

montgomery moving forward

mobilizing leaders to solve our biggest problems together
nonprofits / business / philanthropy / government / education / community

September 15, 2020

Testimony

**Kevin Beverly, Susan Madden, and Kathy Stevens
Co-Chairs, Montgomery Moving Forward**

Support

Special Appropriation to the County Government's Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget, Early Care and Education (ECE) Non-Departmental Account, Montgomery Moving Forward - ECE Coordinating Entity Plan, \$75,000 (Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves) and Amendment to FY21 Operating Budget Resolution 19-472 Section G, FY21 Designation of Entities for NonCompetitive Contract Award Status: Nonprofit Montgomery

Thank you for your ongoing demonstrated support of Early Care and Education (ECE) in Montgomery County and, in particular, thank you, for the introduction of this appropriation to bring to fruition an independent public-private ECE entity.

Today, on behalf of the MMF Leadership Group, we now ask you to vote to appropriate \$75,000 to support the ECE Coordinating Entity Plan.

To further this planning effort, MMF has, as directed, secured private pledges totaling \$25,000 to match the County's \$75,000 appropriation. These pledges, from Rodgers Consulting, Burness, Bob Buchanan, Richard E. and Nancy P, Marriott Foundation, and Cliff and Deborah White Family Fund, further demonstrate the commitment of the private sector to an independent public-private entity. These investors believe such an entity will advance a true ECE system that supports the workforce of today, advances equitable learning outcomes for all students, and will build the talent of tomorrow.

Marilyn Balcombe, JoAnn Barnes, Kevin Beverly, Bob Buchanan, Andy Burness, Fabienne Clermont, Raymond Crowel, Annice Cody, Stew Edelstein, Gigi Godwin, Anna Hargrave, Julian Haynes, Leonard Howie, Joanne Hurt, Suzan Jenkins, Mike Knapp, Adam Luecking, Lesley MacDonald, Susan Madden, Manny Ocasio, BB Otero, Arlene Pietranton, DeRionne Pollard, Dusty Rood, Sally Rudney, Kimberly Rusnak, Karla Silvestre, Jack Smith, Kathy Stevens, Tricia Swanson, C. Marie Taylor, Bill Tompkins, Crystal Townsend, Diego Uriburu, Elijah Wheeler, Cliff White, William Weichmann, Janet Wilson, Vivian Yao

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In addition, MMF is grateful for the opportunity to work with the Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) on this project. Together, we have already mapped out a strategy to collaborate on this important work.

With these two important steps now completed, MMF is ready to move forward on the deliverables outlined in our original proposal to you that will result in a blueprint for an independent public-private coordinating entity for early care and education including recommendations for governance structure(s) and for a mechanism for pooled funding.

In order to meet these deliverables, MMF will continue its community engagement process. Community engagement is a hallmark of the collective impact model in general, and MMF's work in particular. In fact, our next community symposium will feature a discussion of an independent public-private ECE entity. This November event will attract several hundred community members and you are welcome to attend.

Community engagement is vital to ensure the blueprint receives the consensus of the community, including both public and private sectors. Additionally, the entity's governance must reflect the full diversity of the ECE community—nonprofits, regulators and policy-makers, ECE education institutions, providers, teachers, child care worker, employers, industry associations, the faith community, arts organizations, and the programs and people that are part of the lives of young children and their families. Therefore, a robust engagement strategy is essential. Since its outset, MMF's collective impact model prioritizes collaboration and equal partnership between the public and private sectors. So, we contend it is imperative that any coordinating entity must be borne of this holistic, cross-sector approach.

We look forward to keeping engaging you and the executive branch throughout the process as we endeavor to identify several recommendations for an independent public-private coordinating entity governance structure and funding mechanism which will dismantle existing silos and better support the workforce of today, improve learning outcomes for children, and build the talent pipeline of tomorrow.

Montgomery Moving Forward applauds your efforts to date and hopes you will support the appropriation to drive this work forward.

Thank you.

Marilyn Balcombe, JoAnn Barnes, Kevin Beverly, Bob Buchanan, Andy Burness, Fabienne Clermont, Raymond Crowel, Annice Cody, Stew Edelstein, Gigi Godwin, Anna Hargrave, Julian Haynes, Leonard Howie, Joanne Hurt, Suzan Jenkins, Mike Knapp, Adam Luecking, Lesley MacDonald, Susan Madden, Manny Ocasio, BB Otero, Arlene Pietranton, DeRionne Pollard, Dusty Rood, Sally Rudney, Kimberly Rusnak, Karla Silvestre, Jack Smith, Kathy Stevens, Tricia Swanson, C. Marie Taylor, Bill Tompkins, Crystal Townsend, Diego Uriburu, Elijah Wheeler, Cliff White, William Weichmann, Janet Wilson, Vivian Yao

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