



**Committee:** Directly to Council  
**Committee Review:** N/A  
**Staff:** Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst  
**Purpose:** To receive testimony/final action - vote expected  
**Keywords:** #saludybienestar; COVID-19

AGENDA ITEM #8  
July 27, 2021  
**Public Hearing/Action**

## SUBJECT

Special Appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Government, COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental Account (NDA), \$2,946,776 (Source of Funds: Federal Grant (American Rescue Plan Act)), Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar (For Our Health and Wellbeing)

## EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

## COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Council staff recommends an amendment to the action section of the resolution that says: The County will seek reimbursement from FEMA for any eligible costs and will seek and allocate other grant resources that may appropriately fund the activities of Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar. The County has very recently been awarded funds through the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Enhancing Detection Expansion grant that may be able to fund some components of Salud y Bienestar which would then allow reallocation of the ARPA funds.
- No Committee recommendation. A motion is required. The motion should be for approval as amended if the Council agrees with the staff recommended amendment.

## DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

Salud y Bienestar is a linguistically and culturally comprehensive and collaborative response of community-based non-profit partners and county government to the COVID-19 pandemic. It includes outreach and education, testing and contact tracing, vaccination clinic support, clinical follow-up, case management, and mental health support. On June 29, 2021, the Council appropriated \$1.473 million to FY21 Operating Budget to ensure there was no break in the program from FY21 to FY22. This appropriation combined with the June 29 appropriation will provide funds through December 2021. The Executive branch will continue to seek reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for all eligible expenses.

## SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- The Latino/Hispanic community continues to be disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 both in terms disease and the ongoing economic impacts.
- Salud y Bienestar is working to increase vaccinations. Health Promoters are offering education about the vaccine to address misconceptions and answer questions. From June 16 to June 30,

2021, Salud y Bienestar administered 1,139 first doses of vaccine and 1,104 second doses. A total of 982 COVID-19 tests were administered at 35 events during this same period.

- **On July 14, 2021, the Washington Post reported that the vaccination rate for Latino residents in Montgomery County is now higher than the rate for White residents and this is attributed to its equity-focused measures, including a public service campaign featuring Abuelina.** The article notes that in April and May the rate for vaccinations of Latinos lagged behind Whites by 20%. (link below)
- From June 16 to June 30, 802 people received case management through Salud y Bienestar. Main requests were for healthcare, food, clothing, housing, and financial assistance. Top four zip codes were 20902, 20906, 20877, and 20886. During this same period the information/navigation line received 412 calls and made 677 referrals. Eighty-nine percent were Spanish speakers and 66% identified as women.

Link to Washington Post article, “Coronavirus vaccination rate surge in hard-hit Latino community in Montgomery County.”

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/covid-vaccine-latinos-montgomery-maryland/2021/07/14/65e45884-e4ac-11eb-8aa5-5662858b696e\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/covid-vaccine-latinos-montgomery-maryland/2021/07/14/65e45884-e4ac-11eb-8aa5-5662858b696e_story.html)

**This report contains:**

CE Memo	© 1
Special Appropriation Resolution	© 2-3

**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](mailto:adacompliance@montgomerycountymd.gov)




OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich  
*County Executive*

MEMORANDUM

July 13, 2021

TO: Tom Huckler, Council President

FROM: Marc Elrich, County Executive 

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation #22-1 to the FY22 Operating Budget  
Montgomery County Government  
COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental  
Account (NDA); \$2,946,776 (Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves)  
Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar (For Our Health and Wellbeing)

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 \$2,946,776 to continue the Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar (For Our Health and Wellbeing) initiative for the months from September through December 2021.

This increase is needed to continue providing a targeted emergency response related to COVID-19 for Hispanic or Latinx persons who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID compared with non-Hispanic persons. Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar (For Our Health and Wellbeing) has developed a proposal to continue implementing a culturally and linguistically competent health and wellness system that addresses critical needs for outreach, education, clinical follow-up, case management, and coordination of mental health services. The County will pursue FEMA reimbursement for all costs to the extent that those costs are eligible for reimbursement.

A total of \$4,420,164 will provide these services from July through December 2021. Special Appropriation #21-533 recommended providing funding for the first two months of FY22. This Special Appropriation recommends providing funding for September through December 2021. I recommend that the County Council approve this special appropriation in the amount of \$2,946,776 and specify the source of funds as General Fund Reserves.

I appreciate your prompt consideration of this action.

ME:dl

Enclosure: Special Appropriation #22-1

c: Raymond L. Crowel, Psy.D., Director, Department of Health and Human Services  
Jennifer R. 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 #22-1 to the FY22 Operating Budget  
Montgomery County Government  
COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental  
Account (NDA); \$2,946,776  
(Source of Funds: Federal Grant (American Rescue Plan Act))  
Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar (For Our Health and Wellbeing)

**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	\$2,946,776	\$0	\$2,946,776	General Fund Reserves

3. This increase is needed to continue providing a targeted emergency response related to the disparate impact of COVID-19 on Hispanic or Latinx persons compared with those of non-Hispanic persons. Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar (For Our Health and Wellbeing) has developed a proposal to continue implementing a culturally and linguistically competent health and wellness system that addresses critical needs for outreach, education, clinical follow-up, case management, and coordination of mental health services. The County will pursue FEMA reimbursement for all costs to the extent that those costs are eligible for reimbursement. The initiative estimates that an additional \$2,946,776 will be needed to provide these services for the months from September through December 2021.

4. The County Executive has requested a special appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget in the amount of \$2,946,776 for Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar (For Our Health and Wellbeing) and specifies that the source of funds will be General Fund Reserves.
5. The County Council has determined that the source of funds for this special appropriation will be Federal Grant (American Rescue Plan Act).
6. 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	\$2,946,776	\$0	\$2,946,776	Federal Grant (American Rescue Plan Act)

2. The County will seek reimbursement from FEMA for any eligible costs and will seek and allocate other grant resources that may appropriately fund the activities of Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar.
3. The Department of Health and Human Services will continue and amend its current non-competitive contract with The Primary Care Coalition of Montgomery County, 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.
4. 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