



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

AGENDA ITEM #2(E)  
December 7, 2021  
**Introduction**

## **SUBJECT**

Special Appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget; Montgomery County Government; Department of General Services; \$150,000 (Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves); CASA Workforce Development and Citizenship Center; and, Amendment to the FY22 Operating Budget for the Montgomery County Government Resolution 19-872, Section G, Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status: CASA de Maryland, Inc. Lead Sponsor: County Council

## **EXPECTED ATTENDEES**

None

## **COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

- Introduction only. Public Hearing and Action are scheduled for December 14, 2021.

## **DESCRIPTION/ISSUE**

CASA has been one of the County's most important partners in supporting immigrant and Latino residents. They have operated Welcome Centers in Silver Spring, Wheaton, and Rockville that have matched laborers with employers and prevented low wage workers from wage theft and abuse. CASA provides job training, assistance with citizenship, and legal education and representation. CASA has proposed establishing a Workforce Development and Citizenship Center at the site of the Rockville Welcome Center, which is a County-owned facility. This funding will allow the Department of General Services and CASA to complete design work needed for a detailed cost estimate for renovation of the building.

## **SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS**

- CASA reports that through the Montgomery County Welcome Centers and centers in Langley Park and Baltimore they place workers in about 11,000 jobs annually, generating more than \$3.3 million in annual earnings for workers and their families.
- CASA will expand its center in Rockville to provide a workforce development program that will help people to obtain longer-term employment at higher wages, increasing self-sufficiency.
- Additional training space will provide instruction in additional areas such as Building Maintenance Engineering, solar panel installation, and jobs in the healthcare industry. Expansion of ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) instruction will be provided. Culturally and linguistically competent soft skills/life skills training will be provided.
- Many workers come to the Welcome Centers with skills or certifications from their country of origin that do not translate to the United States' job market. CASA partners with community

colleges and unions. Workers receive industry recognized certificates which increase earnings. CASA also trains workers on how to be safe on the job and exercise their rights as workers.

- At the center, CASA will connect residents with legal education and services, information on citizenship, and other county supports.
- The proposal will allow CASA to fully renovate 4,400 square feet of unused space and fully finish 2,100 square feet of currently used space for use as training classrooms.

**Attached:**

Appropriation Resolution

1-2

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Resolution No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Introduced: \_\_\_\_\_  
Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

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Lead Sponsor: County Council

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SUBJECT: Special Appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget  
Montgomery County Government; Department of General Services  
\$150,000 (Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves)  
CASA Workforce Development and Citizenship Center  
and  
Amendment the FY22 Operating Budget for the Montgomery County  
Government, Resolution 19-872, Section G, Designation of Entities for Non-  
Competitive Contract Award Status: CASA de Maryland, Inc.

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. Montgomery County has partnered with CASA for many years to provide a range of services to immigrant residents and residents who do not speak English as their preferred language. CASA supports the County's response to the COVID pandemic, eviction prevention efforts, provides "Know your Rights" and legal assistance regarding immigration and citizenship, and operates Welcome Centers that provide employment and training services to low-wage and day workers. CASA has effectively eliminated wage theft and abuse for those linking to employment through the Welcome Centers.
3. CASA is proposing renovating and expanding the space it uses in the County-owned building that is the Rockville Welcome Center to create a Workforce Development and Citizenship Center. This Center will provide vocational programs and life skills training that will help residents obtain jobs with improved earnings and stability. As these renovations will be to a County-owned building it appropriate for the County to fund the

detailed design that will produce a final cost estimate. The Department of General Services estimates that \$150,000 is adequate for this task.

4. 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 Department of General Services 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	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000	General Fund Reserves

2. This resolution amends Resolution 19-872, Section G, FY22 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Award Status to add a new contract with CASA de Maryland, Inc for the purpose of “Design and cost estimate for Workforce Development and Citizenship Center.”
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.

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Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.  
Clerk of the Council