



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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NEWS RELEASE

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Hurried Rollout May Have Affected Grant Payments

Rockville, Maryland – Montgomery County Maryland Inspector General Megan Davey Limarzi announced today the release of a report, [Public Health Emergency Grant Program](#), detailing the results of a review of the County’s Public Health Emergency Grant Program (PHEG). The review found that the County, through the Department of Finance, expeditiously actuated the program, but processing errors may have disadvantaged some applicants and the County. The review also noted that the County made considerable effort to market the PHEG to businesses in hard to reach communities.

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) examined whether adequate policies, procedures, and controls were in place and operating to efficiently and effectively manage the administration and execution of the PHEG. In doing so, the OIG learned the PHEG was developed and initiated within two weeks of the passage of corresponding legislation. Initial policies and procedures defining eligibility criteria and detailing the process for receiving and processing applications, as well as the training of staff to review and process applications, were all completed in rapid succession.

A review of approved applications found that changes to eligibility criteria and award formulas were made after the application period closed; varied processing errors were made by staff; and that processors did not maintain application support documents and written communications with applicants in a consistent and secure manner. Some processing errors resulted in underpayments and improper payments to applicants.

In response to observations made during this review, the OIG published a bulletin, [Lessons Learned from County COVID-19 Grant Programs](#), in October of 2020 detailing several recommended enhancements to County grant programs.

The full report can be found at the following location,
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OIG/Resources/Files/PDF/IGActivity/FY2021/OIG_PH EG_21-008.pdf

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