



**Committee:** Directly to Council  
**Committee Review:** N/A  
**Staff:** Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst  
**Purpose:** To introduce agenda item – no vote expected  
**Keywords:** Coronavirus, COVID-19

AGENDA ITEM #1W  
March 24, 2020  
**Introduction**

## SUBJECT

Special Appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget; Montgomery County Government; Department of Health and Human Services; Support for COVID-19 Response; \$5,000,000 (Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves)

## EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

## COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Introduction

## DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly increased the need for the Department of Health and Human Services to respond to a wide range of public health and safety-net needs including, but not limited to, food and meal distribution, access to health care for the uninsured, homeless services, and childcare. This special appropriation will provide the Department of Health and Human Services an additional \$5 million in resources. The County will seek reimbursement from the federal and state governments for any eligible costs.

## SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Introduction. Public hearing and action scheduled for March 31, 2020.

### **This report contains:**

Special Appropriation Resolution

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Resolution No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Introduced: \_\_\_\_\_  
Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

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Lead sponsor: County Council

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**SUBJECT:** Special Appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget  
Montgomery County Government  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Support for COVID-19 Response  
\$5,000,000 (Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves)

**Background**

1. Section 308 of the County Charter provides that a special appropriation is an appropriation which states that it is necessary to meet an unforeseen disaster or other emergency, or to act without delay in the public interest. Each special appropriation shall be approved by not less than six Councilmembers. The Council may approve a special appropriation at any time after public notice by news release. Each special appropriation shall specify the source of funds to finance it.
2. The Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for somatic and behavioral health services to meet the needs of County residents. The Department has a strong set of safety net services for the County's most vulnerable and at-risk households.
3. A new coronavirus disease, named COVID-19, appeared in China in December 2019 and spread extremely quickly. On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared the disease a pandemic. The March 20, 2020 situation report from the World Health Organization stated that the number of confirmed cases worldwide has exceeded 200,000. It took over three months to reach the first 100,000 confirmed cases, and only 12 days to reach the next 100,000. As of March 23, 2020, there were 288 confirmed cases in Maryland, including 93 in Montgomery County.
4. To slow the spread of the disease, Governor Hogan declared a State of Emergency and has issued several Executive Orders with actions that include, but are not limited to, closing schools, closing senior centers and adult medical day care programs, and limiting the number of people that can gather.

5. The efforts to contain the spread of the disease and the disease itself have made availability of certain safety net and emergency services even more critical and increased the number of residents who must be served. Food and meal distribution, access to health care for the uninsured, homeless services, and childcare are among those that need additional capacity.
6. This special appropriation will provide the Department of Health and Human Services with additional fiscal capacity to meet critical safety net needs. Many of these services are provided through contracts and collaboration with non-profit partners. The County will seek reimbursement from the federal and state government for any eligible costs.
7. On March 23, 2020 the Council received the County Executive’s recommendation for a special appropriation for \$5 million to a Community Assistance Non-Departmental Account administered by the Department of Health and Human Services to assist residents facing hardships with food, housing, and childcare.
8. Notice of public hearing was given and a public hearing was held.

**Action**

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

A special appropriation to the FY20 Operating Budget of the Montgomery County Government, in the amount of \$5,000,000 is approved as follows:

	Personnel Expense	Operating Expense	TOTAL
Department of Health and Human Services	\$0	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000

The Department will use these funds for increased need in safety-net programs that are directly responding to the COVID-19 outbreak.

This appropriation is needed to act without delay in the public interest.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

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Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.  
Clerk of the Council