



Racial Equity and Social Justice

RECOMMENDED FY26 BUDGET

\$1,676,448

FULL TIME EQUIVALENTS

8.50

 TIFFANY WARD, CHIEF EQUITY OFFICER

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice is to establish Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ) as a core principle in all County decision making. The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice will work with all County departments to ensure race is not a predictor of outcomes for Montgomery County residents. The office will assist departments to examine their own policies, procedures, and practices as well as to develop their community engagement plans to determine if they are creating or exacerbating current racial disparities in the County. The office will also assist departments in developing more equitable practices and policies by examining and developing data and creating racial equity assessments and racial equity action plans.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

The total recommended FY26 Operating Budget for the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice is \$1,676,448, an increase of \$108,766 or 6.94 percent from the FY25 Approved Budget of \$1,567,682. Personnel Costs comprise 85.79 percent of the budget for eight full-time position(s) and one part-time position(s), and a total of 8.50 FTEs. Total FTEs may include seasonal or temporary positions and may also reflect workforce charged to or from other departments or funds. Operating Expenses account for the remaining 14.21 percent of the FY26 budget.

COUNTY PRIORITY OUTCOMES

While this program area supports all seven of the County Executive's Priority Outcomes, the following is emphasized:

 **Effective, Sustainable Government**

INITIATIVES

-  The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice is transitioning all training programs to a self-guided format so that they can be accessed by all staff at any time. The Office is also creating Countywide guidance on equitable community engagement for departments to use in developing community engagement plans.

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Contact Tiffany Ward of the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice at 240-777-5334 or Anita Aryeetey of the Office of Management and Budget at 240-777-2784 for more information regarding this department's operating budget.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice

After many years of spending on programs and initiatives to close racial disparities in Montgomery County, the Montgomery County Council decided it was time to take an approach that looked at race as the primary determinant of disparities. In April 2018, the County Council passed Resolution # 18-1095 to establish an equity framework for policy and decision making. The resolution required the County to perform a baseline study by the Montgomery County Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) to describe current racial disparities in education, employment, housing, health, land use, and others. Following the completion of the study, the County Council passed Bill 27-19 to adopt a Racial Equity and Social Justice law. The law mandates 1) the creation of an Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ), 2) that all County employees receive racial equity training, and 3) that all departments examine their policies, procedures, and protocols for racial inequities. In December 2020, the County Council passed Bill 44-20 that requires the ORESJ to provide racial equity impact assessments (REIA) on supplemental appropriations. The ORESJ will also provide a racial equity analysis of the Montgomery County Public Schools operating and capital budgets.

The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice partners with Montgomery County departments and regional and national non-profit organizations to accomplish the following actions mandated by law:

- perform an equity assessment to identify the County policies and practices that do not advance racial equity and that must be modified to address racial disparities;
- develop metrics to measure the progress in redressing disparate outcomes based on race and social justice;
- work diligently with each Montgomery County department to develop racial equity and social justice action plans to remedy issues adversely impacting County residents that include community engagement;
- provide training to County employees on racial equity and social justice; and develop long- and short-term goals for success in redressing disparate outcomes based on race and social justice as well as their own metrics to measure their success and progress.

BUDGET SUMMARY

	Actual FY24	Budget FY25	Estimate FY25	Recommended FY26	%Chg Bud/Rec
COUNTY GENERAL FUND					
EXPENDITURES					
Salaries and Wages	751,513	1,045,032	989,229	1,120,170	7.2 %
Employee Benefits	200,266	286,083	260,746	318,041	11.2 %
County General Fund Personnel Costs	951,779	1,331,115	1,249,975	1,438,211	8.0 %
Operating Expenses	157,802	236,567	236,567	238,237	0.7 %
County General Fund Expenditures	1,109,581	1,567,682	1,486,542	1,676,448	6.9 %

BUDGET SUMMARY

	Actual FY24	Budget FY25	Estimate FY25	Recommended FY26	%Chg Bud/Rec
PERSONNEL					
Full-Time	8	8	8	8	—
Part-Time	1	1	1	1	—
FTEs	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.50	—

FY26 RECOMMENDED CHANGES

	Expenditures	FTEs
COUNTY GENERAL FUND		
FY25 ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION	1,567,682	8.50
Other Adjustments (with no service impacts)		
Increase Cost: FY26 Compensation Adjustment	51,372	0.00
Increase Cost: Annualization of FY25 Compensation Increases	29,038	0.00
Increase Cost: Annualization of FY25 Personnel Costs	23,104	0.00
Increase Cost: Retirement Adjustment	3,582	0.00
Increase Cost: Printing and Mail Adjustment	1,670	0.00
FY26 RECOMMENDED	1,676,448	8.50

FUNDING PARAMETER ITEMS

CE RECOMMENDED (\$000S)

Title	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
COUNTY GENERAL FUND						
EXPENDITURES						
FY26 Recommended	1,676	1,676	1,676	1,676	1,676	1,676
No inflation or compensation change is included in outyear projections.						
Labor Contracts	0	11	11	11	11	11
These figures represent the estimated annualized cost of general wage adjustments, service increments, and other negotiated items.						
Subtotal Expenditures	1,676	1,687	1,687	1,687	1,687	1,687

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