



FY 22 Montgomery County Operating Budget Testimony

April 8, 2021

Dear Councilmembers,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Nonprofit Montgomery and our alliance of 190 nonprofits that serve the residents of Montgomery County. Nonprofit Montgomery strengthens the nonprofit sector through leadership and capacity building programs, advocates for nonprofits and the people they serve, and addresses community challenges through Montgomery Moving Forward.

Now more than ever, Montgomery County's nonprofit organizations have proven to be essential partners to County Government. In this year of pandemic, our nonprofits have risen to every challenge, from dramatically increasing food access to providing intensive case management with families. Our youth development organizations made sure students were engaged with school, and helped families access equipment and navigate online learning. Our mental health organizations have met increasing demands. Nonprofits innovated service delivery and equity learning hubs, which were then expanded with the support of County government. I am quite certain that County residents are better off today because of the intensive work of our nonprofit organizations.

The last year has shown us that Montgomery County's strategic investment in a robust nonprofit sector has been essential for weathering the pandemic. Nonprofits are also essential to the recovery.

To remain strong, nonprofits need cost of living increases in County contracts. There were no increases in FY21, making it difficult to retain staff and meet the increase in minimum wage and other expenses.

Therefore, our request for the FY 22 Operating Budget is as follows:

- 1) Maintain the continuity for Community Grants and the 1.5% increase on nonprofit contracts in DHHS** as recommended in the County Executive's FY 22 Operating Budget.
- 3) Add a 1.5% increase to nonprofit contracts in DHHS** for a total increase of 3%.

4) Provide a 3% increase for nonprofit base budget contracts in all other County Departments (including Recreation, DHCA, etc.). Contracts in other departments have not typically received increases to recognize increased costs of doing business. The approximate budget impact on \$2,400,00 in contracts and other departments is \$72,000.

The total budget impact of #3 and #4 is approximately \$812,000.

The Council's support is necessary to preserve nonprofit staff and organizational infrastructure so that nonprofits can partner with County government to meet the challenges of the recovery.

Thank you for your support and partnership.

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