

HHS/ED COMMITTEE # 3
April 29, 2016

WORKSESSION

MEMORANDUM

April 28, 2016

TO: Health and Human Services Committee
Education Committee

FROM: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst 

SUBJECT: **Worksession:** FY17 Recommended Operating Budget
Weekend Food Bags/ *SmartSacks*

Those expected for this worksession:

Uma Ahluwalia, Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Dr. Chrisandra Richardson, Associate Superintendent, Montgomery County
Public Schools (MCPS)
Judith Clark, Women Who Care Ministries
Jackie DeCarlo, Manna Food Center
Jeremy Lichtenstein, Kids in Need Distributors (KIND)

At this session, the joint Committee will consider the recommendation from Councilmembers Berliner, Leventhal, and Rice to place \$150,000 on the reconciliation list to begin implementing a strategy to substantially increase the number of children served by the Weekend Food Bag/*SmartSacks* program. The memo attached at © 1-2 outlines the proposal and describes the evidence of significant need. Attached at © 3-5 is a listing of MCPS elementary schools, the number of children eligible for Free or Reduced Meals (FARMS) and the number of children who are currently being served. There are some schools, such as Kemp Mill Elementary School and Captain James E. Daly Elementary School where weekend food is provided to a significant percentage of FARMS eligible children while at others, such as Roscoe Nix Elementary School, it is not.

The Councilmembers have engaged MCPS, and MCPS is committed to helping increase the number of children served and making sure systems can be put in place to identify children and efficiently deliver and distribute food. The proposal provides time for creating a spending and implementation plan that would be forwarded to the Council before these funds are spent.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

ROGER BERLINER
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT I

CHAIRMAN
TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

April 27, 2016

TO: Councilmembers

FROM: Councilmember Roger Berliner *RB*

Councilmember George Leventhal *George*

Councilmember Craig Rice *Craig Rice*

SUBJECT: Request for \$150,000 in Funding for Weekend Food Bags/*Smartsacks*

Food insecurity is a significant problem for many school-aged children in Montgomery County. Currently, about 29,300 MCPS elementary school students, or just under 40% of total elementary school enrollment, qualify for free and reduced meals. For some of the children, weekends and school vacations mean that meals may be missed or that the amount of food their families can provide is not sufficient to meet their needs.

One way that they are helped is through the weekend food bag or *Smartsacks* program. Three of our non-profit partners – Manna Food Center, KIND, and Women Who Care Ministries – work to provide weekend food to over 4,600 children. They do so with a combination of private donations and county funding and with tremendous volunteers who bag and deliver food.

We are proposing \$150,000 to grow this program in FY17 in a way that we expect to be the first step in a long range plan to significantly increase the number of children being helped.

Not every FARMS eligible student needs this kind of assistance, but we expect that 25% to 30% do. Here are just two examples that show how far we are from meeting this goal.

- At New Hampshire Estates Elementary School, there are 459 FARMS eligible children. Serving 30% would mean serving 138. Currently, weekend food bags are provided to 30.
- At Roscoe Nix Elementary School, there are 404 FARMS eligible children. Serving 30% would be 121. Currently, weekend food bags are provided to 8.

The \$150,000 would be appropriated to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) with the requirement that DHHS, in consultation with Manna, KIND, Women Who Care, Montgomery

County Public Schools (MCPS), and other potential partners provide the Council with a spending plan no later than August 15th so that a plan is in place for the 2016-2017 school year. The plan must tell the Council the schools that are being targeted, how MCPS will identify the children and provide information on the numbers of bags needed, how private donations and volunteers will continue to be leveraged, and any infrastructure/administrative costs for the non-profits that will come from the funding. We hope that this can grow the number of children served by about 1,100, or 25%.

MCPS has committed to us that they will make sure schools have a process in place to identify children, accept the food, and distribute the food. We know that school staff have many duties and we are pleased that MCPS is committed to finding a way to make this effort successful.

This program is one of the efforts that will be incorporated into the Strategic Plan to End Food Insecurity, which we have sponsored legislation to establish. While the Strategic Plan will take some time, there is no need to wait to find a way to expand this proven strategy to help elementary school students have enough to eat each weekend.

This request will be discussed at the April 29th worksession of the joint HHS and ED Committees which we are hopeful will recommend adding this funding to the reconciliation list.

CC: Andrew Zuckerman, MCPS
Uma Ahluwalia, DHHS
Jackie DeCarlo, Manna Food Center
Judith Clark, Women Who Care Ministries
Jeremy Lichtenstein, KIND

School Name	October 31 Enrollment	Free Meals	Reduced Meals	F & R Total	Percentage	Weekend Bags Provided	Organization
Broad Acres ES	818	717	57	774	94.62%	170	Manna/KIND
New Hampshire Estates ES	496	401	58	459	92.54%	30	Manna
Harmony Hills ES	742	525	124	649	87.47%	100	Manna/KIND
South Lake ES	818	623	76	699	85.45%	138	WWC/KIND/Manna
Gaithersburg ES	867	636	90	726	83.74%	160	Manna/KIND
Wheaton Woods ES	532	367	73	440	82.71%	48	Manna
Summit Hall ES	671	455	93	548	81.67%	40	Manna
Sargent Shriver ES	762	490	129	619	81.23%	100	Manna/KIND
Oak View ES	402	274	47	321	79.85%	23	Manna
Highland ES	558	374	69	443	79.39%	120	Manna/KIND
Georgian Forest ES	585	398	57	455	77.78%	150	Manna/KIND
Jackson Road ES	699	454	88	542	77.54%	36	Manna
Kemp Mill ES	534	367	42	409	76.59%	225	Manna/KIND
Cresthaven ES	515	334	59	393	76.31%	22	Manna
Weller Road ES	708	434	101	535	75.56%	98	Manna/KIND
Watkins Mill ES	677	453	56	509	75.18%	70	Manna
Roscoe Nix ES	543	339	65	404	74.40%	8	Manna
Arcola ES	701	450	69	519	74.04%	60	Manna
Washington Grove ES	452	277	53	330	73.01%	70	Manna
Rolling Terrace ES	900	597	50	647	71.89%	35	Manna
Capt. James E. Daly ES	596	356	69	425	71.31%	143	Women Who Care
Bel Pre ES	576	332	78	410	71.18%	44	Manna
Brown Station ES	501	295	48	343	68.46%	69	Women Who Care
Brookhaven ES	452	236	69	305	67.48%	20	Manna
Clopper Mill ES	495	292	42	334	67.47%	67	Women Who Care
Cannon Road ES	429	230	59	289	67.37%	36	Manna
Viers Mill ES	688	367	91	458	66.57%	35	Manna
Burnt Mills ES	532	287	67	354	66.54%	44	Women Who Care
Twinbrook ES	540	280	77	357	66.11%	30	Manna
Glenallen ES	667	352	88	440	65.97%	25	Manna
Greencastle ES	761	410	82	492	64.65%	100	Manna
Flower Hill ES	499	270	50	320	64.13%	15	Manna
Montgomery Knolls ES	487	283	28	311	63.86%	48	Manna
Glen Haven ES	554	291	52	343	61.91%	90	Manna
Strathmore ES	470	235	52	287	61.06%	40	Manna
Stedwick ES	577	292	58	350	60.66%	39	Women Who Care
Whetstone ES	798	398	82	480	60.15%	97	Women Who Care
Galway ES	806	391	93	484	60.05%	25	Mann
Rosemont ES	596	291	64	355	59.56%	40	Manna
Fairland ES	648	319	51	370	57.10%	33	Manna
Judith A. Resnik ES	642	303	61	364	56.70%	44	Women Who Care
East Silver Spring ES	551	271	37	308	55.90%	70	Manna
Lake Seneca ES	509	242	37	279	54.81%	80	Manna
Sequoyah ES	385	183	26	209	54.29%	31	Women Who Care
Fox Chapel ES	632	272	66	338	53.48%	110	Manna/KIND
Meadow Hall ES	463	204	43	247	53.35%	60	Manna
Waters Landing ES	701	315	54	369	52.64%	80	Manna
William Tyler Page ES	425	174	41	215	50.59%	30	Manna

School Name	October 31 Enrollment	Free Meals	Reduced Meals	F & R Total	Percentage	Weekend Bags Provided	Organization
Dr. Charles R. Drew ES	489	200	44	244	49.90%	75	KIND
Mill Creek Towne ES	379	156	33	189	49.87%		
Rock View ES	622	253	55	308	49.52%	28	Manna
Dr. Sally K. Ride ES	516	228	27	255	49.42%	39	Women Who Care
S. Christa McAuliffe ES	640	272	42	314	49.06%	20	Manna
Highland View ES	410	163	33	196	47.80%	36	Manna
Burtonsville ES	611	233	57	290	47.46%	15	Manna
Strawberry Knoll ES	632	243	54	297	46.99%	41	Women Who Care
Pine Crest ES	470	190	26	216	45.96%	50	Manna
Goshen ES	581	210	42	252	43.37%	67	Women Who Care
Maryvale ES	619	215	45	260	42.00%	54	Manna
Flora M. Singer ES	732	253	50	303	41.39%	30	Manna
Fields Road ES	469	163	31	194	41.36%	15	Manna
Great Seneca Creek ES	700	237	29	266	38.00%	64	Women Who Care
Forest Knolls ES	752	231	51	282	37.50%		
Takoma Park ES	705	211	42	253	35.89%	60	Manna
Germantown ES	321	90	23	113	35.20%	52	Women Who Care
William B. Gibbs, Jr. ES	753	218	44	262	34.79%		
Piney Branch ES	567	163	27	190	33.51%	35	Manna
Rock Creek Valley ES	433	111	25	136	31.41%		
Oakland Terrace ES	478	113	34	147	30.75%		
Thurgood Marshall ES	674	177	30	207	30.71%		
Clearspring ES	627	153	33	186	29.67%	103	Women Who Care
Flower Valley ES	497	128	14	142	28.57%		
Rosemary Hills ES	611	149	21	170	27.82%		
Jones Lane ES	466	104	25	129	27.68%		
Lucy V. Barnsley ES	712	158	38	196	27.53%		
Beall ES	827	165	60	225	27.21%	45	Manna
Damascus ES	339	79	11	90	26.55%		
Rock Creek Forest ES	708	155	31	186	26.27%	100	KIND
Ronald A. McNair ES	839	173	42	215	25.63%	17	Manna
Westover ES	301	60	16	76	25.25%		
Stonegate ES	496	94	29	123	24.80%	50	
Cashell ES	372	65	22	87	23.39%		
Woodlin ES	586	108	29	137	23.38%		
Candlewood ES	359	62	20	82	22.84%		
Cloverly ES	474	91	17	108	22.78%	18	Manna
Brooke Grove ES	387	79	8	87	22.48%	35	KIND
Ritchie Park ES	531	98	18	116	21.85%		
Woodfield ES	283	45	14	59	20.85%		
Rachel Carson ES	1,045	181	33	214	20.48%	50	Manna
Lois P. Rockwell ES	459	65	26	91	19.83%	35	KIND
Sherwood ES	516	72	28	100	19.38%	40	KIND
Olney ES	648	100	25	125	19.29%		
Monocacy ES	165	23	8	31	18.79%		
Laytonsville ES	416	65	12	77	18.51%		
Spark M. Matsunaga ES	855	114	40	154	18.01%		
Chevy Chase ES	560	88	11	99	17.68%		
Luxmanor ES	440	59	14	73	16.59%		
Garrett Park ES	798	95	35	130	16.29%	50	KIND
Little Bennett ES	646	75	26	101	15.63%	25	Manna
DuFief ES	313	38	7	45	14.38%		
College Gardens ES	886	108	17	125	14.11%	25	Manna

School Name	October 31 Enrollment	Free Meals	Reduced Meals	F & R Total	Percentage	Weekend Bags Provided	Organization
Clarksburg ES	309	40	2	42	13.59%		
Sligo Creek ES	651	74	13	87	13.36%	20	Manna
North Chevy Chase ES	384	39	9	48	12.50%		
Ashburton ES	919	94	13	107	11.64%		
Wilson Wims ES	924	84	20	104	11.26%	10	Manna
Bells Mill ES	625	58	11	69	11.04%		
Poolesville ES	421	38	6	44	10.45%		
Diamond ES	661	49	19	68	10.29%		
Stone Mill ES	650	48	12	60	9.23%	30	KIND
Cedar Grove ES	586	42	12	54	9.22%		
Greenwood ES	480	35	7	42	8.75%		
Somerset ES	575	37	11	48	8.35%		
Fallsmead ES	541	34	11	45	8.32%	20	Manna
Bethesda ES	562	36	6	42	7.47%	12	Women Who Care
Darnestown ES	287	16	5	21	7.32%		
Farmland ES	692	30	20	50	7.23%		
Lakewood ES	543	25	13	38	7.00%		
Belmont ES	313	19	1	20	6.39%	6	Women Who Care
Wayside ES	528	25	8	33	6.25%	4	Manna
Beverly Farms ES	596	31	6	37	6.21%		
Travilah ES	390	22	2	24	6.15%		
Burning Tree ES	499	26	4	30	6.01%		
Kensington-Parkwood ES	642	26	8	34	5.30%		
Seven Locks ES	398	17	4	21	5.28%		
Wood Acres ES	662	19	4	23	3.47%		
Carderock Springs ES	403	8	1	9	2.23%		
Wyngate ES	759	14	2	16	2.11%		
Potomac ES	475	8	1	9	1.89%		
Westbrook ES	441	7	1	8	1.81%		
Bannockburn ES	419	7	0	7	1.67%		
Cold Spring ES	334	4	0	4	1.20%		
Bradley Hills ES	629	3	2	5	0.79%		
Elementary Schools							
Total Elementary	74,659	24,412	4,814	29,226	39.15%	4,624	
KIND	1,170						
MANNA	2,490						
WomenWhoCare	964						
Total	4,624						

Your School
Letterhead (or inter-office memo)

Date: _____

Dear Parent:

_____, a local non-profit agency is offering a weekend bag program. This letter seeks your interest in and need for this program. The program is free of charge to you and this is how it works:

Prior to Fridays or before holiday vacations, your child will be discreetly provided with a bag of non-perishable food items.

To protect your child and family's anonymity, the bags will be discreetly distributed to the children as to not draw attention.

We are excited about this program and need your permission and commitment to sign your child(ren) up for this program. *Also, we need to know if your child(ren) have allergies to any types of food.*

By signing below, you are consenting to your child(ren) participating in the food program and you are also agreeing to the Waiver of Liability clause. Any questions contact _____ at _____.

The deadline for submission is: _____

Permission Slip and Agreement to Waiver of Liability

___ Yes, I would like for my child(ren) to be a part of the Weekend Bag Program

___ No, I would not like for my child(ren) to be a part of this program at this time.

My child(ren) are allergic to the following foods: _____ n/a – they can eat all foods

Child's name: _____ zip code _____ Food allergy: _____

Child's name: _____ zip code _____ Food allergy: _____

Liability Waiver: *I, the undersigned release _____ School from any liability from the food received through the backpack food program, and I agree to indemnify and hold them free and harmless against all damages, losses, claims, causes of action and suits of law or inequity of any obligation whatsoever arising out of or attributed to any action of _____, up to, including, but not limited to any personnel employed by, to volunteer work with, or provide food to _____ School.*

Parental/Guardian consent: Please print name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____