

Testimony of
Olivia Oliver
Montgomery County Resident

Montgomery County Council
Hearing on Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budgets and Amendments to the Capital Budget and
FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program (CIP)
Council President: Tom Hucker

April 6, 2021
7:00 PM

Good evening Council President Hucker and all the councilmembers present. Thank you for allowing me to share my testimony tonight. My name is Olivia Oliver, I am 24 years old and a recent graduate of the FutureBound program at The National Center for Children and Families (NCCF).

After completing my Bachelor's Degree at the University of Maryland in Agricultural studies, I had a hard decision to make. The domestic situation created by my family was unsafe and I could not remain at home. Initially, I went to Covenant House in DC but because I was a Montgomery County resident, I was moved into the FutureBound program. This program was a crucial transition for me. The location in the County allowed me to have stable and safe housing near my employment. My caseworker was incredible and helped guide me on how to take important steps to support myself, including apply for food assistant benefits.

After saving for 3 years, I purchased my own home in Cambridge, MD and just moved in last week. Homeownership had always been an ambition for me but without a safe place to live, it would have been impossible for me to achieve this goal. Receiving support from the staff at FutureBound allowed me to transform myself from a young person without a home to a homeowner in a few short years.

I would like to advocate for you to continue to fund this program and even expand it in the County. I would also encourage you to invest more in promoting the availability of these services. I did not initially realize that my situation qualified for FutureBound and I wish I would have found my way there much earlier.

Thank you for allowing me to speak tonight.