



Committee: Directly to Council
Committee Review: N/A
Staff: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst
Purpose: To introduce agenda item – no vote expected
Keywords: #AAHPSTOPCOVID

AGENDA ITEM #4(C)
November 30, 2021
Introduction

SUBJECT

Special Appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget; Montgomery County Government; COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental Account (NDA); \$3,163,910 (Source of Funds: Federal Funds (American Rescue Plan Act)); African American Health Program COVID Response; Lead Sponsor: Council President at the Request of the County Council

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Introduction only. Public Hearing and Action are scheduled for December 7, 2021.

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

COVID-19, the disease caused by the Coronavirus, has disproportionately impacted communities of color nationally and locally. The African American and Black population has experienced higher death rates than other demographic groups. The African American Health Program has undertaken a culturally appropriate, comprehensive strategy to address these disparities. This funding will continue providing this targeted response. Major components of the program are communication and education, COVID testing and vaccination, coordination of a Black Physician Health Network, clinical follow-up, financial help with co-pays and medications, and support to address food insecurity. The County will pursue FEMA reimbursement for all costs to the extent that those costs are eligible for reimbursement.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Activities of the AAHP Targeted COVID-19 Response Program included pop-up testing and vaccination events, development of an in-home vaccination program, distribution of food bags and boxes at testing and community events and in high-risk neighborhoods, provision of food to households that have tested positive, and distribution of COVID safety and prevention kits.
- The Program's Joint Partnership Team has launched new mental health services and supports that will be delivered by Black, licensed mental health professionals, and has developed culturally specific marketing/information materials.
- The Program refers Blacks and African Americans without a primary healthcare provider to the Black Physician Health Network to establish a medical home. Health providers in the Network will work to address chronic disease conditions that can cause premature death and morbidity at an early age.

- The Joint Partnership Team is undertaking strategies to increase vaccination rates among unvaccinated Black residents in Montgomery County. Community Partners include, Ethiopian Community Center in Maryland, Iota Upsilon Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., American Minority Veterans Research Project, the Montgomery County Branch Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs Committee, and ElevateHer, and the NAACP. Additional partnerships are being developed.
- The Black Physician's Health Network is developing a network of Black health professionals to provide culturally specific health care and ensure residents are connected to these professionals. Funds are available to assist residents who need help with the cost of services.
- The October 27, 2021 Pulse report showed that the gap in the vaccination rate between Black/African American residents and White non-Hispanic residents had closed to 1%. This gap increased in the November 17, 2021 Pulse report due to the additional of children aged 5 and older. The November 17 report shows that the COVID hospitalization rate for Black/African American residents was 7.1% compared to 4.9% for White non-Hispanic residents.
- Information on the AAHP COVID Response can be found at:

<https://www.aahpcovid.com/>

Attached:

Memo from County Executive	1-2
Appropriation Resolution	3-4

Alternative format requests for people with disabilities. If you need assistance accessing this report you may [submit alternative format requests](#) to the ADA Compliance Manager. The ADA Compliance Manager can also be reached at 240-777-6197 (TTY 240-777-6196) or at adacompliance@montgomerycountymd.gov




OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

M E M O R A N D U M

November 17, 2021

TO: Tom Hucker, President
County Council

FROM: Marc Elrich, County Executive 

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation #22-33 to the FY22 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental
Account (NDA); \$3,163,910 (Source of Funds: Federal Funds)
African American Health Program COVID Response

I am recommending a special appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget of the COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental Account (NDA) in the amount of \$3,163,910 for the African American Health Program COVID Response for the months of January through June 2022. The American Rescue Plan Act is the recommended source of funding for this appropriation.

This increase is needed to continue providing a targeted emergency response related to the disparate impact of COVID-19 on African American and Black residents because of the underlying conditions that are driving the cases and disparities in death rates. The African American Health Program COVID Response will continue implementing strategies that address critical needs for community outreach, communications, education, mental health supports and services, support of a Black Physician Partnership, and funds to address food insecurity for African American and Black residents. The County will pursue FEMA reimbursement for all costs where available.

I recommend that the County Council approve this special appropriation in the amount of \$3,163,910 and specify the source of funds as Federal Funds.

I appreciate your prompt consideration of this action.

Special Appropriation #22-33, African American Health Program COVID Response

November 17, 2021

Page **2** of **2**

ME:dl

Enclosure: Special Appropriation #22-33, African American Health Program COVID Response

cc: Raymond L. Crowel, Psy.D., Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Jennifer Bryant, Director, Office of Management and Budget

Resolution No: _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation #22-33 to the FY22 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental
Account (NDA); \$3,163,910 (Source of Funds: Federal Funds)
African American Health Program COVID Response

Background

1. Section 308 of the Montgomery County Charter provides that a special appropriation: (a) may be made at any time after public notice by news release; (b) must state that the special appropriation is necessary to meet an unforeseen disaster or other emergency or to act without delay in the public interest; (c) must specify the revenues necessary to finance it; and (d) must be approved by no fewer than six members of the Council.
2. The County Executive has requested the following FY22 Operating Budget appropriation increases for the COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental Account (NDA):

<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
\$0	\$3,163,910	\$0	\$3,163,910	Federal Funds

3. This increase is needed to continue providing a targeted emergency response related to the disparate impact of COVID-19 on African American and Black residents because of the underlying conditions that are driving the cases and disparities in death rates. The African American Health Program COVID Response will continue implementing strategies that address critical needs for community outreach, communications, education, mental health supports and services, support of a Black Physician Partnership, and funds to address food insecurity for African American and Black residents. The County will pursue FEMA reimbursement for all costs where available.
4. The County Executive has requested a special appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget in the amount of \$3,163,910 for the African American Health Program COVID Response and specifies that the source of funds will be Federal Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act.

5. The public was notified and a public hearing was held.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, approves the following actions:

1. A special appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget of the COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental Account (NDA) is approved as follows:

<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
\$0	\$3,163,910	\$0	\$3,163,910	Federal Funds

2. The Department of Health and Human Services will continue and amend its current non-competitive contract with The National Center for Children and Families, Inc. as provided in Resolution 19-872, Approval of and Appropriation for the FY 2022 Operating Budget of the Montgomery County Government, Budget Provision #8 that provides this authority for contracts providing COVID-19 response.
3. The County Council declares that this action is necessary to act in response to a public health or safety emergency and to act without delay in the public interest.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council