



Committee: Directly to Council
Committee Review: N/A
Staff: Naeem M. Mia, Legislative Analyst
Purpose: To receive testimony/final action - vote expected
Keywords: HHS, Food Security, COVID-19

AGENDA ITEM #12
December 7, 2021
Public Hearing/Action

SUBJECT

Special Appropriation #22-27 to the FY22 Operating Budget Montgomery County Government COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental Account (NDA)
COVID-19 Response-Montgomery County Food Security Fund
\$7,119,000 (Source of Funds: \$6,450,000 General Fund Undesignated Reserves and \$669,000 American Rescue Plan Act Funds)

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

Mark Hodge, Department of Health & Human Services / Food Security Task Force
Netta Squires, Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security / Food Security Task Force
Lindsey Lucas, Office of Management and Budget / Food Security Task Force

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS

- Introduction on November 30, 2021.
- Public Hearing and Action is scheduled for December 7, 2021. A motion is required to approve one of the following:
 - 1) Approve \$6,819,000 as requested by the County Executive.
 - 2) Approve \$6,919,000, with additional funding (\$100,000) for ending childhood hunger initiatives
 - 3) Approve \$7,119,000 with additional funding (\$300,000) for ending childhood hunger initiatives and for the purchase of diapers, formula, and wipes.

BACKGROUND/DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

On June 23, 2020, the Council approved Resolution 19-506, Support for COVID-19 Response – Montgomery County Food Security Fund, authorizing \$10,300,000 of special appropriations to implement and support the implementation of the COVID-19 Pandemic Food Security Response Strategy (“Strategy”). \$300,000 was designated to the Greater Washington Community Foundation to support fundraising activities while the remaining \$10.0M was allocated to the County-administered COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental Account (NDA).

On December 8, 2020, the Council further approved Resolution 19-694 and authorized a special appropriation of \$12,803,250, including \$1,200,000 to the County’s eight Consolidation Hubs (which also included funding for diapers, formulas, and wipes for families with young children), to continue funding for food security efforts through June 2021. The Council further approved Resolution 19-932 on June 29, 2021, and authorized a special appropriation of \$1,783,000 to provide ‘bridge funding’ for emergency food assistance through early fall of 2021 and to begin developing plans for a permanent “Office of Food System Resilience” in the County to address longer-term, structural food insecurity. At the time, it was

anticipated that the roll-out of vaccines and re-opening of local economies would result in reduced demand for emergency services.

On October 29, 2021, the County Executive transmitted a request for special appropriations of \$6,819,000 to fund emergency food purchases (\$6,250,000) through June 2022 and for continued funding for Food Security Task Force staff support to the Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Office of Emergency and Homeland Security (OEMHS), ongoing strategic planning efforts, Farm to Food Bank grants assistance, and contractor support for the Food Access Call Center (totaling \$569,000).

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Since the transmittal of the Executive’s request, County staff was notified that that deadline for the submitting reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for pandemic-related emergency expenses incurred was extended from December 31, 2021, to April 1, 2022.
- The Executive’s request, totaling \$6,819,000, originally assumed \$1,025,000 in general fund to cover food purchases through December 31, 2021, and \$5,794,000 to cover remaining food purchases and other costs through June 2022 (see Table 1).

Table 1. County Executive’s request.

CE Request	General Fund (FEMA-reimbursable)	ARPA	Total
Emergency Bulk Food Purchases	\$ 1,025,000	\$ 5,225,000	\$ 6,250,000
Strategic Planning & Coordination		\$ 324,000	\$ 324,000
Critical Response Programs		\$ 245,000	\$ 245,000
Totals:	\$ 1,025,000	\$ 5,794,000	\$ 6,819,000

- Since the reimbursements are for costs incurred through the general fund, staff recommends re-allocating the ‘mix’ of funding sources to be \$6,250,000 in general fund dollars and \$669,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds received by the County. The general fund dollars would fully fund all planned emergency bulk food purchases, thus making those purchases eligible for FEMA reimbursements.
- Staff also recommends increasing the total request to \$7,119,000 (an increase of \$300,000 vs. the CE’s request) to obtain additional consultant resources (\$100,000) to develop strategies to end childhood hunger, as well as \$200,000 to fund the purchase of diapers, formula, and wipes for families in need through the end of June 2022 (see Table 2).

Table 2. Revised request.

Council Amendment	General Fund (FEMA-reimbursable)	ARPA	Total
Emergency Bulk Food Purchases	\$ 6,250,000		\$ 6,250,000
Diapers, formula, wipes, etc.	\$ 200,000		\$ 200,000
Strategic Planning & Coordination		\$ 324,000	\$ 324,000
Childhood Hunger Strategy Development		\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Critical Response Programs		\$ 245,000	\$ 245,000
Totals:	\$ 6,450,000	\$ 669,000	\$ 7,119,000

- Staff notes that FEMA reimbursements for food purchases are not necessarily guaranteed. As a result, staff suggests that the Council set-aside a ‘reserve’ of \$6,450,000 in ARPA funds; the decision to use ARPA funds to offset those general dollars not reimbursed by FEMA for food purchases would be made by the Council at a future date.

This report contains:

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1. County Executive Transmittal Memo – October 29, 2021 | © 1-2 |
| 2. Special Appropriation Resolution #22-27 – CE Recommended | © 3-4 |
| 3. Special Appropriation Resolution #22-27 – additional \$100,000 for consultant | © 5-6 |
| 4. Special Appropriation Resolution #22-27 – additional \$300,000 for consultant
& diaper assistance | © 7-8 |
| 5. FEMA Advisory on Reimbursement | © 9-10 |

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OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

MEMORANDUM

October 29, 2021

TO: Tom Hucker, President
Montgomery County Council

FROM: Marc Elrich, County Executive

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation #22-27 to the FY21 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental Account (NDA)
COVID-19 Response- Montgomery County Food Security Fund
\$6,819,000 (Source of Funds: \$1,025,000 General Fund Undesignated Reserves and
\$5,794,000 American Rescue Plan Act Funds)

I am recommending a special appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget of the COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental Account in the amount of \$6,819,000 for the County's response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This appropriation will provide bridge funding to the Montgomery County Food Security Task Force (FSTF) from October through June 2022.

The Task Force has developed the "Bridge Funding Proposal," which identifies use of bridge funding for three main purposes: (1) providing food to our local food access providers as they continue to face unprecedented demand; (2) funding the production of a roadmap for the creation of a new Office of Food System Resilience within the County; and (3) maintain staffing of the FSTF that will help sustain coordination efforts of operations, planning, finance, data collection, and outreach in response to the impact of COVID-19. The Task Force estimates that an additional \$6,819,000 will be required for the purposes mentioned above through June 2022.

In 2017, Montgomery County Food Council identified the following populations as those facing the greatest risk of food insecurity, this risk has become more acute with the pandemic:

- Children in school, on weekends, and/or in single parent households
- Residents lacking access to personal vehicles and adequate transit options; eligible but not enrolled in benefits programs; working multiple jobs and/or experiencing homelessness
- Seniors aging in place and/or with medical dietary restrictions
- Foreign born residents with limited English proficiency in mixed immigration status families, with lack of knowledge of or access to culturally appropriate services
- People with disabilities with limited mobility and/or waiting for case management

The FSTF is working with the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security to seek reimbursement for items that are eligible for reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management

Agency (FEMA). FEMA has extended the period of eligibility for reimbursable expenses to the end of the current calendar year, any expenditures on costs incurred after the end of the calendar year will be paid for with funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Item	General Fund Undesignated Reserves FEMA Reimbursement Eligible	American Rescue Plan Act Funds	Total
Bulk Food Purchases	\$ 1,025,000	\$ 5,225,000	\$ 6,250,000
Stategic Planning Coordination		\$ 324,000	\$ 324,000
Critical Response Programs		\$ 245,000	\$ 245,000
Total	\$ 1,025,000	\$ 5,794,000	\$ 6,819,000

I appreciate your prompt consideration of this action.

ME:ll

Enclosure: Special Appropriation #22-27

Cc: Raymond L. Crowel, Psy.D, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Jennifer R. Bryant, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Michael Coveyou, Director, Department of Finance
Marianne Souders, Acting Director, OEMHS

Resolution No: _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation #22-27 to the Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government, COVID-19 Human Services and Community
Assistance Non-Departmental Account (NDA)
COVID-19 Response: Montgomery County Food Security Fund
\$6,819,000 (Source of Funds: \$1,025,000 General Fund Undesignated Reserves and
\$5,794,000 American Rescue Plan Act funds)

Background

1. Section 308 of the Montgomery County Charter provides that a special appropriation is an appropriation which states that it is necessary to meet an unforeseen disaster or other emergency, or to act without delay in the public interest. Each special appropriation shall be approved by not less than six Councilmembers. The Council may approve a special appropriation at any time after public notice by news release. Each special appropriation shall specify the source of funds to finance it.
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	\$1,025,000	\$0	\$1,025,000	General Fund Undesignated Reserves
\$0	\$5,794,000	\$0	\$5,794,000	American Rescue Plan Act

3. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Food Security Task Force has executed several efforts including; providing financial assistance to Food Assistance Providers, increasing the amount of available fresh food from local sources, enhancing community engagement, and increasing access to existing benefit programs, through leveraging interdisciplinary coordination and innovative technology.
4. The Task Force has developed the “Bridge Funding Proposal,” which identifies use of bridge funding for three main purposes: (1) providing food to our local food access providers as they continue to face unprecedented demand; (2) funding the production of a roadmap for the creation of a new Office of Food System Resilience within the County; and (3) maintain staffing of the FSTF that will help sustain coordination efforts of operations, planning, finance, data collection, and outreach in response to the impact of COVID-19.

5. The Task Force estimates that an additional \$6,819,000 will be required for purposes mentioned above through June 2022. The FSTF is working with the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security to seek reimbursement for items that are eligible for reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA has extended the period of eligibility for reimbursable expenses to the end of the current calendar year, any expenditures on costs incurred after the end of the calendar year will be paid for with funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).
6. Notice of public hearing was given, and a public hearing was held.

Action

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

A special appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget of the COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental Account:

<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
\$0	\$1,025,000	\$0	\$1,025,000	General Fund Undesignated Reserves
\$0	\$5,794,000	\$0	\$5,794,000	American Rescue Plan Act

This appropriation needs to be acted upon without delay in the public interest.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council

Resolution No: _____
Introduced: November 30, 2021
Adopted: _____

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation #22-27 to the Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government, COVID-19 Human Services and
Community Assistance Non-Departmental Account (NDA)
COVID-19 Response: Montgomery County Food Security Fund
\$6,919,000
(Source of Funds: \$6,250,000 General Fund Undesignated Reserves and \$669,000
American Rescue Plan Act funds)

Background

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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	\$6,250,000	\$0	\$6,250,000	General Fund Reserves
\$0	\$669,000	\$0	\$669,000	American Rescue Plan Act

3. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Food Security Task Force has executed several efforts including: providing financial assistance to Food Assistance Providers, increasing the amount of available fresh food from local sources, enhancing community engagement, and increasing access to existing benefit programs, through leveraging interdisciplinary coordination and innovative technology.

4. The Task Force has developed the “Bridge Funding Proposal,” which identifies use of bridge funding for three main purposes: (1) providing food to our local food access providers as they continue to face unprecedented demand; (2) funding the production of a roadmap for the creation of a new Office of Food System Resilience and ending childhood hunger initiatives within the County; and (3) maintain staffing of the FSTF that will help sustain coordination efforts of operations, planning, finance, data collection, and outreach in response to the impact of COVID-19.
5. The Task Force estimates that an additional \$6,919,000 will be required for purposes mentioned above through June 2022. The FSTF is working with the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security to seek reimbursement for items that are eligible for reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA has extended the period of eligibility for reimbursable expenses to April 1, 2022; any expenditures on costs incurred that are not reimbursed by FEMA may be paid with funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).
6. Notice of public hearing was given, 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:

<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
\$0	\$6,250,000	\$0	\$6,250,000	General Fund Reserves
\$0	\$669,000	\$0	\$669,000	American Rescue Plan Act

2. The County Council declares that this action is necessary to act without delay in the public interest, and that this appropriation is needed to meet the emergency.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council

Resolution No: _____
Introduced: November 30, 2021
Adopted: _____

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation #22-27 to the Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government, COVID-19 Human Services and
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<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
\$0	\$6,450,000	\$0	\$6,450,000	General Fund Reserves
\$0	\$669,000	\$0	\$669,000	American Rescue Plan Act

3. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Food Security Task Force has executed several efforts including: providing financial assistance to Food Assistance Providers, increasing the amount of available fresh food from local sources, enhancing community engagement, and increasing access to existing benefit programs, through leveraging interdisciplinary coordination and innovative technology.

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5. The Task Force estimates that an additional \$6,819,000 will be required for purposes mentioned above through June 2022. The FSTF is working with the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security to seek reimbursement for items that are eligible for reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA has extended the period of eligibility for reimbursable expenses to April 1, 2022; any expenditures on costs incurred that are not reimbursed by FEMA may be paid with funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). An additional \$100,000 is allocated for a the design of strategies to end childhood hunger in the County, as well as \$200,000 for the purchase of diapers, formula, and wipes for families seeking assistance.
6. Notice of public hearing was given and a public hearing was held on December 7, 2021.

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:

<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
\$0	\$6,450,000	\$0	\$6,450,000	General Fund Reserves
\$0	\$669,000	\$0	\$669,000	American Rescue Plan Act

2. The County Council declares that this action is necessary to act without delay in the public interest, and that this appropriation is needed to meet the emergency.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council

FEMA Funding for COVID-19 Response Continues

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. [announced](#) that funding to support all eligible COVID-19 work will continue at a 100% federal cost share through April 1, 2022.

This funding will be available to [local, state, tribal or territorial governments and certain non-profit organizations](#) for eligible costs associated with ongoing COVID-19 recovery efforts and vaccine initiatives.

FEMA will continue to provide 100% of the federal funding for National Guard activities to combat and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. National Guard activities under Title 32 remain under the command and control of their respective governors but is funded by the Department of Defense (DoD). FEMA has mission assigned DoD to fund Title 32 National Guard deployments to support state and territorial efforts in response to the pandemic.

The full capacity and capability of the federal government is brought to this effort to protect and support our families, schools, and businesses, and to assist state, local, tribal, and territorial governments in the fight against COVID-19.

The National Guard will continue assisting with vaccine distribution as their medical teams continue supporting direct patient care. National Guard teams help distribute food and PPE, support contact tracing and testing.

To date, FEMA has provided more than \$32.1 billion in COVID-19 assistance including \$6.1 billion for vaccination support. Previously, President Biden approved FEMA to provide 100% cost share for these measures until December 31, 2021.

Contact Us

If you have any questions, please contact FEMA Office of External Affairs:

- Congressional Affairs at (202) 646-4500 or at FEMA-Congressional-Affairs@fema.dhs.gov
- Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov
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Mission

Helping people before, during, and after disasters.