



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

AGENDA ITEM #2(P)
December 7, 2021
Introduction

SUBJECT

Special Appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget; Montgomery County Government; Department of Health and Human Services; SAMHSA Block Grants for Community Mental Health Services; Restore to Strength: Strengthening People and Community Health Centers; \$4,999,994 (Source of Funds: Federal Grant Funds) 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 14, 2021.

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

There is an increase need to provide service to those facing mental health challenges or illness and substance use disorders. The need has grown during the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds will be used to strengthen the crisis continuum of care for people in distress. It will support expansion of crisis intervention services and provide effective crisis care that will help divert people from emergency rooms or jail.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the United States Department of Health and Human Services provides block grant funding to states which are then awarded to localities.
- The Maryland Department of Health has awarded grants to support the following: (1) Early serious mental illness services, including early intervention in psychosis, evidence-based approaches to crisis reduction and management among those with emerging psychosis symptoms, and development of cultural sensitivity training, (2) Crisis care infrastructure, including the Care Traffic Control system, necessary to create a statewide crisis system based upon the SAMHSA Crisis Now model, (3) Suicide prevention and weapons safety training for service members, veterans and their families, (4) Critical time intervention to help people experiencing homelessness, with serious mental illness, or with substance use disorder during periods of transition, (4) Readmission reduction programs to provide case management support for people repeatedly hospitalized for psychiatric-related crisis or interventions, particularly in rural areas of Maryland, and (5) Expansion of Family Peer Support and Navigation to strengthen equitable distribution of services to more Maryland families.

Attached:

Memo from County Executive	1
Appropriation Resolution	2-3

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OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

MEMORANDUM

December 2, 2021

TO: Tom Hucker, President
County Council

FROM: Marc Elrich, County Executive 

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation #22-36 to the FY22 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
Department of Health and Human Services
SAMHSA Block Grants for Community Mental Health Services
Restore to Strength: Strengthening People and Community Mental Health Centers, \$4,999,994

I am recommending a special appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in the amount of \$4,999,994 for the Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Block Grants for Community Mental Health Services. This appropriation will fund activities that support the County's initiatives to strengthen community mental health centers.

This increase is needed to provide safe, effective crisis care that diverts people in distress from emergency rooms and jail by strengthening our continuum of crisis care services. This funding will support the expansion of crisis intervention services for persons experiencing a mental illness or substance use disorder to address the estimated needs of over 10,000 people who experience a behavioral health or substance use crisis and are currently not served or are underserved.

I recommend that the County Council approve this special appropriation in the amount of \$4,999,994 and specify the source of funds as Federal Grant Funds.

I appreciate your prompt consideration of this action.

ME:ll

Enclosure: Special Appropriation # 22-36

cc: Dr. Raymond L. Crowel, Psy.D., Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Jennifer R. Bryant, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Earl Stoddard, PhD, MPH, CEM, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer

Resolution No: _____

Introduced: _____

Adopted: _____

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation #22-36 to the FY22 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
Department of Health and Human Services
SAMHSA Block Grants for Community Mental Health Services
Restore to Strength: Strengthening People and Community Mental Health Centers, \$4,999,994

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 Department of Health and Human Services:

<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
\$0	\$4,999,994	\$0	\$4,999,994	Federal Grant Funds

3. This increase is needed to provide safe, effective crisis care that diverts people in distress from emergency rooms and jail by developing a continuum of crisis care services. This funding will support the expansion of crisis intervention services for persons experiencing a mental illness or substance use disorder to address the estimated needs of over 10,000 people who experience a behavioral health or substance use crisis and are currently not served or are underserved.
4. The source of funding for this appropriation is from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Block Grants for Community Mental Health Services. The funds will support the county's initiatives to strengthen community mental health centers.

5. Notice of public hearing was given, and a public hearing was held.

Action

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

A special appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget of the Department of Health and Human Services:

<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
\$0	\$4,999,994	\$0	\$4,999,994	Federal Grant Funds

This appropriation is needed to act without delay in the public interest.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council