



**LARRY HOGAN**  
GOVERNOR

**BOYD K. RUTHERFORD**  
LT. GOVERNOR

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Governor Larry Hogan appointed Merrill Oliver as director of the Maryland Governor's Grants Office effective today. Oliver was the founding deputy director of the office in 2004, serving in that capacity for nine years. Merrill returns to Maryland from Puerto Rico, where she developed a centralized federal funds management office for Governor Alejandro Garcia Padilla during the past year.

Governor Hogan said, "I am pleased to welcome Merrill Oliver back to her home state to lead my grants office, spearheading implementation of grants management efficiencies and best practices across state agencies. Merrill is well respected by those in the grants industry, throughout the state and country. Her leadership in ensuring Maryland maximizes its federal funding and keeping state agencies accountable for the proper management of funds is very much needed. Federal funds account for about one-fourth of the Maryland state budget we are trying mightily to put back in the black."

Oliver said, "I am thrilled to re-join the Governor's Grants Office under Governor Hogan. From Pre-Award to Close-Out, a wide array of personnel must be prepared to intervene and be accountable for the management of program dollars and program outcomes. We in the Governor's Grants Office offer our advice, resources and training on a variety of topics to not only our state government agencies, but also to county governments and certified nonprofits. We all need to manage our federal grant dollars wisely and position Maryland to succeed in winning competitive grants."

Oliver currently serves on the Association of Government Accountants Intergovernmental Partnership as co-chair of the Contractor Versus Subrecipient Workgroup. She was president of the National Grants Management Association from 2009-2012. Oliver also sat on the Board of Editorial Advisors for Thompson Publishing's Federal Grants Management Handbook from 2004-2012. In 2011, she was appointed by the Obama Administration to the Presidential Executive Order Workgroup on Improper Payments.

She served as Grants manager and Management & Budget analyst for three years in Montgomery County government and previously spent 15 years in private sector business development. She earned a B.S. from Towson University.