

# *Media Advisory*

## **Comptroller's Workgroup on Pandemic Spending to Meet Wednesday**

***Depts. of Human Services and Agriculture to discuss relief programs; Child care advocates to share issues receiving critical federal, state aid***

**WHO:** Comptroller Peter Franchot  
Deputy Comptroller Sharonne Bonardi  
Sandra Zinck, Director, General Accounting Division  
Daniel C. Riley, Jr., Director, Compliance Division  
Andrew Schaufele, Director, Bureau of Revenue Estimates  
David Hildebrand, Director, Office of Risk Management

**WHAT:** The Comptroller's Workgroup on Pandemic Spending will hold its fifth meeting on Wednesday, December 8, at 1:30 p.m. to continue its review of state and federal COVID-related spending.

The executive director of the Maryland State Child Care Association and the owner of a Pasadena child care center will share the challenges they have faced receiving federal and state assistance. The pandemic forced hundreds of child care businesses to close, leaving parents unable to work or scrambling to find care. The speakers will give an overview of the industry and outline the systemic issues that continue to impact child care facilities and the working families who rely on them.

Additionally, representatives from the departments of Human Services and Agriculture will outline their agencies' response to the pandemic and provide information about the relief programs they administered.

During the past six months, the Comptroller's Workgroup on Pandemic Spending has heard from numerous state agencies and

community organizations about the successes, failures and difficulties of pandemic-related programs. Funds for the workgroup were included in the FY 2022 budget after Comptroller Franchot called for an independent review of pandemic-related spending. The workgroup is examining how funds have been expended, whether they went to intended recipients and populations most in need; disparities in distribution; and possible predatory fraud and pandemic profiteering.

**WHEN:** **Wednesday, December 8, 2021**  
**1:30 p.m.**

**WHERE:** Louis L. Goldstein Treasury Building – Assembly Room  
80 Calvert St.  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The meeting will also be [livestreamed on the Comptroller's YouTube channel](#).

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