

MONTGOMERY COUNTY 2017 FEDERAL PRIORITIES

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) White Oak Campus. Montgomery County urges the Congressional delegation to encourage FDA and the General Services Administration (GSA) to accelerate their FDA Master Plan update that is underway, so that a plan is in place to properly house current and anticipated new employees. We support the consolidation of FDA headquarters on land contiguous to FDA's White Oak Campus. Through an innovative public-private financing venture, GSA and FDA would partner with Montgomery County to build, and subsequently lease, needed office space on land adjacent to the White Oak campus.

Purple Line New Starts Project. We request that the delegation continue to advocate for annual appropriations for the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts program that will fund the Purple Line. Montgomery County strongly supports the State's request for \$125 million in FY17 and FY18. This public-private partnership (P3) light rail transit project is critical to Montgomery County and the National Capital Region's transit system.

Glen Echo Park long-term lease with the National Park Service (NPS). In 2002, Montgomery County entered a 15-year cooperative management agreement with NPS for Glen Echo Park. The formal partnership with the County allowed for the restoration of this historic federal property, as well as led to the Park's success as a year-round arts and cultural center. For the past several years, Montgomery County has been negotiating with NPS on a new cooperative agreement for the management and operation of Glen Echo Park. The current agreement is set to expire in June 2017. It is our hope that we can assume full responsibility for Park operations, programming and maintenance while NPS retains title and manifest recognition. In addition to the agreement, the County is also seeking to include the use and maintenance of the Clara Barton parking lot to the terms of the cooperative management agreement. Despite the very minimal use of the parking lot, the Park Service has been reluctant to extend the lot's use for regular Glen Echo Park visitors.

Affordable Care Act (ACA). Montgomery County, as a connector entity on the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, has invested significantly in the implementation and operation of the ACA. The justifications for keeping the ACA in place are many, but none is more important than the 421,084 Marylanders who obtained health insurance because of it. We appreciate our delegation's advocacy and support of Obamacare.

Immigration Reform. Because undocumented immigrants cannot access federal benefits under current law, Maryland State government and Montgomery County government carry the full financial burden of providing these residents with essential services and support. County funding supports an array of specialized programs including Montgomery Cares, Care for Kids, Maternity Partnership, and the Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program, as well as supporting other more basic food, housing, and education programs that serve our most vulnerable population. We urge our Congressional delegation to prioritize meaningful and comprehensive immigration reform that will endow our residents with the full benefits and entitlements of US citizenship so that they may access federal programs (e.g., housing and child

care subsidies, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) that complement County-funded programs.

Tax reform. Montgomery County supports preserving the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds, as well as extending the federal low-income housing tax credit. Provisions like the tax exemption for municipal bond interest have been key to successfully financing public facilities, infrastructure and development, while the low-income housing tax credit has allowed the County to leverage critical financing for affordable housing projects.