of up to five experts who work outside the County government and, by virtue of their education and employment, have a demonstrated competence in accounting, financial analysis, economics, budget or other related fields. The committee makes advisory recommendations to the County Executive, the County Council and the Office of Management and Budget concerning the County's spending affordability, methods to improve the County's budgetary procedures and policies and other related areas. Every year on October 1 and January 1, the committee submits spending affordability reports to the County Executive and the County Council.

**STATUTE** - A written law enacted by the State legislature and signed by the Governor.

**STRATEGY** - A component of agency service delivery plans that identifies the agency's approach to accomplish its objective.

**SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION** - An appropriation of funds that exceeds amounts originally appropriated to authorize expenditures

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## GLOSSARY (Continued)

not anticipated in the Approved Budget. A supplemental appropriation is required to enable expenditure of reserves or additional revenues received by the County through grants or other sources.

### I

**TAX DIFFERENTIAL RATE** - It is mandated through the Tax Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland that the County recognize (either through a reduced County tax rate or direct grant payment) those governmental services and programs that municipal governments perform in lieu of similar County service.

### **TAX REFORM INITIATIVE BY MARYLANDERS**

**(TRIM)** - An amendment to the County's Charter restricting the amount of real property tax the County is able to collect. During the 1978 General Election, the voters of the County adopted an amendment to Section 817, Article VIII, of the Prince George's County Charter limiting future collections of real property taxes. The amendment, effective in December 1978, added Section 817B to the Charter, which is generally referred as "TRIM." The amendment forbade the County Council to "levy a real property tax which would result in a total collection of real property taxes greater than the amount collected in FY 1979," or \$143.9 million. Additionally, at the 1984 General Election, an amendment to TRIM was approved by the voters of the County authorizing the County Council to levy taxes on a maximum rate of \$2.40 for each \$100 of assessed value. Beginning in tax year 2001, property tax rates have been applied to 100%, instead of 40%, of the value of real property. Therefore, the TRIM rate has been adjusted accordingly to \$0.96 for each \$100 of assessed value.

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS TAX** - A monthly tax levied upon all telecommunications bills in the County (including wireless phones). Ninety-nine percent of the revenue generated from this tax is devoted exclusively to the County's Board of Education. The remaining 1% is divided between the County and telecommunications vendors to compensate for costs related to administering the tax.

**TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE** - Provides cash assistance to needy families with

dependent children when available resources do not fully address the family's needs and while preparing program participants for independence through work. Adults with dependent children receiving TANF must meet financial and technical eligibility requirements. Conditions of eligibility include cooperation with child support, participation in work activities and compliance with substance abuse provisions. Earned and unearned income cannot exceed the benefit level paid for the assistance unit size and assets are limited to \$2,000.00. Sanctions may be imposed for program noncompliance.

**TRANSFER TAX** - A tax imposed upon every written instrument conveying title to real property, or upon a leasehold interest, offered for record and recorded by the State.

### **TRANSFORMING NEIGHBORHOODS**

**INITIATIVE (TNI)** - An effort by the County to focus on uplifting six communities in the County that face significant economic, health, public safety and educational challenges. Through this initiative, the County Administration seeks to improve the quality of life in those communities, while identifying ways to improve service delivery throughout the County for all residents.

**TREND AND ANALYSIS** - A summary and explanation of performance trend and increases and decreases in data found in each table of performance measures.

### U

**UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE** - Remaining fund balance available for appropriation.

**UNINCORPORATED AREA** - A region of land that is not a part of any municipality.

### V

**VISION** - A statement of the future direction in which the County intends to head, which is normally drafted for the purpose of communicating that direction internally.

### W

**WORKLOAD, DEMAND AND PRODUCTION MEASURE** - *Refer to output measure.*

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## **GLOSSARY (Continued)**

**WORK YEAR** - A standardized unit for measurement of government personnel efforts and cost. A typical work year is equivalent to 2,080 work hours or 260 workdays.

Readers not finding a term in this glossary should call the Office of Management and Budget at 301-952-3300.



# ACRONYMS

Acronyms are groups of initials used to avoid repetitive writing or speaking of frequently used titles or phrases. Some of the more common acronyms used in the budget document are as follows:

- **ADA** - Americans with Disabilities Act
  - **ALS** - Advanced Life Support
  - **ARRA** - American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
  - **BCCTP** - Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program
  - **BLS** - Basic Life Support
  - **BOE** - Board of Education
  - **BOLC** - Board of License Commissioners
  - **CAFR** - Comprehensive Annual Financial Report
  - **CAO** - Chief Administrative Officer
  - **CCOP** - Citizen Complaint Oversight Panel
  - **CERT** - Community Emergency Response Team
  - **CDBG** - Community Development Block Grant
  - **CIP** - Capital Improvement Program
  - **COG** - Council of Governments
  - **COLA** - Cost of Living Adjustment
  - **COMAR** - Code of Maryland Regulations
  - **COPS** - Community Oriented Policing Services
  - **CPI** - Consumer Price Index
  - **CPS** - Child Protective Services
  - **CRA** - Community Resource Advocate
  - **CSAFE** - Collaborative Supervision and Focused Enforcement
  - **CTV** - Cable Television (of Prince George's County)
  - **CY** - Calendar Year
  - **DCAO** - Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
  - **DOE** - Department of the Environment
  - **DHCD** - Department of Housing and Community Development
  - **DHMH** - Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
  - **DLS** - Department of Legislative Services
  - **DOC** - Department of Corrections
  - **DPIE** - Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement
  - **DPWT** - Department of Public Works and Transportation
  - **DSS** - Department of Social Services
  - **EAFC** - Emergency Assistance to Families with Children
  - **EDI** - Economic Development Incentive Fund
  - **EEOC** - Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
  - **EF** - Enterprise Fund
  - **EMS** - Emergency Medical Services
  - **ERT** - Emergency Response Technician
  - **ERP** - Enterprise Resource Planning
  - **EUSP** - Electric Universal Service Program
  - **FLSA** - Fair Labor Standards Act
  - **FSP** - Food Stamp Program
  - **FTE** - Full Time Equivalent
  - **FY** - Fiscal Year
  - **GAAP** - Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
  - **GASB** - Governmental Accounting Standards Board
  - **GF** - General Fund
  - **GFOA** - Government Finance Officers Association
  - **GOB** - General Obligation Bonds
  - **HIDTA** - High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area
  - **HIPAA** - Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
  - **HMO** - Health Maintenance Organization
  - **HRC** - Human Relations Commission
  - **HSWG** - Homeland Security Working Group
  - **HUD** - Housing and Urban Development
  - **IS** - Internal Service Fund
  - **IT** - Information Technology
  - **LGIT** - Local Government Insurance Trust
  - **LTGF** - Limited Term Grant Funded
  - **MACO** - Maryland Association of Counties
  - **MBOC** - Minority Business Opportunities Commission
  - **MEAP** - Maryland Energy Assistance Program
  - **MHz** - Megahertz
  - **MILA** - Maryland Industrial Land Act
  - **MIS** - Management Information System
  - **M-NCPPC** - Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
  - **MOSHA** - Maryland Occupational Safety and Health Administration
  - **NIJ** - National Institute of Justice
  - **NIMS** - National Incident Management System
  - **OCR** - Office of Community Relations
  - **OCS** - Office of Central Services
  - **OHRM** - Office of Human Resources Management
  - **OHS** - Office of Homeland Security
  - **OIT** - Office of Information Technology
  - **OMB** - Office of Management and Budget
  - **OPEB** - Other Post Employment Benefits
  - **OSHA** - Occupational Safety and Health Administration
  - **PGCC** - Prince George's Community College
  - **PGCMLS** - Prince George's County Memorial Library System
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## ACRONYMS (Continued)

- **PGCPS** - Prince George's County Public Schools
  - **RA** - Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County
  - **REAP** - Real Estate Acquisition Program
  - **SAP** - Systems Applications Products
  - **SDAT** - State Department of Assessments and Taxation
  - **SOCEM** - Sex Offenders Compliance and Enforcement
  - **SR** - Special Revenue Fund
  - **TANF** - Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
  - **TCA** - Temporary Cash Assistance
  - **TNI** - Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative
  - **TRIM** - Tax Reform Initiative by Marylanders
  - **WMATA** - Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
  - **WPR** - Local Watershed Protection and Restoration Program
  - **WSSC** - Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission
  - **WSTC** - Washington Suburban Transit Commission
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