


MEMORANDUM

April 28, 2019

TO: Health and Human Services Committee

FROM: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst 

SUBJECT: **Worksession: FY20 Recommended Operating Budget**
Department of Health and Human Services
East County Opportunity Zone

PURPOSE: Committee recommendations

Expected for this session:

Vickie Buckland, Acting Director, Department of Health and Human Services
JoAnn Barnes, Chief, Children, Youth, and Family Services
Josh Watters, Office of Management and Budget

For FY20, the County Executive is recommending \$250,000 specifically identified for the East County Opportunity Zone. This is consistent with the FY19 approved funding. The goal for this funding is to link people with opportunities to increase their income through training and job placement assistance to help people, when needed, with financial support for child care and emergency needs, and to continue the community engagement and committees that are working to develop a system of supports. In FY19, funding was allocated for:

Employment and Training	\$147,000
Child Care Assistance for those in employment services	\$23,000
Self Sufficiency Supports	\$30,000
Emergency Client Assistance	\$20,000
Faith and Community Engagement	\$30,000
Total	\$250,000

The East County Opportunity Zone is also supported through other programs and initiatives including the Neighborhood Opportunity Network, Safe Space – East County site, Re-engagement Center/ Disconnected or Opportunity Youth initiative, Urban Alliance and the Kresge Foundation Grant (next agenda item). County funds also support DHHS staff and Family Services, Inc. staff that work from the East County Center.

In addition, the faith community has been consulted and involved including:

- Colesville Presbyterian Church
- Peoples Community Baptist Church
- Muslim Community Center
- Liberty Grove United Methodist
- Lutheran Church of St. Andrew

Manna Food Center has served as the facilitator for many group discussions. Committees and partners continue to meet in subject areas including, Health and Wellness, Faith and Community Organizing, Youth, and Economic Opportunity and Workforce. Ms. Barnes will provide the HHS Committee with an update on the work of the Committees.

For FY20, DHHS has worked with collaboration with the East County Regional Service Director to issue a new solicitation for employment and training services. In FY18 and FY19, the County-funded employment services have been provided through a contract with WorkSource Montgomery. WorkSource Montgomery also supports the East County with its county-wide services such as access to the Job Center, WIOA funded training, and Youth initiatives including Summer R.I.S.E. The Council was concerned that not enough people were being reached with this special County funding and DHHS discussed with the County that upon review, the original contract was misaligned, with too much focus on those who are work-ready as opposed to those with few employment skills. During the current year, the requirements have been amended and a more flexible approach to outreach and services has been used. However, DHHS has issued a new solicitation for FY20 that is expected to be better able to meet the needs of the identified population and work with those households that are in poverty and need a variety of services to become more self-sufficient. Ms. Barnes will provide the HHS Committee with an update.

<p>Council staff recommendation: Approve funding as recommended by the County Executive. Request written update when FY20 employment contract is executed that explains the outcomes and requirements for reporting.</p>
