



Committee: Joint
Committee Review: N/A
Staff: Vivian Yao, Legislative Analyst
Purpose: To receive testimony/final action - vote expected
Keywords: #youthsports, #CollaborationCouncil

AGENDA ITEM #12
September 15, 2020
Public Hearing/Action

SUBJECT

Special Appropriation to the County Government's Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget, COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental Account (NDA), Support for COVID-19 Response – Youth Sports Initiative, \$550,000 (Source of Funds: Federal Grant) and Amendment to Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget Resolution 19-472, Section G, FY21 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status: Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Public hearing and action on the special appropriation.
- The Joint Health and Human Services, Education & Culture, and Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee discussed the special appropriation and the need for youth sports programming as a result of COVID restrictions on July 29. The Joint Committee did not vote on the appropriation as the public hearing on it had yet to be held.

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

Youth sports have significant social and wellness benefits to participants. In addition to promoting mental and physical health and activity, youth sports help develop confidence, keep youth engaged in productive activities, and help to teach team building and goal setting objectives. However, according to the Office of Legislative Oversight March 10, 2020 report "Youth Sports in Montgomery County", youth sports participation in Montgomery County is disproportionately higher in more affluent regions of the County and "many areas lack access to affordable youth sports."

The COVID-19 pandemic's impact on youth sports has been profound. The future of the sector is uncertain as youth sports organizations are experiencing severe revenue losses as a result of restrictions intended to reduce virus transmission. The lack of programming availability is particularly affecting children from low-income families. These youth face numerous challenges including food and housing insecurity, as well as barriers to remaining physically active during the pandemic such as lack of space for social distancing in their communities. As sports programs resume operations, families impacted by job losses will be less able to afford program fees. Organizations that serve low-income youth expect that they will need to provide free programming in order for youth to participate but doing so will be particularly challenging given budget constraints.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Increasing the availability of youth sports services and supporting youth sports organization are important in providing positive, structured activities for children who would otherwise lack access to these services that support their healthy development. These services are particularly needed this fall due to MCPS’s virtual-only instructional model, and cancellation of all fall and winter sports.
- This special appropriation will provide \$500,000 in grant funding along with \$50,000 to administer the initiative to the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth, and Families. The funds appropriated must be distributed through an application process that solicits requests for operating expenses to deliver sports programming to vulnerable and/or low-income youth by organizations based in Montgomery County.
- The maximum grant award is \$15,000.
- The Department of Recreation will administer the contract with the Collaboration Council.
- This resolution amends Resolution 19-472, Section G, FY21 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Award Status to fund a contract with the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families with the purpose to “implement a grant process to disseminate funding for sports programming for vulnerable and/or low-income youth” in the amount of \$550,000.

This report contains:

Proposed Resolution

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Resolution No.: _____
Introduced: July 28, 2020
Adopted: _____

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsor: County Council

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental
Account (NDA)
Support for COVID-19 Response – Youth Sports Initiative
\$550,000 (Source of Funds: Federal Grant) and
Amendment to Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget Resolution 19-472
Section G, FY21 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive
Contract Award Status: Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children,
Youth and Families

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. On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared coronavirus COVID-19 a pandemic, and it has spread rapidly throughout the world. As of July 14, 2020, there were 15,883 confirmed cases in Montgomery County. There were 724 confirmed deaths and 38 probable deaths in Montgomery County. To slow the spread of the disease, Maryland Governor Hogan declared a State of Emergency on March 5, 2020 and issued Executive Orders that closed schools, closed non-essential businesses, and required Maryland residents to shelter at home. The disease has disproportionately affected lower-income communities and communities of color in the County.
3. According to the Aspen Institute’s Project Play, the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on youth sports has been profound and concerns exist about the future of the sector, particularly with respect to access for children from low-income families. Youth sports organizations are experiencing severe revenue losses due to the pandemic. In the initial

weeks of the pandemic, an informal poll of over 1,000 Project Play webinar participants from youth sports organizations showed that over half of respondents anticipated at least a 50% drop in revenue in the next year. Parents are increasingly concerned about sending their children back to sports due to fears of illness

4. Youth from low-income families face significant challenges. Jon Solomon of the Aspen Institute notes that cancelations of sports programs, which provide a support system for many youth, are hitting youth in low-income families the hardest. These youth face numerous challenges including food and housing insecurity, as well as barriers to remaining physically active during the pandemic such as lack of space for social distancing in their communities. As sports programs resume operations, families impacted by job losses will be less able to afford program fees. Organizations that serve low-income youth expect that they will need to provide free programming in order for youth to participate, but doing so will be particularly challenging given their budget constraints.
5. This post-COVID-19 landscape exacerbates inequities already existing in the County. According to the Office of Legislative Oversight March 10, 2020 report “Youth Sports in Montgomery County”, youth sports participation in Montgomery County is disproportionately higher in more affluent regions of the County. Although lower cost recreational sport opportunities that do not require tryouts are thriving in some areas of the County, “many areas lack access to affordable youth sports” and for providers of youth sports, “recruiting volunteer coaches and securing athletic facilities for their activities are two key challenges.”
6. Youth sports have significant social and wellness benefits to participants. In addition to promoting mental and physical health and activity, youth sports help develop confidence, keep youth engaged in productive activities, and help to teach team building and goal setting objectives.
7. Increasing the availability of youth sports services and supporting youth sports organizations is important to provide positive, structured activities for children who would otherwise lack access to these services that support their healthy development. This special appropriation will provide \$500,000 in grant funding along with \$50,000 to administer the initiative to the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth, and Families. The funding must be disbursed according to the following guidelines:
 - a. The funds appropriated must be distributed through an application process that solicits requests for operating expenses to deliver sports programming to vulnerable and/or low-income youth.
 - b. Programming supported by grant funding must (1) have a majority of participants eligible for FARMS; (2) target a special needs population; or (3) deliver service in or near a Title I or High FARMS participation (60% or higher) County school or economically disadvantaged community.
 - c. Grantees must be based in Montgomery County.

- d. Applications must describe the services to be provided; identify the target population for services; explain how the program will reach underserved population; and clarify how the proposed services will comply with applicable state and local health requirements, including those intended to reduce virus transmission.
 - e. The maximum grant award is \$15,000, and the following criteria will be considered in determining the grant amount: the number of low-income youth to be served; the level of services, e.g., frequency, duration, and length of session; and reasonableness of budget/cost items.
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 FY21 Operating Budget of the Montgomery County Government, COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental Account (NDA) is approved as follows:

<u>Personnel</u> <u>Expense</u>	<u>Operating</u> <u>Expense</u>	<u>Capital</u> <u>Outlay</u>	<u>Source</u> <u>TOTAL of Funds</u>
\$0	\$550,000	\$0	Federal Grant

The funding appropriated in this resolution must be added to a noncompetitive agreement with the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families and only used to implement the Youth Sports Initiative as described in paragraph 7. The Department of Recreation will administer the funding.

The Executive must require the submission of a report about the use of these funds that includes: 1) information about the total number of applications; 2) basic information about the number and reason(s) that applicants did not qualify or receive funding; and 3) for each award, the name of grantee organization, the total amount awarded, and a description of services to be provided.

This resolution amends Resolution 19-472, Section G, FY21 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Award Status to fund a contract with the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families with the purpose to “implement a grant process to disseminate funding for sports programming for vulnerable and/or low-income youth” in the amount of \$550,000.

This appropriation is needed to address a public health emergency and to act without delay in the public interest.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council