



Committee: Directly to Council
Committee Review: N/A
Staff: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst
Purpose: Final action – vote expected
Keywords: DHHS, Newcomers

AGENDA ITEM #5(I)
March 15, 2022
Action

SUBJECT

Special Appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget; Montgomery County Government; Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance; \$224,956 (Source of Funds: General Funds Undesignated Reserve); Lead Sponsor: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- The Chairs of the HHS and E&C Committee agreed that this special appropriation is consistent with the information provided to the Joint HHS and E&C Committee at its February 7 session and could be forwarded directly to Council without an additional Committee session.

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

Newly arriving migrant and asylum-seeking children (newcomers) and their families are arriving in the Washington metropolitan region as they flee violence and poverty in their home countries. The Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement placed 1,231 unaccompanied children in Federal Fiscal Year 2021 and 252 unaccompanied children during October and November of 2021 with sponsors in Montgomery County. DHHS, Montgomery County Public Schools, and community partners are collaborating to provide a comprehensive system of supports; Bienvenidos: ¡Aquí Para Ti! (Welcome [We are] Here for You!!). The Council appropriated funds July 27, 2022 to support this effort. DHHS finds that additional funding is needed to address safety/human trafficking and emergency assistance needs.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- The comprehensive strategy to support newly arriving migrant and asylum-seeking children has six basic goals: Communications; Navigation, Case Management, Health, & Mental Health; Legal Services; Positive Youth Development and Recreation; Anti-Discrimination, Public Safety & Trafficking Prevention; and Education & School-Based Services. The Joint Health & Human Services (HHS) and Education & Culture (EC) Committee was most recently updated on the implementation of this plan on February 7, 2022.¹

¹ Link to February 2, 2022 staff report:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2022/20220207/20220207_HHSEC2.pdf

- DHHS has found that additional funds are needed in FY22 for (1) Navigation Network and Case Management at METS sites and community sites (\$370,00); (2) Human Trafficking training through the University of Maryland Safe Center (\$78,500); (3) Positive Youth activities for violence prevention and violence against newcomers (\$300,000); and (4) client services emergency needs/flex funds for clothing, transportation, and other emergency needs (\$100,000). These additional expenditures are partially offset by \$623,544 in projected unspent funds that are generally due to delays in getting contracts in place during this first year of the effort. Therefore, a net additional appropriation of \$224,956 is requested.
- The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice finds that this special appropriation is likely to advance racial equity and social justice as expanding supports for newcomer children will help address racial disparities in violence risk factors and impacts. The REIA cites information that shows that youth violence, like violence among adults, is strongly correlated with social and economic disparities but that these disparities are consequences of policies and systems, not individual behavior. The drivers of violence are complex and include adverse childhood experiences/trauma, bullying, and school connectedness among other factors. The REIA says that the emphasis on strengthening relationships within schools, as proposed in this special appropriation, align closely with evidence for violence prevention.

Attached:

Memo from County Executive	© 1
Appropriation Resolution	© 2-3
Racial Equity Impact Assessment (Office Racial Equity and Social Justice)	© 4-6
Presentation slides from February 2, 2022 Joint HHS and E&C Committee	© 7-33

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OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

MEMORANDUM

February 15, 2022

TO: Gabe Albornoz, President
Montgomery County Council

FROM: Marc Elrich, County Executive 

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation #22-64 to the FY22 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
Department of Health and Human Services
Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance, \$224,956 (Source of Funds: General Fund:
Undesignated Reserves)

I am recommending a special appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget, for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in the amount of \$224,956 for Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance. This special appropriation continues to fund social service, school-based services, mental health services, and case management needs for Newcomer families and individuals.

As DHHS' work continues with Newcomers, it has found a need to invest in public safety strategies to strengthen cohesion between Newcomers and U.S. born Latino and African American youth. These strategies include investment in school-based programming focused on strengthening these relationships and building additional support for public safety and violence prevention efforts. Furthermore, Newcomers are often preyed on by human traffickers. The additional requested funding will be used to provide staff training and education around this issue through the Safe Center of University of Maryland. Lastly, funds will be provided for winter clothing, transportation, and other client assistance emergencies.

I recommend that the County Council approve this special appropriation in the amount of \$224,956 and specify the source of funds as General Fund: Undesignated Reserves.

I appreciate your prompt consideration of this action.

JB:dl

Enclosure: Special Appropriation #22-64

c: Raymond L. Crowel, Psy.D., Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Jennifer R. Bryant, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Sonia Mora, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer

Resolution No: _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation #22-64 to the FY22 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
Department of Health and Human Services, \$224,956;
Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance (Source of Funds: General Fund:
Undesignated Reserves)

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 Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS):

<u>Department</u>	<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
DHHS	\$0	\$224,956	\$0	\$224,956	General Fund: Undesignated Reserves

3. As DHHS' work continues with Newcomers, it has found a need to invest in public safety strategies to strengthen cohesion between Newcomers and U.S. born Latino and African American youth; including investment in school-based programming focused on strengthening these relationships and build additional support for public safety and violence prevention efforts. Additionally, the Department knows that Newcomers are often preyed on by human traffickers. As such, DHHS is adding additional funding to provide staff training and education around this issue through the Safe Center of University of Maryland. Lastly, DHHS also recognizes a growing crisis our newly arriving youth and families are facing regarding winter clothing, transportation, and other client assistance emergencies.

4. The County Executive has requested a special appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget in the amount of \$224,956 for Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance and specifies that the source of funds will be General Fund: Undesignated Reserves.
5. Notice of a 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 for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is approved as follows:

<u>Department</u>	<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
DHHS	\$0	\$224,956	\$0	\$224,956	General Fund: Undesignated Reserves

2. The County Council declares that this action is necessary to act without delay in the public interest and to provide resources for a unified systemic approach to serve newcomers.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council



OFFICE OF RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Marc Elrich
County Executive


Tiffany Ward
Director and Chief Equity Officer

MEMORANDUM

February 24, 2022

To: Jennifer Bryant, Director
Office of Management and Budget

cc: Gabe Albornoz, President
Montgomery County Council

From: Tiffany Ward, Director
Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice 

Re: Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) for Special Appropriation: #22-64
Newcomer Enhancements

- I. **FINDING:** The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ) finds that Special Appropriation #22-64 Newcomer Enhancements is likely to advance racial equity and social justice in Montgomery County, as findings from related Racial Equity Impact Assessments (REIAs) and additional information about youth violence prevention suggest that continuing and expanding supports to newcomer children and families will help to address racial disparities in violence risk factors and impacts.
- II. **BACKGROUND:** The purpose of Special Appropriation #22-64 is to continue funding of social services, school-based services, mental health services, and case management needs for Newcomer families and individuals. In August 2021, ORESJ conducted REIA of Special Appropriation #22-7, which provided initial funding for these services. In that REIA, ORESJ provided information about the unique challenges facing newcomer families and children and the following finding statement:

The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice finds that Special Appropriation #22-7 advances racial equity and social justice in Montgomery County by comprehensively recognizing and responding to the experiences of newcomer children and their families/sponsors. The County's person-centered and whole of system response supports newcomer children and families/sponsors in navigating often

complex education and social support systems, while also prioritizing critical data collection and analysis, which along with direct community engagement will give departments insight into what's working and what can be strengthened in the County's ongoing response to the arrival of unaccompanied children and their families/sponsors.

Special Appropriation #22-64 continues these efforts and expands them in response to emergent concerns regarding violence prevention and the threat of human trafficking. Therefore, ORESJ recommends that those considering Special Appropriation #22-64 do so by first reviewing:

- REIA of Special Appropriation #22-64 Newcomer Children and Families
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/22-7.pdf>

In addition, ORESJ also recommends reviewing ORESJ's REIA of Special Appropriation #22-11 which describes the racial equity and social justice impacts of a proposed human trafficking prevention program, implemented in partnership with the University of Maryland SAFE Center:

- REIA of Special Appropriation #22-11 Human Trafficking
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/22-11.pdf>

Finally, ORESJ offers the following information about youth development and violence prevention to complement information provided in the previously mentioned REIAs:

Youth violence, like violence among adults, is strongly correlated with social and economic disparities¹. As ORESJ's previous analysis reveal, these disparities are the consequence of policies and systems, not individual behavior. For example, in looking at the consequences of these disparities, studies show that the overrepresentation of youth of color in the juvenile justice system cannot be accounted for by differences in behavior². The drivers of youth violence are complex, including Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)³ as well as other factors found in the community or school-setting⁴:

- Bullying victimization and perpetration
- Cyber violence
- Anti-social peers
- School connectedness
- School performance
- School climate
- Gun availability
- Media
- Collective efficacy

¹ Kristin Anderson Moore, Brandon Stratford, Selma Caal, Carl Hanson, et al. *Child Trends and Futures without Violence. "Preventing Violence: Understanding and Addressing Determinants of Youth Violence in the United States."* Publication #2015-10. March 2015. Available at: <https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/preventing-violence-a-review-of-research-evaluation-gaps-and-opportunities/>

² Annie E. Casey Foundation. "Studies Show Dramatic Racial Disparities in Front End Juvenile Justice System". April 20, 2021. Available at: <https://www.aecf.org/blog/studies-show-dramatic-racial-disparities-in-front-end-of-juvenile-justice-s>

³ Kristin Anderson Moore, et al.

⁴ Kristin Anderson Moore, et al.

These factors are also impacted by racial disparities in poverty rates, parent/caregiver education level, and neighborhood quality⁵ as well as systemic drivers of bias.

To address incidence of youth violence, prevention strategies and activities in the school environment are critical, as is curtailing exclusionary disciplinary action. Related to the school environment, there is mounting evidence about the effectiveness of Social and Emotional Learning, restorative practices, and creating trauma-informed school systems in preventing youth violence in schools. These approaches help to mitigate risk factors for violence. In recent testimony to the US Education and Labor Committee, Vice president for public policy and engagement at Child Trends, Kristen Harper, explained “when young people feel connected to schools and to school staff, they are less likely to engage in risky behaviors (e.g., substance use, violence), be absent from school, or experience emotional distress, and are more likely to have higher grades. Connected students also do not bring weapons into the learning environment and are more likely to report the presence of weapons.”⁶

Taking steps to prevent violence, while also providing universal and targeted supports to meet student needs is also linked to reductions in disparities in disciplinary action: “schools implementing universal supports, with fidelity, within a multi-tiered system of support have lower rates of out-of-school suspension for students with disabilities and less racially disproportionate rates of out-of-school suspension.”⁷

The emphasis on strengthening relationships within schools, proposed in this Special Appropriation, align closely with the evidence for violence prevention. While reducing youth violence is on its own a worthwhile outcome, given the racial disparities in the consequences of violence and in the factors leading to violence, interventions like those described in this special appropriation are likely to have many positive externalities in the school environment and overall community.

cc: Ken Hartman, Director, Office of Strategic Partnerships, Office of the County Executive

⁵ Kristin Anderson Moore, et al.

⁶ Testimony of Kristen Harper, vice president of public policy and engagement, Child Trends to the Education and Labor Committee, Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee. “Serving All Students: Promoting a Healthier, More Supportive School Environment.” February 16, 2021. Available at: <https://www.childtrends.org/publications/serving-all-students-promoting-a-healthier-more-supportive-school-environment>

⁷ Kristin Anderson Moore, et al.



BIENVENIDOS

¡Aquí para ti!

(Newcomers Initiative)

February 7, 2022



WELCOME
Here for you!



UTZ'IPETIK
UJ KO WARAL, CHE KATUTOO



B'A'N
ETULE



The Montgomery County Newcomers initiative "Bienvenidos - ¡Aquí Para Ti!" is a joint effort between Montgomery County Government, Montgomery County Public Schools and community service providers. Functioning as a true network, we support foreign-born individuals and families who have recently arrived in the United States through the provision of culturally and linguistically competent interdisciplinary services and supports.

This initiative was propelled by the unprecedented increase in the number of unaccompanied migrant children and asylum-seeking families approaching the southern U.S. border and arriving in Montgomery County. As such, using an equity lens, the launch of the Newcomers initiative has focused on expanding our capacity to address the unique needs of this subset of the newcomer population.

Our County serves any and all newcomers regardless of their nationality or legal status.

**Unaccompanied
Children
Released to
Families/
Sponsors in our
Region**

	FFY 2019	FFY 2020	FFY 2021	FFY 2022 thru Nov 2021
Montgomery	1,168	214	1231	252
Prince Georges	1,557	263	1678	359
Fairfax	1,318	226	1360	295
D.C.	322	48	307	89
	4,365	751	4,575	995

Source: Office of Refugee Resettlement

<https://www.hhs.gov/programs/social-services/unaccompanied-children-released-to-sponsors-by-county-november-2021.html>



Montgomery County's Status on Hiring

DHHS

- Children, Youth & Family Services
 - Child/Adolescent School & Community-Based Services
 - Contract Newcomer Coordinator, Tania Alfaro hired November 15th
 - Contract Family Support Workers hired in Cluster Projects in November
 - Hiring for additional contracted case managers/mental health staff for METS sites served by Linkages to Learning and School & Community-Based Youth Services (SCYS) underway, but slow due to county procurement processes
 - Positive Youth Development
 - 4 merit Community Services Aides to be hired (in progress)
- Public Health Services
 - Community Health Workers through PCC (in progress)

MCPS

- Hired a Newcomers Transition Coordinator, Oscar Alvarenga hired December 3rd
- Hired 6 ESOL Transition Counselors & completing third round of interviews
- Hired 3 SLIFE Coaches supporting elementary students

Other Agencies

- Office of Community Partnerships/Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center - Legal Services Coordinator (in progress)
- Positions in the Recreation Department to oversee program enhancements

1

COMMUNICATIONS

Our goal: Newcomers receive welcoming messages in their own languages with timely and accurate information to help them access education, social services, and other supports.

BIENVENIDOS
¡Aquí para tí!

LLAMA AL
301 270 8432

Bienvenidos es una iniciativa del Ejecutivo y el Consejo del Condado de Montgomery, escuelas públicas (MCPS) y organizaciones comunitarias.

CASA Identity primary care coalition Candelaria Católicos Sheppard Pratt MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Created both Spanish- and Mayan-speaking language videos targeted to newcomers and receiving communities county-wide **(Communications Shop).**

Using the Spanish-language hotline **(301) 270-8432** linking to navigation and case management services. **(CASA)**



Using the Spanish-language WhatsApp Group: **(240) 447-1862.** **(Office of Community Partnerships)**



1

COMMUNICATIONS

Abuelina Video

PSA Male Voice

PSA Female Voice

Mayan Video ([Ixil](#) , Mam, K'iche, Kaqchikel)

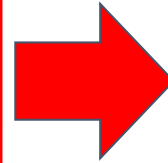
Flyers

Posters

Links to Interviews

Coming Soon

Comcast, Telemundo and Univision

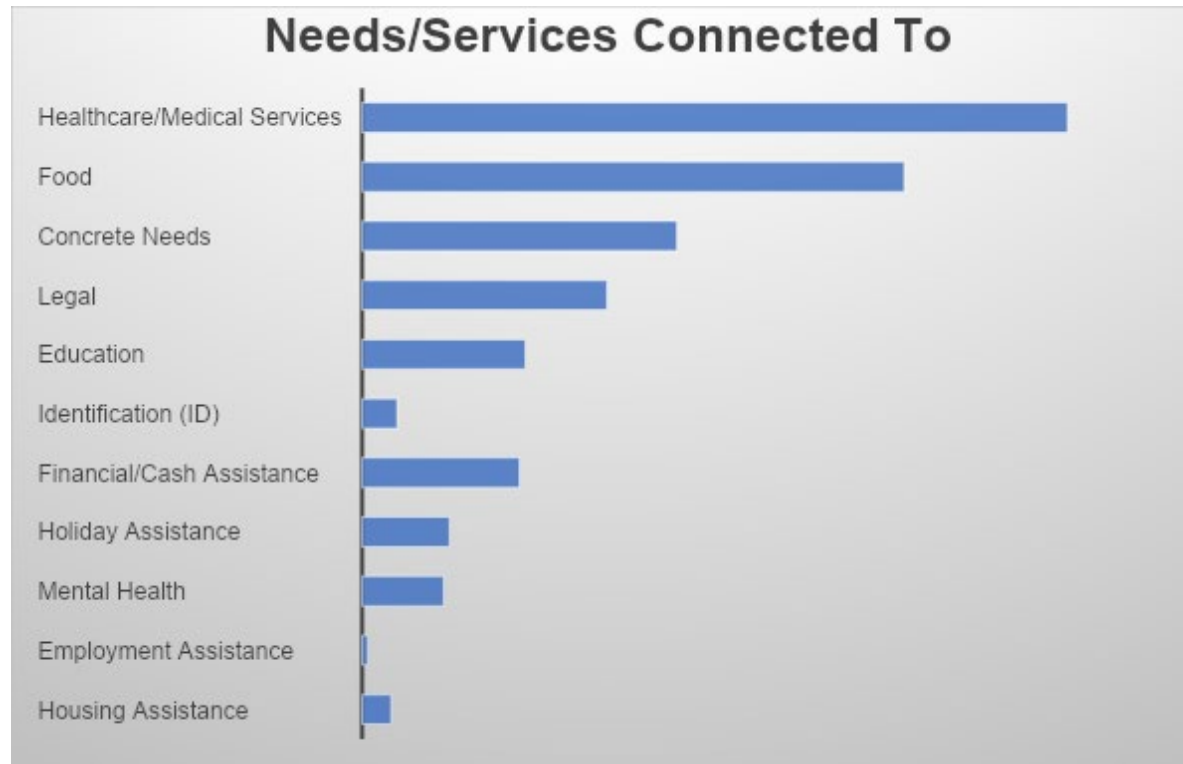


SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2021

Over 3,500 residents from over 1,000 *newcomer households** served

- Top Countries of Origin:
 - 25% El Salvador
 - 24% Honduras
 - 12% Guatemala
 - 12% Not Captured
 - 5% Peru
 - 4% Nicaragua

- Top Cities of Residence:
 - 43% Silver Spring
 - 14% Gaithersburg
 - 14% Rockville
 - 11% Not Captured
 - 6% Germantown
 - 5% Montgomery Village
 - 3% Takoma Park



Partners Reporting to Date:



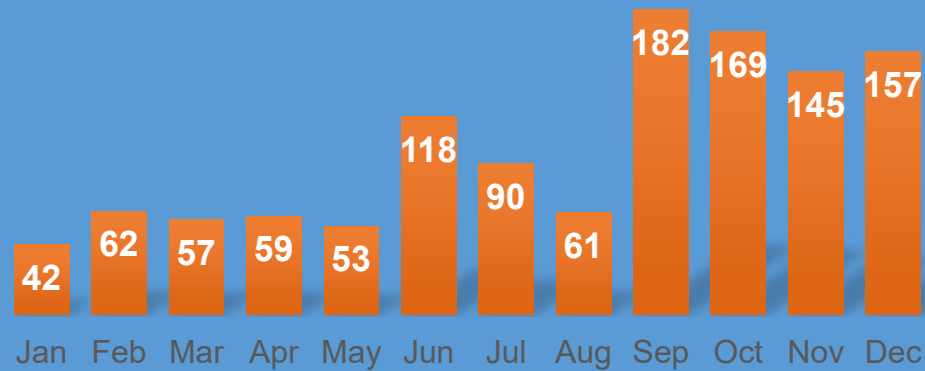
*Newcomer household is defined as any family/household with at least 1 member (child or adult) that arrived in Montgomery County since January 1, 2021



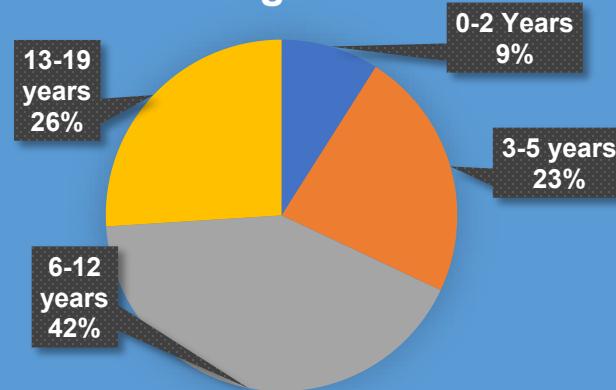
Providing holistic care, creating healthy families

Misha Martin, MD • Angela Masters, CRNP
Bonnie Kim, MD • Kellee Hays, IBCLC
Keren Muller, MD •

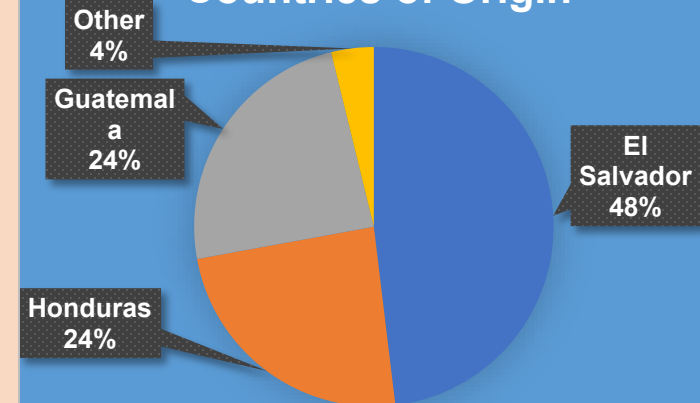
1,195 Children Released from ORR Enrolled in Care for Kids in 2021



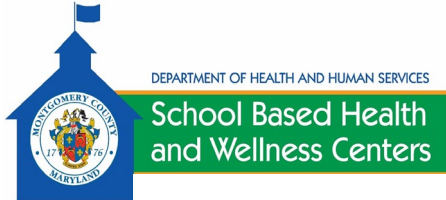
Ages



Countries of Origin

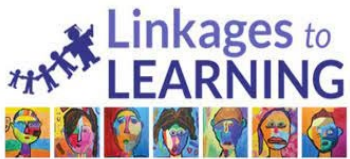


PRIMARY SERVICE CONNECTIONS FOR METS/CREA SCHOOLS



First Resource at:

- Gaithersburg HS
- Northwood HS
- Watkins Mill HS
- Wheaton HS



First Resource at:

- Eastern MS
- Gaithersburg MS
- A. Mario Loiederman MS

*Albert Einstein HS

Bethesda Chevy Chase HS

*Montgomery Blair HS

Rockville HS

Seneca Valley HS

Springbrook HS

Thomas Edison High School of Technology

Quince Orchard HS

Richard Montgomery HS

Julius West MS

Montgomery Village MS

Neelsville MS

Sligo MS

Takoma Park MS

White Oak MS

Wood MS



Seneca Valley HS

Thomas Edison HS of Technology

**DHHS to pilot Public Safety Enhancement Programming at these schools*

Our goal: Increase the capacity of specified legal immigration service providers to deliver comprehensive legal screenings, services, and representation for unaccompanied children and/or their sponsors.



A candidate for Legal Service Coordinator has been identified and will be brought on as a contractor. The contractor will be housed at the Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center, to coordinate referrals, liaise with legal service providers, and develop/implement a public-private partnership to increase funding for legal immigration services.

Additional responsibilities include:

- Serve as a referral point of contact for legal immigration services.
- Serve as point of contact for legal immigration service providers on behalf of the County Government.
- Formalizing and managing public-private partnerships and fundraising activities for a legal immigration resource fund.
- Establishing the eligibility and processes for legal immigration service grants.
- Managing and monitoring legal service provider contracts.
- Coordinating with county agencies to enhance services for immigrants seeking legal immigration services.

The County currently funds 4 legal service providers that provide both legal screenings and direct legal representation to people in deportation and removal proceedings at a total cost of \$670,000.

In July 2021, the County Council appropriated an additional \$250,000 to increase legal service providers' capacity. Four legal services providers underwent a grant review process and were selected to receive this funding.

These providers are:

1. HIAS
2. AYUDA
3. University of Maryland SAFE Center
4. AsylumWorks

This will serve 208-232 clients. Services include direct representation to 43-47 clients and other services to 165-185 people that will include legal screenings, education services, legal preparedness and referrals.

Services will include legal screening, education services, legal preparedness, referrals and full legal representation. This grant will also allow legal service providers to represent guardian or other adults who are seeking custody of the child for the limited purpose of seeking Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.

These funds will be programmed through Gilchrist/Office of Community Partnerships.

Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center: (240) 777- 4940



First Newcomer Youth Leadership Conference

Out of the 100 students in attendance, 71 completed a brief survey that sought to get a solid picture of:

- The needs of the students,
- Their interests, and
- Their thoughts on the customer service response to the Conference.

A summary of key data points are presented:

48% of participants were male, 49% were female, 1% were transgendered, and 1% gender non-conforming.

34% had been in the County less than 1 year

First Newcomer Youth Leadership Conference (continued)

25% of the students miss their families and their country of origin

23% stated that learning English and adjusting to their new school and other students were priorities for them

19% stated that they needed supports to navigate living in a new community as well as adapting to westernized cultural beliefs.

94% of the students expressed having a better outlook of their futures now that they are well informed of all the resources the County offers.

Finally, 79% of the participants expressed a commitment to participate and lead future Leadership Conferences

A few students expressed concerns accessing healthcare, reunifying with families, and/or feeling unsafe in their schools. Their willingness to convey these sentiments is attributed to having access to their schools' Wellness Center. (19)

THANK YOU!!

Special thanks to Gloria Bonilla (Montgomery College), Carolina Camacho (Identity), Carmen Centeno (NCCF), Carlos Repreza (SON) and the planning committee for the Youth Leadership Conference.

NEXT CONFERENCE

- The second conference is scheduled for March 14, 2022 at Montgomery College (Germantown Campus).
- MCPS has designated this activity as a field trip for students that participate.



Our goal: Prevent and respond to public safety risk factors for newcomer children, youth and families.

Partnerships with MCPS ESOL Transition Counselors, Maryland Multicultural Youth Center, SON/Safe Space and Identity are assisting at several schools with METS sites that target both METS students and US born Latino and African American youth to help strengthen cohesion with one another.

Blair and Einstein HS will be the first two schools whose students will be targeted for this effort that seeks to strengthen cohesion between newcomer students and US born students.

Trainings for 2022 have not been scheduled yet. We are currently coordinating with MCPS so that we can expand these trainings to all secondary school administrators. A general overview for school administrators will include overviews on newcomers, PYD strategies working with youth and the impact of Human trafficking on this target population.

HHS PYD will provide an in-service training to all PPWs, PCC, and Counselors in March to help build awareness and understanding of the resources available to students and families.

We continue to meet with trafficking prevention providers for additional trainings for all stakeholders.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
SAFE CENTER
FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS
EMPOWERING THE STATE

SUPPORT, ADVOCACY, FREEDOM, AND EMPOWERMENT CENTER

Montgomery County
Public Schools
(MCPS)
International
Admissions and
Enrollment

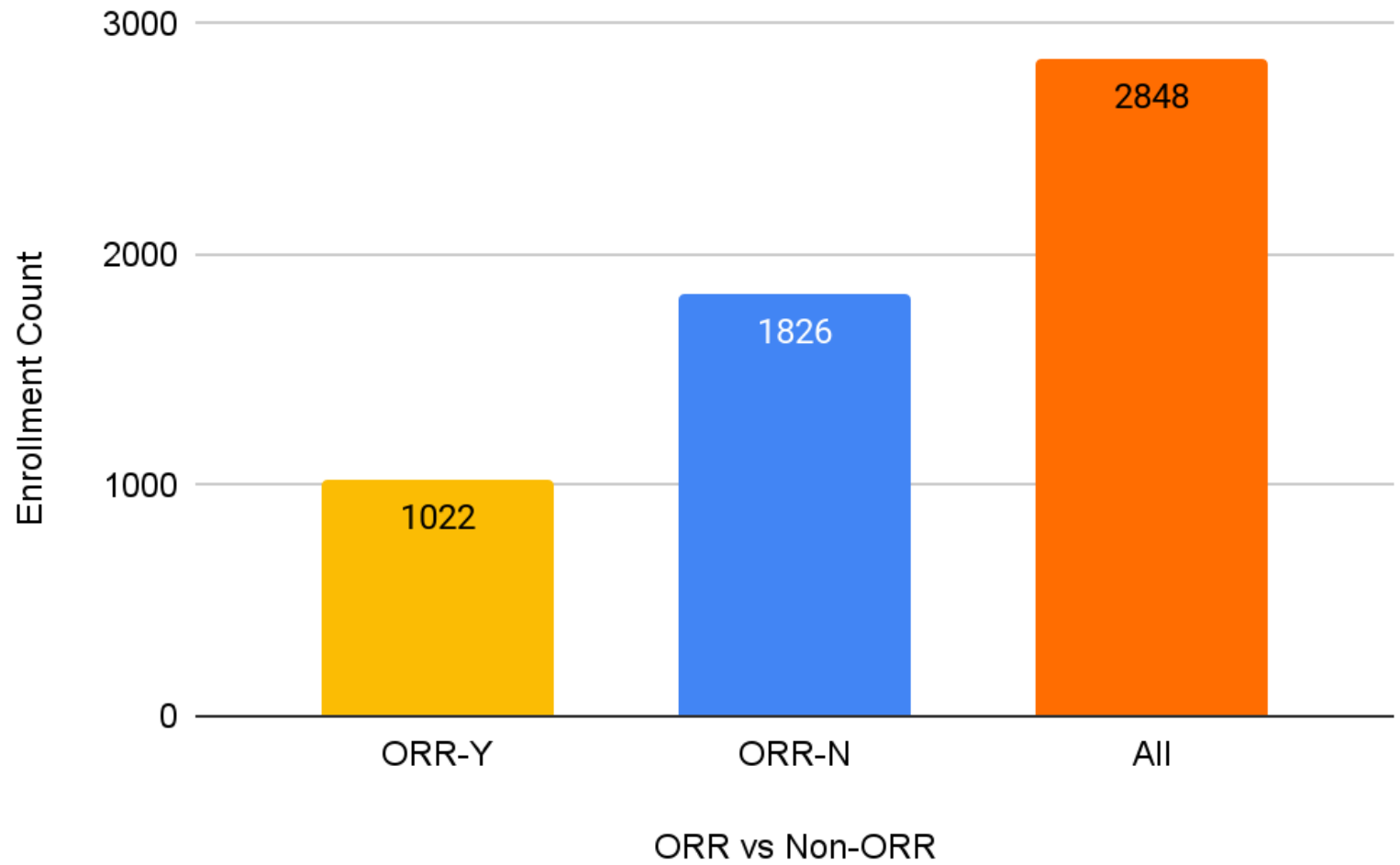


Month	Number of Student Intakes 2017–2018	Number of Student Intakes 2018–2019	Number of Student Intakes 2019–2020	Number of Student Intakes/Cleared 2020–2021	Number of Student Intakes/Cleared 2021–2022
July	366	271	515	1	84
August	869	748	1174	228	389
September	362	748	1104	186	572
October	213	430	571	78	531
November	127	250	227	62	599
December	155	210	211	56	256
January	242	359	361	43	382
February	186	342	228	82	8
March	195	328	82	98	0
April	198	349	5	97	0
May	146	343	42	81	0
June	156	240	10	74	0
TOTAL	3215	4618	4530	1086	2821

Montgomery County
Public Schools
(MCPS)
International
Admissions and
Enrollment



IAE Student Category



Number of Students Enrolled Through the International Admissions Office

School Type	Newly Enrolled and Eligible for ELD Services as of the end of Marking Period 1 (Nov. 4, 2021)			Newly Enrolled and Eligible for ELD Services as of the end of Marking Period 2 (Jan. 26, 2022)		
	Non-SLIFE	SLIFE	Subtotal	Non-SLIFE	SLIFE	Subtotal
Elem.	374	15	389	642	22	664
Middle	170	24	194	325	50	375
High	285	85	370	620	223	843
Other	3	4	7	14	7	21
Total	832	128	960	1601	302	1903

Number of Newcomer Students With 10 Percent or Higher Absences

Type	Absent Rate Lower Than 10%	Absent Rate 10% or Higher	N/A	Total Newcomers
ES	461	198	6	665
MS	267	99	9	375
HS	595	241	27	863
Grand Total	1323	538	42	1903

6 EDUCATION AND SCHOOL-BASED SERVICES

- **Summer Programming for Newcomers**
 - Planning to offer summer programming to support newcomer students in language, literacy, and cultural orientation
 - Researching curriculum options
 - Will provide training to teachers on the curriculum
- **Research on Expanding Newcomer Programming**
 - Currently METS consists of one literacy and one foundational math class
 - We are exploring ways to expand supports at schools that currently offer METS classes, e.g.,
 - Increasing program coordination and case management
 - Providing cultural orientation and ongoing mentoring
 - Met with a local school district regarding their international school
 - Not designed for newcomers but for English Learners in general for all four years
 - Available via an application process (100 students)
 - No data tracking progress of EL students in the program compared to home schools

6 EDUCATION AND SCHOOL-BASED SERVICES

Initiatives updates:

- **Newcomer Professional Development (22 Focus schools)**

- Neurosequential Model in Education (NME) - ESOL Transition Counselors (ETCs) trained (October 2021)
- The Compadres Network - La Cultura Cura Restorative Circles - Cohort 1 (October 2021), Cohort 2 (December) 2021, Cohort 3 (April 2022)
- Supporting Newcomer Immigrant Youth in U.S. Schools - Cohort 1 (December 2021), Cohort 2 (April 2022)
- Unaccompanied Minors - the Case of Indigenous Children in the D.C. Metropolitan region with a focus on Montgomery County - Cohort 1 (March 2022)
- Designing an orientation PD that will be delivered by ETCs, School Based ESOL Counselors (SBECs) and Parent Community Coordinators (PCCs) in schools - [Newcomer Toolkit](#)

- **Newcomer Peer-to-Peer program**

Collaborating with the MCPS Director of Student Leadership and Extracurricular Activities to:

- design and coordinate a systemwide peer-to-peer program
- recruit MCPS students who can support and mentor newcomers Student Service Learning (SSL) hours
- collaborate with the SSL coordinators at each secondary school to implement the program

6 EDUCATION AND SCHOOL-BASED SERVICES

Initiatives Updates (cont'd):

- **Imagination Stage - *ÓYEME***
 - Ongoing *Óyeme* program at Einstein HS
 - Restart the *Óyeme* program at Watkins Mill HS in mid-February
 - In the process of starting an *Óyeme* program at Eastern and Sligo MS, beginning March.
- **CREA**
 - IAE refers students, who meet the criteria, directly to Career Readiness Education Academy (CREA) at enrollment
 - 47 students are enrolled in the Day program and 106 students are enrolled in the Night program.
 - Students have passed 30 GED sections altogether this school year.
 - Areas of priority: somatic health care services, job placement, financial assistance, legal assistance, and affordable housing.
- **College Pathway/Workforce Development with Montgomery College**
 - MCPS Newcomers Transition Coordinator (NTC) will coordinate with Montgomery College to hand-off eligible students.
 - Youth Workforce Development sub-committee will convene as branch of Education Committee to bring together stakeholders, service providers and resources.

Mission: Strengthen English-language education and/or vocational training career pipelines for newcomer youth and young adults.

The Youth Workforce Development Workgroup will focus specifically on building and strengthening educational and workforce readiness options for:

- Newcomer youth that has obtained an equivalent out-of-state high school diploma from a foreign educational institution, and
- Newcomer youth and young adults assessed by MCPS and unlikely meet all graduation requirements prior to turning 21 years of age.

The Youth Workforce Development Workgroup aims to meet by mid-February and will invite the following stakeholders:

- Montgomery College
- MCPS (IAE/CREA)
- DHHS/OCP/Gilchrist Center
- CASA
- Identity
- MMYC
- Achieving the Promise Academy
- WorkSource Montgomery

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

- Rolled out Bienvenidos initiative & participated in several media interviews
- Created appropriate tools & materials for various media options – TV, Radio, social media and WhatsApp
- Targeted outreach to Latinx and Mayan communities
- Disseminated flyers and posters to partners & the community

NAVIGATION, CASE MANAGEMENT, HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH

- Extended Navigation Services through June 30, 2022
- Provided support services to families engaged (i.e. winter clothing, etc.)
- Established primary service connections through all METS & CREA schools
- Implemented data collection practices and protocols
- Ongoing assessment and continuous improvement surrounding client needs

LEGAL

- Increased capacity for legal representation at deportation hearings

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- Inaugural Newcomer Youth Leadership Conference held on Nov 22, 2021

PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY

- Trained MCPS School Safety Staff on Human Trafficking Identification & Response, and Supporting Unaccompanied Migrant Youth & Other Survivors in Our Community

EDUCATION

- Increased staffing capacity to better assist the newcomers students
- Streamlining of enrollment practices and collaboration with community partners to deliver wrap around services at intake.

ON THE HORIZON

COMMUNICATIONS

- Ongoing initiative rollout through various media platforms
- Gathering data regarding campaign effectiveness to ensure reach of target audiences

NAVIGATION, CASE MANAGEMENT, HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH

- Enhanced the protocols for Bienvenidos partners to provide services on site, in schools and the community
- Ongoing efforts to enhance and data collection, monitoring and evaluation infrastructure
- Rollout of Mayan cultural competence training

LEGAL

- Recruiting legal partners to reinforce Bienvenidos' capacity to provide legal education and resources on site, in schools and the community

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- Next youth conference planned for March 2022
- Addition of youth leaders to conference planning committee

PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY

- Expanding Human Trafficking, and Supporting Unaccompanied Migrant Youth & Other Survivors training to MCPS school administrators
- Processing proposals for two new youth violence programs

EDUCATION

- Coordinate a support network and pathway for newcomers who have attained a HS diploma in their country of origin (higher education/vocational training)
- Formalize a systemwide newcomer orientation for students and parents/guardians for METS school sites
- Developing a systematic Newcomer Peer to Peer Program

KEY CONTACTS

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Bienvenidos ¡Aquí Para Ti! Collaboration

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