

WORKSESSION

MEMORANDUM

May 8, 2008

TO: County Council

FROM: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst *LMC*

SUBJECT: **FY09 Operating Budget: NDA: Housing Opportunities Commission**

Those expected to attend this worksession
D. Scott Minton, Executive Director, Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC)
Gail Willison, Chief Financial Officer, HOC
Terri Fowler, Budget Office, HOC
Rose Glavinic, Office of Management and Budget

Summary of PHED Committee Recommendations

The PHED Committee held a worksession on the Non-Departmental Account for the Housing Opportunities Commission on April 17. The Committee recommends approval of the \$6,040,640 recommended by the County Executive and the addition of three items to the reconciliation list.

Item:	Dollar:	Page:
Contribution toward operating of customer services centers	\$100,000	4 and ©1
Contribution toward operating of customer services centers	\$100,000	4 and ©1
Forgiveness of rent for Detrick Avenue	\$118,425	4 and ©3
TOTAL	\$318,425	

**Narrative from the FY2009 Recommended Operating Budget is attached at ©1
December 4, 2007 memo from Executive Director Minton is attached at © 2-5
Public hearing testimony from HOC Chair is attached at © 5-6**

Overview

For FY09, the County Executive recommends that \$6,040,640 in county tax-supported funding be provided to the Housing Opportunities Commission in support of HOC activities. This is an increase of \$309,350 from the FY08 grant of \$5,731,290. These funds are appropriated to the HOC Non-Departmental Account (NDA) and then transferred to HOC by the Director of Finance.

Program Summary	Expenditures
FY09 Recommended	\$6,040,640
FY08 Approved	\$5,731,290
FY07 Approved	\$5,486,710
Percentage change FY07-FY08	5.4%

In addition to the grant, the Recommended Budget notes that in FY08 HOC expects to have signed payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreements that will abate \$6.9 million in property taxes. The following table provides data on the grant, PILOT and combined resources.

HOC - COUNTY OPERATING TRANSFER TO HOC						
FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	% Change	% Change
Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Recommended	FY08-09	FY05-09
4,411,030	4,964,070	5,486,710	5,731,290	6,040,640	5.4%	36.9%
ESTIMATE OF HOC PILOT VALUE*						
FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	% Change	% Change
Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Recommended	FY08-09	FY05-09
NA	NA	5,897,490	5,825,524	6,948,650	19.3%	NA
COMBINED CONTRIBUTION from COUNTY OPERATING BUDGET						
FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	% Change	% Change
Approved	Approved	Approved	Approved	Recommended	FY08-09	FY05-09
NA	NA	11,384,200	11,556,814	12,989,290	12.4%	NA
*Council requested PILOT value be included in budget starting in FY07						

The following table provides information on the county grant as it is allocated to major programs.

HOC - COUNTY OPERATING BUDGET TRANSFER				
ALLOCATION by PROGRAM				
	FY07	FY08	FY09	Change
	Approved	Approved	Recommended	FY08-09
Resident Services	\$ 3,704,869	\$ 3,939,449	\$ 4,248,799	\$ 309,350
Parent Resource Centers	\$ 73,160	\$ 73,160	\$ 73,160	\$ -
Real Estate Development	\$ 179,896	\$ 179,896	\$ 179,896	\$ -
Public Relations	\$ 257,801	\$ 257,801	\$ 257,801	\$ -
Housing Resource Services	\$ 243,064	\$ 243,064	\$ 243,064	\$ -
Rental License Fees	\$ 340,280	\$ 340,280	\$ 340,280	\$ -
Public/Affordable Income Housing Electricity	\$ 530,000	\$ 530,000	\$ 530,000	\$ -
Home Ownership Association Fees	\$ 157,640	\$ 157,640	\$ 157,640	\$ -
Holy Cross Center @ Elizabeth House	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 5,486,710	\$ 5,731,290	\$ 6,040,640	\$ 309,350

Background – Establishment and Purpose of HOC

HOC builds, finances, owns, and manages properties that provide affordable housing for individuals with limited incomes in the County. HOC also finances, builds, and manages income-integrated properties. The County provides funding for HOC to acquire Moderately Priced Dwelling Units (MPDUs) for rental to lower-income families; maintain community standards and relationships between homeowners' associations and public housing residents; provide counseling and support services to low-income individuals and families in assisted housing; and provide information on available housing programs.

In 1966, the Council established the Housing Authority of Montgomery County (HAMC), which was funded as a bureau of the County's Department of Economic and Community Development. As interest grew in expanding the public sector's ability to provide housing services to a wide range of income groups, the County began to explore innovative approaches to provide capital for development. To accomplish this goal, the County worked to create a new housing entity that could provide increased flexibility. In 1974, parallel state and County legislation was enacted to establish HOC.

HOC has received an annual grant from the County for more than 30 years. Originally, the grant provided tenant services for residents in HAMC's public housing programs. The tenant services were designed to assist residents in achieving self-sufficiency; help integrate assisted housing residents in the broader community; and protect the County's investment in affordable housing. Over time, the use of this grant has expanded to include funding for the Housing Information Center, the Scattered-Site Public Housing Program, and the development of affordable housing.

FY09 Budget Issues

The Executive's recommended amount provides for compensation adjustments and an increase in the OPEB payment. There are no new positions proposed for FY09. The December 4 memo from Executive Director Minton requested the Executive and Council to consider three additional items: (1) Ongoing support for customer service centers, (2) offset for increase in HOA fees paid by HOC, and (3) a waiver of the rent paid for the Detrick Avenue building. While this section highlights these issues, HOC Chair Mike Kator told the Council in his testimony that because of the tight budget facing the County, the Commission is not asking for any additional items (©5-6).

Customer Service Centers

HOC has opened its Gaithersburg Customer Service center and is working to open its down-county location. In its December request, HOC asked the County to help offset some of the ongoing costs associated with the opening and operating these centers by providing \$200,000 through the operating grant. The Committee received an update on the centers and agreed this plan is less costly and more convenient for residents and clients than it would have been for HOC to locate to a new headquarters. **The PHED Committee recommends placing \$200,000 on the reconciliation list in two \$100,000 increments to provide a contribution toward the ongoing cost of the customer service centers.**

Home Owners Association Fees

The December memo notes that HOC, like any other homeowner in a development with HOA fees, face increasing fees when there are increasing costs for common costs and maintenance. HOC pays fees in 235 communities. Fees range from \$10 to \$425 per unit. HOC estimates that fees have increased about 10% for each of the last four years. An increase of \$157,640 was provided in the FY07 grant to offset rising costs. **Councilmember Elrich requested additional information on the HOA fees paid by HOC. HOC has provided Council staff with a full listing which Council staff will work to summarize. While most of the HOA fees are under \$100, there are many properties where the HOA fee is in the \$200 to \$320 range.**

Waiver of Detrick Avenue Rent

The December memo notes that HOC has been making a \$118,425 lease payment to the County since 1987 for the Detrick Avenue building as well as covering the cost of maintenance, utilities, and other operating expenses. HOC notes that the original agreement of 20 years ago was based on the need to cover debt costs previously incurred by the County. HOC had asked the Executive and Council to consider waiving the lease payments starting in FY09. **The PHED Committee agreed that if the original obligation has been met, then the County should**

forgive the lease payment for the building. The Committee recommends placing \$118,425 on the reconciliation list for this purpose.

Program Issues

Update on Housing Vouchers

The Committee has previously discussed with HOC the shortfall of Federal funding for housing vouchers which has resulted in changes in the policies for clients receiving vouchers and has minimized the number of new families that can be served. Because of the shortfall, HOC made adjustments in 2006 in the following areas:

- ◆ Increased the minimum payment for families with no income from \$25 to \$50 per month.
- ◆ Lowered the payment standard from 110% of 50th percentile of fair market rents to 100%. HOC noted that this would lower the payment for a standard two-bedroom apartment from \$1,340 to \$1,225. HOC has reversed this policy and it is now calculated at 110%.
- ◆ Reduced the allowable housing size by imposing more stringent bedroom occupancy standards.
- ◆ HOC now recalculates subsidy immediately when notified of change in income.
- ◆ HOC suspended rent increases from April 2005 to October 2005.

The table on the following page provides updated information on the use of housing choice vouchers. HOC opened the waiting list for a window in August 2006. Over 15,000 households are still on the waiting list. New vouchers come through attrition which generally means that about 400 new households might be served in a year. Current income limits for the Housing Choice Voucher Program are at © 7.

The Committee was told that funding levels are up and they may be able to reach 5,689 total vouchers. HOC is calling about 1,000 households from the waiting list to begin reviewing for eligibility.

As a part of this discussion, the Committee was information that funding that had previously been provided by the County for the Rental Supplement Incentive Program is no longer available. This program was started in 1984 to serve 189 low and moderate income (average about \$37,600) households living at five rental complexes that entered into contracts with HOC. Subsidies range from \$230 to about \$370 per month. There are currently 147 households in the program. The funding for the program came from a long-term investment by the County. This investment was called and the principal returned to the county; therefore no interest is available to cover the rent subsidies.

The principal of about \$4.6 million has been included in the Housing Initiative Fund (HIF) resources for FY09. Until the current contracts end in 2010, HIF will fund the ongoing subsidies.

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Average number of vouchers (used as basis for HUD funding)	5,340	5,186	5,351	5,457
New vouchers issued (number of new families in program)	0	273	320	422
Vouchers currently under contract	na	5,192	5,540	5340
Number of Families who Moved	na	1,096	838	1309
Reasons for moving:				
sale or renovation of property	na	40%	28%	28%
medical reasons	na	14%	10%	10%
financial burden	na	9%	14%	9%
change in family composition	na	9%	6%	7%
repair or safety issue	na	7%	16%	16%
end of lease	na	3%	0%	4%
taking voucher to different jurisdiction	na	2%	3%	2%
wants to move/various reasons (school, job, space, locations)	na	14%	22%	24%
unknown	na	2%	1%	na
Current Average subsidy payment	\$ 936	\$ 919	\$ 883	\$965

Attached at © 8-9 is the summary from the January 31 session on homelessness, of HOC programs that serve homeless households or households at risk of homelessness.

Parent Resource Centers

Attached at © 10 is a recent press release announcing the opening of the Parent Resource Extension Center at the Gwendolyn Coffield Recreation Center. This new center is being funded through a grant from the Collaboration Council for Children, Youth, and Families. Overview information about the Parent Resource Centers is attached at © 11-13. Councilmember Floreen said that she has heard from the Child Care Commission about how important the Parent Resource Centers are and thanked HOC for continuing their commitment to this effort.

Housing Opportunities Commission

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Housing Opportunities Commission is to make housing available to eligible families of low and moderate income and to provide necessary support services to encourage resident self-sufficiency.

To achieve this mission, the County provides funding for the Commission to manage the following public service programs:

- **Affordable Housing Development:** acquires Moderately Priced Dwelling Units (MPDUs) for rental to lower-income families;
- **Public Housing Management:** maintains community norms and relationships between homeowner associations and public housing residents;
- **Services to Residents in Assisted Housing:** provides counseling and support services to low-income individuals and families in assisted housing;
- **Housing Resource Service:** provides customer service, Housing Choice Voucher Program client services, and information on affordable housing programs including homebuying; and
- **Community Relations:** responds to community concerns through the Good Neighbor Program which conducts community surveys and meets with Homeowners Associations (HOAs) and other community groups to discuss affordable housing issues.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Complete information regarding the budget of the Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) is available by contacting the Public Affairs Office of the Commission at 240.773.9000. Copies of the budget are available at Montgomery County libraries.

The FY09 Recommended appropriation in the Non-Departmental Account for services to be provided by the Housing Opportunities Commission is \$6,040,640. The Department of Finance reflects the amount as a transfer in the County's financial statements. This amount represents an increase of \$309,350 from the FY08 approved budget of \$5,731,290.

HOC expects to have signed agreements in FY09 abating approximately \$6.9 million in taxes for affordable housing through the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) program.

In addition, this department's Capital Improvements Program (CIP) requires Current Revenue funding.

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Contact Terri Fowler of the Housing Opportunities Commission at 240.773.9107 or Rose Glavinic of the Office of Management and Budget at 240.777.2769 for more information regarding this agency's operating budget.



**HOUSING
OPPORTUNITIES
COMMISSION**
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

10400 Detrick Avenue
Kensington, Maryland 20895-2484
(301) 929-6700

December 4, 2007

The Honorable Marilyn Praisner
President, Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Sixth Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Ms. Praisner,

On behalf of the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County, I am submitting a request for funding from the County's FY'09 Operating Budget at the submission target of \$5,962,470 as indicated in the Operating Budget Guidance Memorandum. HOC has also requested an adjustment of \$78,170 for the incremental Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) costs associated with the work years funded by the County. OMB is currently reviewing this request.

HOC is Montgomery County's primary owner, operator and developer of affordable housing. As the housing needs of the County's low and moderate income families continue to grow, and continue to be unmet, HOC has never been more central to the County's ability to meet the needs of these citizens.

As you are aware, HOC relies heavily on County funding for its Resident Services, Public Affairs and Housing Resource Service Divisions. We continue to use County dollars to leverage additional funds from Federal, State, and local sources. These dollars allow HOC to increase the range and level of services to residents. Historically, the County allocation has leveraged more than triple the amount through Federal, State, and miscellaneous grants.

Partnerships with the County Department of Health & Human Services and a variety of non-profit organizations will continue in an effort to provide services to special populations such as child welfare families, other welfare families, disabled single adults and families.

This year, HOC is requesting three "above the MARC" item as follows:

- 1. Ongoing Support for Operations of Customer Service Centers (\$200,000) –**
The Agency conducted a vigorous search for new office space in FY'07. With more than 350 employees scattered throughout Montgomery County and concentrated in four principal administrative sites, HOC has clearly outgrown its current infrastructure. The primary three-building "campus" in Kensington is



located in an area that is not always easily accessible for clients who use public transportation, particularly for a growing upcounty client population.

These facts led HOC to reconsider the plan to move the headquarters and instead focus on opening customer service centers in other parts of the County. Moving customer services to a different facility would enable the administrative staff to consolidate in the Detrick Avenue building while also making services more accessible for nearly all clients.

The first site, which will be located at 101 Lakeforest Drive in Gaithersburg to service the residents in northern Montgomery County, is projected to open in early 2008. A second site is projected to open soon after to service residents in the Silver Spring, Wheaton and Aspen Hill areas.

HOC is requesting that the County provide \$200,000 annually to assist with the ongoing incremental cost to operate the two sites.

2. Home Owners Association (HOA) Fees (\$195,870) -

HOC is an owner of townhouses, single family homes and condominiums in over 275 communities in Montgomery County. Approximately 235 of the communities have home owners associations (HOAs) to which all owners in the communities, including HOC, are obligated to pay HOA fees. Monthly fees range from under ten dollars per unit to almost \$425. HOA fees for townhouse and single family communities cover such community expenses as grounds maintenance (and replacement reserves), insurance (common areas), a management fee (for associations that have contracts with a management company), water service (in some communities where domestic water is not billed directly to the home owner) and HOA administrative expenses. Some communities have community buildings which are managed and maintained by an HOA. HOA fees for condominiums cover the cost of services similar to those for townhouse and single family communities plus the cost of additional services that are typically required in multi-family buildings.

In FY'04, the actual total cost for HOA fees was \$1,446,937. HOA fees have increased 10% on average for each of the past four years. Actual HOA fees for FY'07 were \$1,917,568. Staff projects the cost for FY'08 will increase approximately 10% to \$2,110,887. A similar increase can be expected in FY'09. In FY'07, the County added \$157,640 to HOC's MARC to reflect the change in HOA fees at that time.

HOC is requesting \$195,870 from the County to help subsidize the continuing increase in the cost of HOA fees.

3. Waiver of Detrick Avenue Annual Rent Payment (\$118,425) –

HOC's contractual relationship with the County regarding our lease of the space at 10400 Detrick Avenue developed in two phases. Beginning in 1982, HOC and the County signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) covering occupancy

of the building. In April of 1987, a lease was signed which replaced the MOU that had been in effect up until that point.

The MOU clearly indicates that the calculation of the annual lease payment was based on retiring two types of debt related to the building:

- The first debt was reimbursement to the County of bond debt service due to the State of Maryland.
- The second debt was repayment of a capital investment related to the cost of renovating the building, which was funded by the County, prior to our occupying the building in 1982.

Since 1987, HOC has been paying \$118,425.20 annually, as required by the provisions of the lease. It should also be noted that the lease places all obligation for repairing, maintaining, and operating the building on HOC - except for very limited and specific responsibilities. The County has not incurred any of the usual costs associated with owning and operating the facility in the County's capacity as landlord. HOC budgeted approximately \$425,000 for utilities, repairs, maintenance, and other normal operating expenses associated with the building for FY'08.

For these reasons, HOC is asking the County to waive future lease payments for the Detrick Avenue building.

We have attached the back-up materials, as submitted to the Office of Management and Budget through the Financial Management Software System. Please note that HOC is unable to print reports directly from the system, therefore, we have attached faxed copies.

We appreciate your consideration of our request. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Terri Fowler, Budget Officer at (240) 773-9107.

Sincerely,



D. Scott Minton
Executive Director

cc: Isiah Leggett, County Executive
Joseph F. Beach, Director, Office of Management & Budget
Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst

Attachment

Testimony on the FY 09 Operating Budget
by the
Housing Opportunities Commission
April 9, 2008

Good afternoon Mr. President and Members of the County Council. I am Mike Kator, Chair of the Housing Opportunities Commission.

We are all aware of the difficulty of the budget issues facing you this spring. HOC is grateful for the Council's longstanding support, both in understanding and in funding. In several past years, the Council has added funding to HOC's grant to meet particular needs. Last year, for example, you funded an additional staff person to do emergency services intake. This year, we have no additional requests. We are here today to thank you for your continued support and to ask you to approve the NDA as recommended by the Executive.

The lion's share of the County's grant to HOC supports the services we provide to our residents. It reflects your recognition that the combination of shelter and services gives low income families their best chance for stability and success. Your dollars enable HOC to qualify for additional federal and state grants that leverage the county funds and effectively triple the resources we have to provide programs that benefit our families. For example, we received the seventh largest Family Self-Sufficiency grant in the country, \$397,000, which is more than most states received. Many of you have attended an FSS graduation and know first hand how moving it is to hear graduates describe how they have achieved educational goals, found good paying jobs and, in some cases, purchased homes.

Another grant you might be particularly interested in enables us to give SAT prep courses to our kids and engage them in other activities to encourage and enable them to go to college. Research has found that the single most effective path for

women to escape poverty is a four-year college degree. Helping our kids go to college holds great promise for them.

As you review county department budgets, we urge you to protect funding for services that support the county's low income families. Our families, and other families like them, don't have any economic flexibility. Whether it's a rental subsidy, a deposit on a new apartment, or an electric bill, when they need additional support, they have nowhere else to go. They also benefit from the range of programs that move them toward self-sufficiency, such as education and child care. Three percent of the county's families live below the poverty line, Your attention and your protection is vital to these families.

HOC welcomes your rental subsidy initiative related to the increased recordation tax that you approved last fall. You have many options about how to make the best use of that new funding source, and we will be happy to put our expertise at your disposal.

Finally, we urge you to fully fund the HIF. The HIF is critical funding for the preservation and renovation of the County's existing affordable housing. It is also an essential source of funds to create homes for the homeless.

Thank you again for your recognition of the importance of HOC's work. We value and appreciate our excellent relationship with you, and look forward to continuing to serve the county's families together.

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10400 Detrick Avenue
 Kensington, MD 20895
 (240) 773-9000 (Phone)
 (301) 949-4690 (Fax)
 (301) 949-3222 (TTY)

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Home > Housing Programs > Housing Choice Voucher Program > Income Limits

Housing Choice Voucher Program

Housing Choice Voucher Income Limits Effective February 2008

Family Size	Section 8 Extremely Low Income (75%)	Section 8 Very Low Income (25%)
1	\$ 20,650	\$ 34,450
2	\$ 23,600	\$ 39,350
3	\$ 26,550	\$ 44,300
4	\$ 29,500	\$ 49,200
5	\$ 31,850	\$ 53,150
6	\$ 34,200	\$ 57,050
7	\$ 36,600	\$ 61,000
8	\$ 38,950	\$ 64,950

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 E-Mail Webmaster with questions or comments.



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CURRENT HOC PROGRAMS SERVING THE HOMELESS

Program Title	Program Description	Total Budget	Amt from State or Federal grants	Amt. of County contribution	No. HOC Clients/Families Served	No. non-HOC clients served
Turnkey Program	Permanent housing assistance provided to chronically mentally ill with homeless given priority	\$168,600	\$143,600 HCV project based subsidies	\$25,000	11	DHHS Referrals only
McKinney Supportive Housing Program (Permanent Housing Program)	Provides housing assistance and services to homeless individuals and families. Most have disabilities including chronic mental illness.	\$3,042,362	\$2,674,111	\$43,190 DHHS \$36,650 DHCA-JB \$288,411 Other County	159	All referrals from DHHS
Supportive Housing Rental Assistance Program (SHRAP)	Contract with HHS which provides a staff person to provide housing search assistance and intensive case management for up to 26 County-referred chronically homeless with disabilities.	\$63,000	-0-	\$63,000	Up to 26 Homeless/disabled individuals/families	26
Shelter Plus Care (S+C)	Provides leasing costs for up to 45 single homeless adults with disabilities	\$592,416	\$592,416	(HHS) Core Services contracts with Mental Health Assn. (MHA) for case management to S+C clients	45 homeless/disabled adults	Referrals from County made to MHA
New Neighbors 1 & II (NN)	Provides leasing costs and p/t staff to determine eligibility, recertifications and inspections	\$143,030	\$143,030	(HHS) Core Services contracts with MHA for case management to NN clients	21	All referrals from DHHS Core Services
Jesup Blair Program	Historic Jesup Blair House provides housing for single women with 1 child	\$191,000	\$96,000 Operational	\$95,000 for bidg repairs	8	All DHHS referrals
State Rental Assistance Prog. (St. RAP)	Provides shallow subsidies (up to \$500 for 1 bedroom & \$650 for 3 bedrooms) to homeless or about to be homeless families for no more than 2 years	\$216,000	\$103,000 (recent 9% cut for FY09)	\$113,000 from County HOME program	20-22 families	Referrals from DHHS

(8)

HOC PROGRAMS TO PREVENT HOMELESSNESS

Program Title	Program Description	Total Budget	Amt from State or Federal grants	Amt. of County contribution	No. HOC Clients/Families Served	No. non-HOC clients served
Homelessness Prevention - Emergency Assistance Services	Eviction prevention program providing financial assistance to resolve crises for HOC residents facing eviction due to rent delinquency, utility disconnections and/or in need of security deposits etc.	\$306,894	\$145,399 State grant to County contract to HOC	\$161,495	1,300 HOC families	-0-
Housing Counseling	Counseling to County residents in housing search process; provides assistance with credit repair and other issues. Focus is on homeless individuals/families.	\$66,255	\$36,900 State grant to County contract to HOC	\$ 29,336		70 DHHS referred clients
Resident Temporary Assistance Program (ReTAP)	Provides financial assistance to HOC residents in Tax Credit or other non deeply subsidized programs who are facing extreme temporary hardship.	\$22,800 (HOC funds)			@20 -25 families annually	

10400 Detrick Avenue
Kensington, Maryland
20895
240-773-9344

www.hocmc.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, February 19, 2008

CONTACT: Susan Krimer Yancy
240-773-9060

HOC TO OPEN NEW PARENT RESOURCE CENTER IN SILVER SPRING MARCH 3

\$25,000 Grant from Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families Funds Opening

The Housing Opportunities Commission and its nonprofit organization, Community Partners, Inc., will open a new Parent Resource Center at the Gwendolyn Coffield Recreation Center at 2450 Lyttonville Road in Silver Spring on March 3. Funding for the Center is being assisted by a \$25,000 grant from the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families. The Montgomery County Department of Recreation provided space for the Center.

The Silver Spring "Parent Resource Extension Center" will target parents and young children, providing support and activities designed to enhance early childhood development and helping to identify children with special needs. Center staff will also provide referrals to assist parents with parenting and family concerns.

The new center in Silver Spring is HOC's fourth Parent Resource Center. Other centers operate in Rockville and Gaithersburg. More information about the Parent Resource Centers is available on the HOC website: www.hocmc.org under the "Important Links" information box.

The Parent Resource Extension Center in Silver Spring will be open between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Membership fees to the Center are based upon a sliding scale according to household income.

An Open House celebration for the Parent Resource Extension Center will be held on Friday, February 22 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. All Media are invited to attend.

###

NEWS RELEASE



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 (240) 773-9000 (Phone)
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Home > Parent Resource Centers

Parent Resource Centers

*Parents are their children's first
 and most important teachers.*

Parent Resource Centers support families and enhance the healthy development of children while encouraging parents as the primary teachers of their children.

At the centers, parents and their children, between the ages of 0 and 5 years, come together to play in an early childhood/parenting classroom equipped with preschool toys, books, games, and art activities. As a parenting program, the Parent Resource Centers are different from nursery schools, day care centers, and indoor playgrounds. Parent educators supervise the centers, plan the activities, provide child development information, and offer parenting support. Instead of working directly with the children, they provide the tools for parents to teach their children through play-oriented, educational parent-child activities. Parents and children are welcome to come and play together whenever they wish during the centers' daytime operating hours.

The Centers Provide:

- a place to play and learn with your child
- an opportunity to share ideas about parenting
- help with problem-solving your parenting concerns
- resources that support families
- a happy first school experience where children are valued and respected

We Hope you Will:

- learn about child development
- enhance parenting skills
- welcome and support others
- share your expertise about child development, parenting, and family life
- become involved in the center program
- let us know how we can improve the program and better meet your family's needs
- have fun with your child and enjoy the center!



How to I

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10400 Detrick Avenue
Kensington, MD 20895
(240) 773-9000 (Phone)
(301) 949-4690 (Fax)
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Parent Resource Centers



Locations and Hours

Opening Day: September 4, 2007
Closing Day: June 12, 2008

Location	Hours
Children's Resource Center, Room D-4 332 West Edmonston Drive Rockville, MD 20850 (301) 279-8497	Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Millian Memorial United Methodist Church 13016 Parkland Drive Rockville, MD 20853 (301) 933-3646	Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Emory Grove Family Resource Center 8107 Morningview Drive Gaithersburg, MD 20877 (301) 990-6438	Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Gwendolyn R. Coffield Community Center 2459 Lyttonsville Road Silver Spring, MD 20910 (240) 773-9333	Mondays and Fridays 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Openings & Closings

Center programs will open and close according to posted schedules. The Resource Centers will be closed for **Montgomery County Public Schools** closings for snow or other inclement weather, if in doubt, call the center.

In cases of Montgomery County Schools opening late, the Parent Educator will make every effort to be at the Center as soon as possible, and as close to the posted opening time as feasible.

In addition, the Parent Resource Centers will be closed the following days:

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10400 Detrick Avenue
Kensington, MD 20895
(240) 773-9000 (Phone)
(301) 949-4690 (Fax)
(301) 949-3222 (TTY)

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Parent Resource Centers

Becoming a Member

The Parent Resource Centers are open to all families on a membership basis. Registration is ongoing throughout the school year, but families are encouraged to sign up early to get the maximum benefit from their membership. The membership fee entitles a family to unlimited visits at all the centers.



If fees are a hardship for your family, please let us know. Payment plans and a limited number of scholarships are available. Speak with the parent educator call Eugene Spencer at (240) 773-9327 for more information.

For family child care providers: The family of each child who attends with a family child care provider must join and pay the membership fees.

March - June 2008 Family Fee Schedule Montgomery County Residents

Income Range	Annual Fee
\$ 0 - 30,000	\$ 10.00
\$ 30,001 to 50,000	\$ 25.00
\$50,001 to 75,000	\$ 45.00
\$ 75,001 - 100,000	\$ 75.00
Over \$ 100,000	\$ 100.00
Non-County Residents	\$ 200.00

Fees are for the entire year and are payable at the time of registration.

Fees for HOC families who are participating in the program will be paid.

Fees for Millian Memorial Families who are participating in the program will be paid.

Family Incomes may be subject to verification.

If there is a particular financial hardship placed on a family by the fee, due to some special circumstance, please contact the parent educator for more information.

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