



COMMISSION ON AGING

July 20, 2022

Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue, 6th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Elected Officials:

It is with great pleasure that I write to thank you for your support of the Montgomery County Commission on Aging's (CoA) Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Priorities. The Commission understands that the County Executive and County Council face many competing requests for funding, so we are gratified by the careful consideration you provided to our priorities. The Commissioners recognize that this fiscal year's budget offers the most favorable funding for older adults in many years.

The responsiveness of the County Executive and County Council to the CoA's priorities is most appreciated and will clearly result in better services for older adults in Montgomery County:

- In response to the CoA's request to expand provision of in-home care to more County residents -- decreasing the time residents wait for assessments and services and increasing staffing to improve timeliness and quality of assessments that determine eligibility -- the County Council provided six additional staff for Adult Protective Services in HHS/A&D. The addition of this staff will free other HHS staff to focus on individuals in need of services, but whose needs do not rise to abuse/neglect.
- To make older adults more aware of existing County programs, this year's budget provides funding to maintain the Age-Friendly Montgomery County page in the Beacon newspaper.
- This year's budget restored cuts to the Jewish Council for the Aging's escorted transportation program.
- The County Council responded to CoA's request to expand funding for the Housing Initiative Fund by providing more than double what had been committed in any prior years.
- Budget enhancements for the Departments of Recreation and Transportation will also benefit older residents through the addition of staff for the for South County Regional Recreation and Aquatic Center; expansion of eligibility for the Call-n-Ride discounted taxi program; increased subsidies for wheelchair accessible taxis; and new grants for non-profit transportation service providers.

These examples of the County Executive and the County Council's support of the CoA budget priorities will have a significant impact on the daily lives of our older adult population and improve their ability to live independently in the County.

In addition to the very favorable budget, the Commission is grateful for the support we have received in advocating for several of our ongoing policy concerns. We appreciate the actions of the County Council in working with the State to address the Licensure and Regulatory Nursing Home Inspections Program, as well as the interest shown in bringing the innovative Access HEARS pilot to fruition in Montgomery County.

Department of Health and Human Services

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In this new fiscal year, the Commission looks forward to working with the County Executive and County Council to improve access to County services and enhance the quality of life for our growing older population. Together, we can make Montgomery County a Community for a Lifetime.

Sincerely yours,

Barbara Selter

Barbara Selter, Chair
Commission on Aging