

MEMORANDUM

November 7, 2022

TO: Health and Human Services Committee

FROM: Tara Clemons Johnson, Legislative Analyst

SUBJECT: Supplemental Appropriation #23-22 to the FY23 Operating Budget Montgomery County Government Department of Health and Human Services American Rescue Plan Act Older Americans Act Title III Grant, \$3,551,720 (Source of Funds: State Grant) and Amendment to the FY23 Operating Budget for the Montgomery County Government Resolution 19-1285, Section G, Designation of Entities for Non Competitive Contract Award Status: Jewish Council for the Aging of Greater Washington, Inc., Access Hears, Inc., Arts for the Aging, Inc., Home Care Partners, Inc., Housing Initiative Partnership, Inc. and The Senior Connection of Montgomery County, Inc.

PURPOSE: Worksession, vote expected

Expected Participants:

Dr. Raymond Crowel, Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Odile Brunetto, Chief, Aging and Disability Services, DHHS

On October 27th, the County Executive recommended this \$3,551,720 appropriation for a state grant to support social services programs for older residents of Montgomery County. The Executive's transmittal for the appropriation is on ©1-5 and a draft resolution is on ©6-8. This resolution would also amend the Non-Competitive Award status list in the FY23 Operating Budget resolution. The Council's public hearing and action are scheduled for November 15, 2022.

The Maryland Department of Aging (MDoA) received funding through the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to support the Older Americans Act (OAA) Title III activities. Title III programs must be evidence-based and meet the criteria of the Administration for Community Living, the fiscal and administrative agency for OAA services. DHHS will utilize the OAA grant to support hearing assistance devices, nutrition, dental services for seniors, arts programs for people living in long-term care settings, home and community-based services, and family caregiver services for pandemic recovery. County seniors aged 60 and over and their caregivers are eligible for services funded through the grant.

The total ARPA grant award is \$3,551,720. This appropriation will provide \$729,320 in contracts with community organizations, and \$2,822,400 will support services through DHHS. DHHS services include hiring a contractor for marketing and outreach for seniors, establishing a pilot program including a Spanish community organizer for outreach, distributing tablets and providing training for diverse non-English speaking groups. All staff hired will be contractors to help deliver direct services or to reach the target audience. The grant term ends on September 30, 2024.

GRANT PROGRAMS

DHHS will utilize a portion of the ARPA OAA grant funds to support services through community organizations. The Chief Administrative Officer recommends the following contracts be increased or established:

- The Jewish Council for the Aging of Greater Washington, Inc. (JCA) provides programs and services that support older adults and their families. The contract with JCA will be increased to \$195,760 to support the Escorted Transportation program to meet the transportation needs of low-income older adults and residents with disabilities and to fill the gaps not met by other programs and services. An escorted trip provides an individual with assistance in and out of the vehicle and into the appointment.

New Contracts

- Access HEARS, Inc. connects people with hearing loss to the technology and resources they need to age well. Access HEARS utilizes an evidence-based approach to educate older adults on hearing care solutions and provide them with ongoing support. This model reduces barriers like transportation to doctor's appointments, finances and health literacy for older adults with hearing loss. The proposed new contract award is \$250,000. Access HEARS, Inc. designed and implemented this service and is the only known provider.
- Arts for the Aging, Inc. provides arts-related programming designed to enrich the lives of older adults living in long-term care facilities. The organization has adopted a multidisciplinary, participatory, and inclusive arts programming, partnering with teaching artists, museums, and cultural and academic institutions. The proposed new contract award is \$120,000
- Home Care Partners, Inc. specializes in providing care, including light chore services, to seniors in their homes. This service supports older adults aging in place, helping to avoid placement in an assisted living facility or nursing home. The proposed new contract award is \$163,000.
- The Housing Initiative Partnership, Inc. (HIP) creates housing and economic security to support low-and-moderate income residents and provides services that improve the quality of life. HIP will utilize the funding to provide grants for minor home repairs to

senior homeowners participating in the County's Home Sharing program. The proposed new contract award is \$80,000.

- The Senior Connection of Montgomery County, Inc. is the largest provider of volunteer escorted and accompanied transportation services to seniors in the County. This funding will provide supportive services that foster social engagement to seniors in Montgomery County. They are committed to re-engaging older adults in group outings in a way no other non-profit appears to be doing post-pandemic. The proposed new contract award is \$60,320.

The Commission on Aging FY23 priorities, submitted to the HHS committee April 2022, included the programs that will be supported through the ARPA grant funding (see ©9).

Council staff recommendation: approve the special appropriation as recommended by the Executive.

This report contains:

County Executive transmittal memo	©1-5
Proposed Special Appropriation Resolution	©6-8
Commission on Aging FY23 Priorities	©9-11



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

MEMORANDUM

October 27, 2022

TO: Gabe Albornoz, President
Montgomery County Council

FROM: Marc Elrich, County Executive *Marc Elrich*

SUBJECT: Supplemental Appropriation #23-22 to the FY23 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
Department of Health and Human Services
American Rescue Plan Act Older Americans Act Title III Grant, \$3,551,720
(Source of Funds: State Grant)

I am recommending a supplemental appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Budget of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in the amount of \$3,551,720 for the American Rescue Plan Act Older Americans Act Title III grant. This appropriation will allow the Area Agency on Aging and Aging and Disability Services to provide services to Montgomery County seniors.

This increase is needed because the Department has received a new grant which will provide a variety of supportive services to senior residents of Montgomery County. Among these are expanded access to transportation to help seniors reengage in community activities following the pandemic; programming to address depression in seniors; arts programming for people living in long-term care settings; affordable and effective hearing assistance devices; nutrition, light chore, and dental services for seniors; respite for family caregivers; and other services.

I recommend that the County Council approve this supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$3,551,720 and specify the source of funds as a State Grant.

I appreciate your prompt consideration of this action.

Supplemental Appropriation #23-22 to the FY23 Operating Budget

October 27, 2022

Page 2 of 2

ME:dl

Enclosure: Supplemental Appropriation #23-22

cc: Joy Nurmi, Chief of Staff to Council President, Montgomery County Council
Jennifer R. Bryant, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Raymond L. Crowel, Psy.D., Director, Department of Health and Human Services



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Richard S. Madaleno
Chief Administrative Officer

MEMORANDUM

October 27, 2022

TO: Gabe Albornoz, President
Montgomery County Council

FROM: Richard S. Madaleno, Chief Administrative Officer *RSML*
Office of the County Executive

SUBJECT: Supplemental Appropriation #23-22 to the FY23 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
Department of Health and Human Services
American Rescue Plan Act Older Americans Act Title III Grant, \$3,551,720
(Source of Funds: State Grant)

As part of the Supplemental Appropriation #23-22, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting to amend the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Operating Budget Resolution 19-1285, Section G, and the FY23 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status as described below.

DHHS will modify the following awards:

Named Entity	Purpose	Original Award	Revised Award
Jewish Council for the Aging of Greater Washington, Inc.	Provides support for the Escorted Transportation Program to meet the transportation needs of low-income older adults and residents with disabilities and to fill the gaps not met by other programs and services.	\$139,760	\$195,760

Jewish Council for the Aging of Greater Washington, Inc. (JCA) helps older adults in the greater Washington, D.C. region maintain independence, dignity, vitality, and self-respect. This

modification adds American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Older Americans Act Title III funds and services to the existing contract with JCA. DHHS believes only this vendor can provide the required services given the procurement and ARPA grant time constraints.

DHHS will add the following new contract awards:

Named Entity	Purpose	Award
Access Hears, Inc.	Provides seniors with education about hearing loss and access to affordable hearing devices.	\$250,000
Arts for the Aging, Inc.	Provides participatory arts programming for isolated and disabled older adults.	\$120,000
Home Care Partners, Inc.	Provides light chore services to seniors on a short-term basis.	\$163,000
Housing Initiative Partnership, Inc.	Provides grants for minor home repairs to senior homeowners participating in the County's Home Sharing program.	\$80,000
The Senior Connection of Montgomery County, Inc.	Provides supportive services fostering social engagement to seniors in Montgomery County.	\$60,320

Access Hears, Inc. provides non-traditional, affordable, and effective evidence-based hearing care solutions to seniors. They designed and implemented this service and are its only provider.

Arts for the Aging, Inc. specializes in providing arts-related programming designed to enrich the lives of seniors living in long-term care facilities.

Home Care Partners, Inc. specializes in providing care, including light chore services, to frail seniors in their homes.

Housing Initiative Partnership, Inc. creates housing and economic security for low- and moderate-income households and provides services that improve the quality of life in communities across Maryland.

The Senior Connection of Montgomery County, Inc. is the largest provider of volunteer escorted and accompanied transportation services to seniors in the County. They have shown a determination to re-engage older adults in group outings in a way no other non-profit appears to be doing post-pandemic.

DHHS believes only these vendors can provide the required services given the procurement and ARPA grant time constraints. The Maryland Department of Aging approved these vendors to perform these services with ARPA grant funds.

Supplemental Appropriation #23-22 and Amendment to the FY23 Operating Budget
American Rescue Plan Act Older Americans Act Title III Grant
October 27, 2022
Page 3 of 3

The source of funding for the above requests is the American Rescue Plan Act Older Americans Act Title III grant from the Maryland Department of Aging as proposed by Supplemental Appropriation #23-22.

I have determined that this action serves a public purpose and is in the public interest. Therefore, I recommend that the Council amend the Miscellaneous Provision in Section G of Resolution 19-1285 for the FY23 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Award.

RM:dl

Enclosure

cc: Joy Nurmi, Chief of Staff to Council President, Montgomery County Council
Fariba Kassiri, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the County Executive
Jennifer R. Bryant, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Raymond L. Crowel, Psy.D., Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Avinash G. Shetty, Director, Office of Procurement

Resolution No: _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

SUBJECT: Supplemental Appropriation #23-22 to the FY23 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
American Rescue Plan Act Older Americans Act Title III Grant, \$3,551,720
(Source of Funds: State 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 FY23 Operating Budget appropriation increases for the Department of Health and Human Services:

<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
\$0	\$3,551,720	\$0	\$3,551,720	State Grant

3. This increase is needed because the Department has received a new grant which will provide a variety of supportive services to senior residents of Montgomery County. Among these are expanded access to transportation to help seniors reengage in community activities following the pandemic; programming to address depression in seniors; arts programming for people living in long-term care settings; affordable and effective hearing assistance devices; nutrition, light chore, and dental services for seniors; respite for family caregivers; and other services.
4. The County Executive recommends a supplemental appropriation to the FY23 Operating Budget in the amount of \$3,551,720 for American Rescue Plan Act Older Americans Act Title III Grant and specifies that the source of funds will be State Grant.
5. Notice of public hearing was given, and a public hearing was held.

Action

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

1. A supplemental appropriation to the FY23 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	\$3,551,720	\$0	\$3,551,720	State Grant

2. The Council approves an amendment to the Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award and thereby amends Resolution 19-1285, Section G, FY23 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award. The Chief Administrative Officer has recommended this action and stated that this action serves a public purpose and is in the public interest.

The FY23 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status resolution is amended to reflect that DHHS will:

- a. Increase the amount of an existing award with Jewish Council for the Aging of Greater Washington, Inc. by \$56,000 for a revised award amount of \$195,760 for the purpose: “Provides support for the Escorted Transportation Program to meet the transportation needs of low-income older adults and residents with disabilities and fill the gaps not met by other programs and services.”
- b. Establish a new contract with Access Hears, Inc. in the amount of \$250,000 for the purpose: “Provides seniors with education about hearing loss and access to affordable hearing devices.”

- c. Establish a new contract with Arts for the Aging, Inc. in the amount of \$120,000 for the purpose: “Provides participatory arts programming for isolated and disabled older adults.”
- d. Establish a new contract with Home Care Partners, Inc. in the amount of \$163,000 for the purpose: “Provides light chore services to seniors on a short-term basis.”
- e. Establish a new contract with Housing Initiative Partnership, Inc. in the amount of \$80,000 for the purpose: “Provides grants for minor home repairs to senior homeowners participating in the County’s Home Sharing program.”
- f. Establish a new contract with The Senior Connection of Montgomery County, Inc. in the amount of \$60,320 for the purpose: “Provides supportive services fostering social engagement to seniors in Montgomery County.”

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Judy Rupp
Clerk of the Council

**FY '23 COA SUGGESTED BUDGET PRIORITIES
TESTIMONY FOR COUNTY COUNCIL**

County Executive's Proposed Budget

- COA appreciates the fact that the County Executive has included some much-needed funding to meet the needs of older adults.

Communication

- Montgomery County provides a myriad of services for older adult residents. However, the County does not do as well at making residents aware of these services. Staff assigned to communicating to residents about these services would be helpful in marketing and advertise services for older adults.
- A senior fellow would be an ideal, cost-effect way to fill such a position.

Transportation

- We appreciate that the County Executive restored funding for the Jewish Council for the Aging (JCA) Escorted Transportation Program to pre-pandemic level of approximately \$130,000 from approximately \$85,000 during the pandemic. Please support the restored funding for this vital program.
- The income eligibility level - \$40,000 in annual income – for this program has not been adjusted for inflation since its inception. This is maintained by an agreement between DHHS and JCA. COA asks your help in encouraging DHHS to consider increasing the income threshold.

Protecting Older Adults from Fraud and Abuse

- Please support the County Executive's recommendation to add 6 Adult Protective Services (APS) staff. In addition to improving the responsiveness to potential instances of abuse and neglect, the additional positions will allow other Aging and Disability Services social workers to focus on assessing clients for much-needed programs, such as Social Services to Adults and In-Home Aide Services.

Housing

- The County Executive's proposed budget includes money for the Housing Initiative Fund (HIF). Despite recent HIF funding increases, the County still will not have enough affordable housing to meet expected population increases. Compounding the problem, almost all areas along transit corridors are losing existing affordable housing, resulting in an increase in cost burdened renters. Rising rents will put more pressure on senior renters to choose between rent, food, and health care.

- Older adults are the fastest growing group in the county. As their numbers grow so will the number of older adult renters. In fact, by 2040, one in 5 residents will be 65 or older and one out of 3 will be 55 and older. Also, according to County data, over 65% of senior renters are rent burdened, spending more than 30% of their income on rent. The oldest seniors 75 and 85 plus face the greatest challenges because over time incomes tend to decline and housing cost burdens increase, with some paying more than half their income on housing costs.
- We note, however, that even this is not enough to meet the increasing need for affordable housing for older residents in the County and that you continue to look for ways to make housing affordable.

Funding for Access HEARS

- Statistics show that nearly two-thirds of people age 70 and older are affected by hearing loss, which is often associated with many health problems including dementia, social isolation, and hospital readmission. The current hearing care model of clinic-based, fee-for-service hearing care does not accommodate the needs of the majority of low-income, minority, and vulnerable older adults. Affording hearing aids, which can be the 3rd most expensive purchase for older adults behind house and car, is out of the question for many Montgomery County residents. For these reasons and others, the County needs a community-delivered approach to hearing care that is affordable and accessible.
- Access HEARS has a proven model of care that increases access to hearing loss intervention and at a dramatically reduced cost compared to the traditional models. Access HEARS has been operating as a Baltimore-based 501(c)(3) with the mission of systematically addressing each of the barriers to providing hearing help to those who have not traditionally accessed care. In 2019, Access HEARS received grants from the Maryland Department of Aging for programs in Allegany and Garrett Counties. The Maryland pilot programs were very successful and the cost savings for intervention is about 90% compared to the traditional hearing aid care model.
- With the anticipated expansion of over-the-counter hearing technology pending FDA regulations, the need to help older adults navigate the market, select a device, and learn how to use it successfully will also grow. By utilizing the Access HEARS model, the County can develop a sustainable model of hearing care that connects older adults with the technology that represents the future of hearing care. We ask the County to fund a program that will provide immediate benefit to the hearing health and overall wellbeing of the County older adult population.

Funding Expansion of In-Home Care to More Adults

- The older population of Montgomery County is rising at an unprecedented rate. Many studies have confirmed that older adults overwhelmingly prefer to remain in their own

homes and therefore actively seek home and community- based services (HCBC) to avoid assisted living or nursing home placement.

- The County should explore using its grants programs to fund nonprofits that could provide in-home care, such as those the County Executive proposes funding--Home Care Partners and Community Reach, through its Senior Reach program.
- The COA is hosting our Forum on May 5 at Bohr Park in Gaithersburg on In-Home Care – We Can Do Better
- We encourage all County Council Members or their staff persons to attend this informative event.