

MEMORANDUM

October 6, 2021

TO: Health and Human Services Committee

FROM: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst

SUBJECT: Supplemental Appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Government, Department of Health and Human Services; University of Maryland's Office of Research Administration, Short-Term Housing Assistance for Human Trafficking Survivors: A Path to Permanent Housing; \$300,000 (Source of Funds: University of Maryland Grant)

PURPOSE: Worksession; vote on recommendation for supplemental expected

Expected for this session:

Amanda Harris, Chief, Services to End and Prevent Homelessness (SEPH), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Elizabeth Driggers, Permanent Housing Administrator, SEPH, DHHS
Kim Ball, Homeless Services Administrator, SEPH, DHHS
Deborah Lambert, Senior Fiscal and Policy Analyst, Office of Management and Budget
Heidi Alvarez, University of Maryland SAFE Center
Ashley Greene, University of Maryland SAFE Center

At this session, the HHS Committee will receive an overview presentation on the University of Maryland Support, Advocacy, Freedom, and Empowerment Center for Human Trafficking Survivors (SAFE Center) and discuss the recommended supplemental appropriation.

The County Council introduced this special appropriation at its October 5 session and it is scheduled for a public hearing and tentatively for action on October 19.

The supplemental will fund a partnership between the SAFE Center and Montgomery County to provide Rapid Re-housing assistance to victims of trafficking that are in the Continuum of Care.

This will allow victims to stabilize their housing and not return to homelessness. The Department of Justice, Office of the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs awarded the University of Maryland a \$499,990 Housing Assistance Grant. DHHS is receiving \$300,000 as a subrecipient.

Rapid Re-housing can provide housing assistance (including housing location services) for 6 to 12 months and supportive services up to 24 months. Rapid-Rehousing pays rent in full for the first several months and then reduces the assistance, so the client is slowly paying more toward monthly rent. To help ensure that people are able to support their housing costs at the end of the assistance period, the SAFE Center's economic empowerment program will help clients with resume development, mock interviewing, GED preparation, job fairs and job applications.

The County aims to enroll 9 individuals and 6 families into the Rapid Re-housing program. The grant will also support the collection of data that will be critical to developing strategies for ending human trafficking in Montgomery County.

Since opening in 2016, the University of Maryland SAFE Center has served more than 240 human trafficking survivors.

Council staff recommends approval of the supplemental appropriation.

The following is some overview information from the SAFE Center website.

The University of Maryland SUPPORT, ADVOCACY, FREEDOM, AND EMPOWERMENT (SAFE) Center for Human Trafficking Survivors provides survivor-centered and trauma-informed services that empower trafficking survivors to heal and reclaim their lives. The SAFE Center aims to prevent trafficking and better serve survivors through research and policy advocacy.

The SAFE Center is an initiative of the University of Maryland Strategic Partnership: MPowering the State – a collaboration between the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP). *MPowering the State* leverages the sizable strengths and complementary missions of both institutions to strengthen Maryland's innovation economy, advance interdisciplinary research, create opportunities for students, and solve important problems for the people of Maryland and the nation. Working together, UMB and UMCP achieve innovation and impact through collaboration.

As part of *MPowering the State*, the SAFE Center is housed under the University of Maryland, College Park and the University of Maryland, Baltimore, where we are part of the Graduate School.

WHAT WE DO:

Provide direct services for survivors of sex and labor trafficking.

Conduct research to fill gaps in knowledge on human trafficking and to improve our services to survivors.

Promote political advocacy in support of justice and empowerment for survivors.

WHO WE SERVE:

We serve survivors of sex and/or labor trafficking of all nationalities, ages, and genders.

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking is the criminal exploitation for profit of women and girls, and men and boys for commercial sex and forced labor. Traffickers use force, fraud, and coercion to entrap their victims and compel them to work in exploitative conditions for the traffickers' enrichment.

Human trafficking occurs all around the world, including in the United States. Victims can be women, men, and transgender individuals; adults and youth; Americans and foreign nationals.

FORCE, FRAUD, AND COERCION

Force includes physical abuse, sexual violence, kidnapping, and physical confinement.

Fraud involves deception and false promises; for example, convincing someone that they're bound by a phony contract or that they need to work to pay off a false debt. *Coercion* includes threats and psychological manipulation. Often traffickers will threaten violence and other types of harm against the victim or the victim's children and family should the victim try to escape the trafficker's control.

SEX TRAFFICKING

Under United States' Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, sex trafficking of a person aged 18 or older involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to entrap that person in commercial sex. If the person is under the age of 18, causing that person to engage in commercial sex constitutes human trafficking, regardless of how or why they became involved. Although the majority of sex trafficking victims are women and girls, men and boys also experience sex trafficking.

LABOR TRAFFICKING

Labor trafficking is also defined under United States' Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. Labor trafficking, or "forced labor," involves using force, fraud, or coercion to cause someone to work in exploitative conditions in industries such as construction, agriculture, hospitality, salons, restaurants, and as domestic servants in people's homes.

TRAFFICKING IN THE UNITED STATES

Foreign nationals are trafficked into the United States mainly from Central and South America, Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe. Traffickers prey people's vulnerabilities—their hopes for an education, a job, and a better life in the United States. Except once they arrive in the United States, they are forced into the commercial sex industry and forced labor. Americans are also trafficked in the United States. Traffickers profit off of the sex trafficking of the most vulnerable youth in the U.S., including those who are homeless, have run away, have a history of abuse, or are in the child welfare system.

SIGNS OF SEX TRAFFICKING

Unable to attend school on a regular basis and/or unexplained absences
Frequently running away from home
References frequent travel to other cities
Bruises or other signs of physical or mental trauma
Lacks control over a personal schedule and/or identification documents
Inappropriately dressed (based on weather conditions or surroundings)
Shows signs of drug addiction
Provides coached or rehearsed responses to questions
Has a “boyfriend” or “girlfriend” who is noticeably older and/or controlling
Attempts to conceal scars, tattoos, or bruises
Demonstrates a sudden change in attention to personal hygiene
Has tattoos (a form of branding) displaying the name or moniker of a trafficker, such as “daddy”

RECOGNIZING LABOR TRAFFICKING LOCATIONS FOR LABOR TRAFFICKING

Domestic Work
Agriculture
Restaurants / Food Service
Traveling Sales Crews
Construction
Health and Beauty Services
Begging Rings

RECRUITMENT TACTICS FOR LABOR TRAFFICKING

False Promises
Fraudulent contracts
Family/Peer Recruitment
Unethical Labor Contracting

SIGNS OF LABOR TRAFFICKING

Unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips.
Employed but does not possess an authorized work permit.
Employed with a work permit but clearly working outside the permitted hours.
Owes a large debt and unable to pay it off.
Not allowed breaks at work or being subjected to excessively long work hours.
Overly concerned with pleasing an employer and/or deferring personal or educational decisions to a boss.
Lacks control of his or her own money.
Lives with an employer or has an employer listed as their caregiver.
Desires to quit a job but not allowed to do so. Show signs of fear, anxiety, depression submission, tension and/or nervousness.



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

M E M O R A N D U M

September 28, 2021

TO: Tom Hucker, President
County Council

FROM: Marc Elrich, County Executive 

SUBJECT: Supplemental Appropriation #22-11 to the FY22 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
Department of Health and Human Services
University of Maryland, Office of Research Administration, Short-Term
Housing Assistance for Human Trafficking Survivors: A Path to Permanent
Housing
\$300,000 (Source of Funds: University of Maryland Grant)

I am recommending a supplemental appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in the amount of \$300,000 for a grant from the University of Maryland, Office of Research Administration, Short-Term Housing Assistance for Human Trafficking Survivors: A Path to Permanent Housing.

This funding will be used to support residents of Montgomery County in continuum of care by providing resources directly to victims of human trafficking and will bolster DHHS efforts in administering assistance to victims of human trafficking. It will also support the collection of data that will be critical to developing strategies for ending human trafficking in Montgomery County. The program will be administered by DHHS, Services to End and Prevent Homelessness.

On August 4, 2020, the Department of Justice Office of the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs awarded the University of Maryland OVC FY20 Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Human Trafficking \$499,990. Montgomery County DHHS is a Subrecipient and is awarded \$300,000 for participating in the program.

The University of Maryland, Office of Research Administration through its Support, Advocacy, Freedom, and Empowerment Center for Human Trafficking Survivors awarded the funding for rapid rehousing, energy assistance, and moving assistance for single adults and families who are victims of human trafficking.

Supplemental Appropriation #22-11 to the FY22 Operating Budget
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I recommend that the County Council approve this supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$300,000 and specify the source of funds as University of Maryland Grant. This supplemental appropriation does not impact General Fund Reserves.

I appreciate your prompt consideration of this action.

ME:dl

Enclosure: Supplemental Appropriation #22-11 University of Maryland, Office of Research Administration, Short-Term Housing Assistance for Human Trafficking Survivors:
A Path to Permanent Housing

cc: Raymond L. Crowel, Psy.D., Director, DHHS
Victoria Buckland, Chief Operating Officer, DHHS
Jennifer Bryant, Director, Office of Management and Budget

Resolution No: _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

SUBJECT: Supplemental Appropriation #22-11 to the FY22 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
Department of Health and Human Services
University of Maryland, Office of Research Administration, Short-Term
Housing Assistance for Human Trafficking Survivors: A Path to Permanent
Housing
\$300,000 (Source of Funds: University of Maryland Grant)

Background

1. Section 307 of the Montgomery County Charter provides that any supplemental appropriation shall be recommended by the County Executive who shall specify the source of funds to finance it. The Council shall hold a public hearing on each proposed supplemental appropriation after at least one week's notice. A supplemental appropriation that would comply with, avail the County of, or put into effect a grant or a Federal, State or County law or regulation, or one that is approved after January 1 of any fiscal year, requires an affirmative vote of five Councilmembers. A supplemental appropriation for any other purpose that is approved before January 1 of any fiscal year requires an affirmative vote of six Councilmembers. The Council may, in a single action, approve more than one supplemental appropriation. The Executive may disapprove or reduce a supplemental appropriation, and the Council may reapprove the appropriation, as if it were an item in the annual budget.
2. The County Executive has requested the following FY22 Operating Budget appropriation increases for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS):

<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
\$0	\$300,000	\$0	\$300,000	University of Maryland Grant

3. This funding will be used to support residents of Montgomery County in continuum of care by providing resources directly to victims of human trafficking and will bolster DHHS efforts in administering assistance to victims of human trafficking. It will also support the collection of data that will be critical to developing strategies for ending human trafficking in Montgomery County. The program will be administered by DHHS, Services to End and Prevent Homelessness.
4. On August 4, 2020, the Department of Justice Office of the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs awarded the University of Maryland OVC FY20 Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Human Trafficking \$499,990. Montgomery County DHHS is a Subrecipient and is awarded \$300,000 for participating in the program.
5. The University of Maryland, Office of Research Administration through its Support, Advocacy, Freedom, and Empowerment Center for Human Trafficking Survivors awarded the funding for rapid rehousing, energy assistance, and moving assistance for single adults and families who are victims of human trafficking.
6. The County Executive has requested a supplemental appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget in the amount of \$300,000 for University of Maryland, Office of Research Administration, Short-Term Housing Assistance for Human Trafficking Survivors: A Path to Permanent Housing and specifies that the source of funds will be University of Maryland Grant.
7. The public was notified and a public hearing was held.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, approves the following actions:

A supplemental appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget of the Department of Health and Human Services is approved as follows:

<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
\$0	\$300,000	\$0	\$300,000	University of Maryland Grant

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council