



**Committee:** Directly to Council  
**Committee Review:** N/A  
**Staff:** Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst  
**Purpose:** Final action – vote expected  
**Keywords:** #CountyHospitalsEmergencyFunding

AGENDA ITEM #16  
March 31, 2020  
**Action**

## SUBJECT

Special Appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget; Montgomery County Government; COVID-19 Hospital Response Non-Departmental Account (NDA); \$10,000,000 (Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves)

## EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

## COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Introduction and Action. Notice is by news release and there is no public hearing.

## DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

Hospitals in Montgomery County are responding to the significant increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations that require intensive services. As of March 30, there were 1,413 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the State of Maryland, including 341 in Montgomery County. Governor Hogan's March 28, 2020 press release said, "It took nearly three weeks for the National Capital Region to go from 0 to 1,000 cases of COVID-19. It took three days for the region to go from 1,000 to 2,000 cases in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. This is a rapidly evolving and escalating emergency which is now surrounding the nation's capital." Maryland is implementing a hospital surge plan which includes all Montgomery County hospitals. This appropriation provides funding so the County can quickly support hospitals with emergency purchases and costs. Use of the funds will be coordinated by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

## SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- A special appropriation may be approved by the Council at any time after public notice by news release to meet an unforeseen disaster or other emergency, or to act in the public interest without delay.

### **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  
COVID-19 Hospital Response Non-Departmental Account (NDA)  
\$10,000,000 (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. 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 30, 2020, there were 1,413 confirmed cases in Maryland, including 341 in Montgomery County. Significant increases in the number of confirmed cases is expected to continue for at least the next two to three weeks.
3. To slow the spread of the disease, Governor Hogan declared a State of Emergency and has issued several Executive Orders that close schools and non-essential business and limit crowd size. To prepare for the expected surge in overall confirmed cases and people requiring hospitalization, the State announced it is implementing a hospital surge plan that includes increasing the number of beds statewide by 1,400 by early April with a goal of adding 6,000 hospital beds. A variety of strategies are being used, including pop-up hospitals, re-opening at least one recently closed hospital, and converting single rooms into double rooms.

4. Montgomery County’s hospitals are actively preparing for the surge of COVID-19 cases, working to increase beds and critical care capacity. This must happen quickly, and hospitals may need financial assistance with emergency purchases and costs.
5. The County Council and the County Executive support assisting the County’s hospitals in order to meet the urgent health needs of County residents. Use of these funds will be coordinated by the county’s Department of Health and Human Services and Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.
6. Public notice of the special appropriation was provided by news release and specified the source of funds as General Fund Reserves.

**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 \$10,000,000 is approved as follows:

	Personnel Expense	Operating Expense	TOTAL
COVID-19 Hospital Response NDA	\$0	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000

The County will seek Federal and State reimbursement for program costs associated with response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Council finds that this special appropriation is necessary to address a public health emergency in the County.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

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Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.  
Clerk of the Council