

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** **CTCL COVID-19 Response Grant Report**

Name Kera Bumbray  
 Email kera.bumbray@montgomerycountymd.gov  
 State Maryland  
 Jurisdiction Name Montgomery County  
 Office Name Board of Elections  
 1. Total CTCL COVID-19 Response Grant received: 801912.50

2. Please indicate how much of the grant funds were spent on the following public purposes between the dates of June 15, 2020 and December 31, 2020:

	<b>\$ Amount</b>
a. Ballot drop boxes	32460.95
b. Drive-through voting	
c. Personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff, poll workers, or voters	
d. Poll worker recruitment funds, hazard pay, and/or training expenses	612450.72
e. Polling place rental and cleaning expenses	
f. Temporary staffing support	157000.83
g. Election department real estate costs, or costs associated with satellite election department office	
h. Vote-by-mail/Absentee voting equipment or supplies	
i. Election administration equipment	
j. Voting materials in languages other than English	
k. Non-partisan voter education	

3. Total grant expenditures on sections 2a-2k: 801912.50

4. If your answers to question 1 and question 3 do not match, for what additional purposes were grant funds expended? Not applicable.

5. I certify that

grant funds have only been expended for the public purpose of improving, administering and ensuring the safety of elections.

Yes

Your initials:

KB

6. Are you interested in requesting a 6-month extension to your grant agreement in order to spend down your grant funds?

No, I do not need an extension.

Here's an opportunity to celebrate your accomplishments! What did you do with the CTCL COVID-19 Response grant funds that you're most proud of?

The 2020 Election cycle presented unprecedented challenges due to the health pandemic that prevented many residents from voting in-person. CTCL COVID-19 grants funds were used to supplement Election Judge stipends and pay temporary support staff, allowing Montgomery County Board of Elections to overcome many new challenges. One of our accomplishments our Department is most proud of is the pivot of Election Judge training from entirely in-person to a hybrid system, offering online training classes with in-person hands-on exercises. The Department was also able to timely process an unprecedented volume of mail-in-ballots (348,744), which was nearly seven times the amount received in the 2016 General Presidential Election. The collection of mail-in-ballots was simplified by the Department's independent operation of a drop box system including 58 locations, over a six-week period.

If your annual budget for elections permanently doubled, what would you be able to accomplish that you can't accomplish now?

The Montgomery County Board of Elections is currently operating with a historical structural deficit and is unable to accomplish state mandates with the County Approved Budget. If the budget were to permanently double, the Department would improve infrastructure to ensure efficient operations to meet evolving voter preferences and sustain, and in some cases regain public trust. These objectives would be accomplished by taking practical steps beginning with expanding the size of the Department from 30 permanent employees, and increasing the knowledge, skills and abilities of the hired staff. The Department would development a culture of technology that allows for continued innovative investment to keep pace with the growing population, demands for transparency and security requirements. As staff, technology, and voter population grow, the need for increasing building would be required. Lastly, due to the unpredictability in elections, a contingency or flexibility must be built into

the budget.

Nowadays, election officials are expected to be experts on so many topics. Which challenges do you feel most prepared for? Which do you feel least prepared for?

The Montgomery County Boards of Elections has a committed staff. The Department feels most prepared for standing up new polling places with short notice. Or similarly, the ability to quickly implement new election processes in a structured manner. The Department feels less capable of processing comparable amounts of vote-by-mail ballots or purchasing new technology at the current budget levels, although it would create improve efficiencies. The greatest challenge to Montgomery County Board of Elections is closing the fiscal gap and meeting legislative expectations with current fiscal and personnel resources.

Many of you asked to share photos of how you spent the grant funds. While this is completely optional, we welcome any photos (or other documents) you'd like to send our way!

- [20201026\\_075245.jpg](#)
- [20201027\\_080902.jpg](#)
- [20201103\\_135652.jpg](#)
- [20201109\\_104134.jpg](#)
- [20201110\\_134725.jpg](#)
- [20201121\\_194925.jpg](#)

Any other thoughts you'd like to share?

Montgomery County Board of Elections is grateful for the financial assistant provided by the Center for Tech and Civic Life, which enabled the County to guarantee a fair and safe 2020 Election Cycle. Montgomery County looks forward to partnering with the Center for Tech and Civic Life in the future.

Today's Date

01-26-2021

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