



Committee: Directly to Council
Committee Review: N/A
Staff: Vivian Yao, Legislative Analyst
Purpose: To receive testimony/final action - vote expected
Keywords: CSBG, Community Action Agency

AGENDA ITEM #12
July 27, 2021
Public Hearing/Action

SUBJECT

Special Appropriation to the County Government's FY22 Operating Budget, Department of Health and Human Services, Community Action Agency - \$816,067 for Community Services Block Grant (CARES) (Source of Funds: Community Services Block Grant (CARES))

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- The resolution was introduced on July 20, 2021.
- There is no Committee recommendation. A motion is required.

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

Funding will be used to support a team of multilingual/minority contract navigators serving East County, Gaithersburg, Germantown, Long Branch, and Wheaton, who will assist residents in accessing basic and emergency needs; rental assistance for households who meet CSBG income eligibility but may not qualify for other rental assistance programs. The funding will also support an opportunity coach and mental health counselor to strengthen whole-family, multi-generation practice for Long Branch families.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development awarded this funding to the County to reduce negative impacts of COVID-19 for households most affected by the crisis. The funding is based on a community needs assessment approved by the Community Action Board and will address rising poverty and social, health, and economic challenges experienced by low-income residents of areas most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Source of Funds is Community Services Block Grant (CARES) funding.

This report contains:

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Resolution No.: _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

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

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation #22-4 to the FY22 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
Department of Health and Human Services
Community Services Block Grant (CARES), \$816,067
(Source of Funds: Community Services Block Grant Supplemental (CARES))

Background

1. Section 307 of the Montgomery County Charter provides that any supplemental appropriation shall be recommended by the County Executive who shall specify the source of funds to finance it. The Council shall hold a public hearing on each proposed supplemental appropriation after at least one week's notice. A supplemental appropriation that would comply with, avail the County of, or put into effect a grant or a Federal, State or County law or regulation, or one that is approved after January 1 of any fiscal year, requires an affirmative vote of five Councilmembers. A supplemental appropriation for any other purpose that is approved before January 1 of any fiscal year requires an affirmative vote of six Councilmembers. The Council may, in a single action, approve more than one supplemental appropriation. The Executive may disapprove or reduce a supplemental appropriation, and the Council may reapprove the appropriation, as if it were an item in the annual budget.
2. The County Executive has requested the following FY22 Operating Budget appropriation increases for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS):

<u>Personnel</u> <u>Services</u>	<u>Operating</u> <u>Expenses</u>	<u>Capital</u> <u>Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source</u> <u>of Funds</u>
\$0	\$816,067	\$0	\$816,067	Community Services Block Grant Supplemental (CARES)

3. This increase is required to address rising poverty and the rising social, health, and economic challenges experienced by people with low incomes who reside in areas most deeply impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- a. With the support of a project coordinator, five multi-lingual and/or minority navigators (contractors) will serve the most highly impacted communities for the one-year project period (East County, Gaithersburg, Germantown, Long Branch, and Wheaton), engaging with DHHS and nonprofit partners and supporting community hubs. The team of contractors will assist people and assure access by providing interpretation, translation, and education about systems; helping residents access basic and emergency needs (food, housing, health care, benefits, legal help, literacy, education systems, etc.); and initiating access to nonprofit resources or enrollment of public benefits, assuring a warm hand off with community based partners or within DHHS.
 - b. With more people unable to pay for rent due to job losses and the health impacts of the pandemic, \$250,000 will provide rental assistance to households referred to DHHS Services to End and Prevent Homelessness, bringing additional capacity to serve some households who meet CSBG income eligibility but may not qualify for other rental assistance programs.
 - c. As families living in the Long Branch community and served by the Takoma East Silver Spring Community Action Center (TESS) are deeply and adversely affected by COVID-19 related job losses, isolation, trauma, and health disparities, one year of funding will support an opportunity coach and mental health counselor to strengthen its whole-family, multi-generation practice (contractors).
4. The County Executive has requested a special appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget in the amount of \$816,067 for the Department of Health and Human Services, Community Action Agency and specifies that the source of funds will be Community Services Block Grant Supplemental (CARES).
 5. The public was notified by a news release.

Action

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

1. A special appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget of the Department of Health and Human Services, Community Action Agency 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	\$816,067	\$0	\$816,067	Community Services Block Grant Supplemental (CARES)

2. 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