



Montgomery County

Budget FY24

Montgomery County Council Testimony on the Fiscal Year 24 Operating Budget

Rebuilding Together Montgomery County

Maury Peterson, Executive Director

Good afternoon. I am Maury Peterson, Executive Director of Rebuilding Together Montgomery County. As you may know, RTMC's mission is to provide free critical home repairs and accessibility modifications to the county's most vulnerable homeowners, including seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, struggling families with children, and marginalized community members. This year we are celebrating our 33rd anniversary and to date we have served 3,000 low-income homeowners and galvanized more than 50,000 community volunteers in our "neighbor-helping-neighbor" approach.

I am proud to live in Montgomery County where it is clear that this County Council is comprised of strong and aggressive leaders in advancing affordable housing.

I am here to thank you for Montgomery County's long-term financial support of Rebuilding Together Montgomery County. As you know, our organization is the premiere local nonprofit 100% devoted to the preservation of existing affordable housing. We do not construct new homes but instead help the average, rarely recognized, low-income homeowner who is in desperate need of critical repairs to allow them to remain safe and healthy at home and to stay in our community. For example, we recently made critical repairs and accessibility modifications to help a 100-year-old widow to continue to age and place and remain safely in her home of sixty plus years. Our aim is to serve our neighbors in need. We are also grateful for the new Design for Life funding that will allow us to provide accessibility modifications to vulnerable homeowners across the county.

In addition to assisting individual income-qualified homeowners, we are focused on forging partnerships to help nonprofits in the community. Together we can do so much! This April, during National Rebuilding Day, our volunteers will help at Heart's & Homes for Youth, The Arc, Community Reach Rockville, Our House, and Housing Unlimited.

While the need for our services has never been greater, our costs for materials have risen dramatically and we have had to rely on more paid contractors. We are grateful for the support provided by Montgomery County which has allowed us to provide critical repairs to 329 low-income families in need the past two years and we are on pace to serve an additional 180 vulnerable families by June 30, 2023.

To address the backlog of vulnerable homeowners in desperate need of help, we request and thank you for continuing our annual funding and for voting to expand the Design for Life program. Thank you.

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