



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

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Legislators Tour Durable Medical Equipment Re-Use Program

Cheltenham, MD - The Maryland Department of Aging welcomed Maryland legislators and Prince George's County officials to its Durable Medical Equipment Re-Use headquarters in Prince George's County to tour the 51,000-square-foot facility and learn how the statewide program improves the quality of life for Maryland residents.

Since the DME Re-Use program began in 2020, more than 6,400 pieces of medical equipment, including wheelchairs, home hospital beds, shower chairs, walkers, and high tech assistive devices, like mechanical lifts and power scooters, have been gifted to residents. All equipment is provided free of charge regardless of age, disability, or injury, to Marylanders who are uninsured or whose insurance has delayed or denied coverage.

"We are proud to offer this program which removes cost barriers for all to access durable medical equipment and helps people of all ages remain living in their home or community of choice," said Maryland Department of Aging Secretary Carmel Roques, adding that the value of independence, mobility, and safety provided through the program is immeasurable.

Jennifer Burgos of Silver Spring, Md agrees. She recently received a hospital bed, wheelchair, and Hoyer lift from DME Re-Use to support her 76-year-old aunt who fell and broke her neck. "We were able to bring her home from the hospital sooner so we can support her while she recovers from this terrible injury," Burgos said.

The Cheltenham facility is one of several strategically located distribution and collection sites located around the state, with more sites set to come on line in the next few months. "We are continually expanding the program to provide more locations for Marylanders to conveniently drop off and pick up equipment they need, ensuring everyone has access, from the inner city to the suburbs to the outlying rural areas around the state," said DME Re-Use director Ian Edwards.

Edwards noted the program has strong economic and environmental benefits. Since its inception, the DME program has given away \$2.6 million worth of free equipment to Marylanders in need. Additionally, the program has collected approximately 28,000 pieces of DME to date, diverting about 773,706 pounds and 307,000 cubic feet of equipment waste from Maryland's landfills.

To request equipment or find donation and distribution sites around the state, visit dme.maryland.gov, call 240-230-8000, or email DME.MDOA@maryland.gov.