



Committee: Directly to Council
Committee Review: N/A
Staff: Vivian Yao, Legislative Analyst
Purpose: To introduce agenda item – no vote expected
Keywords: #EEE Hubs, #child care

AGENDA ITEM #2B
October 27, 2020
Introduction

SUBJECT

Special Appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Government, Children’s Opportunity Fund Non-Departmental Account (NDA) - \$1,800,000 for COVID-19 Educational Enrichment and Equity Hubs (Source of Funds: Federal Grant Funds and General Fund Reserves); and Amendment to FY21 Operating Budget Resolution 19-472 Section G, FY21 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status: Greater Washington Community Foundation

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Introduction. Public Hearing and Action are scheduled for November 10, 2020.

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

Because the MCPS school year continues in a distance-learning environment, many parents and caregivers who must work outside of the home are unable to provide adequate supervision and support for their children as they navigate on-line school. Distance learning challenges have disproportionately affected vulnerable, black, brown and low-income students and exacerbated persistent educational disparities. Students who live in the communities hardest hit by COVID may need additional support to engage in virtual learning.

The Children’s Opportunity Fund and the Black and Brown Coalition have partnered with child care providers who are licensed by the State to deliver services in public school space to implement Educational Equity and Enrichment (EEE) Hubs. This special appropriation will expand the number of EEE Hubs and before, during, and after school child care to low-income students while MCPS is meeting virtually.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- This special appropriation will provide \$1.8 million in public funding to the Greater Washington Community – Children’s Opportunity Fund to provide before, during, and after school child care to 500 children over a 12-week period.
- The special appropriation will have positive changes in racial equity and social justice in the County. The funding will provide supervision and virtual learning supports to vulnerable low-income children and mitigate the negative impact that distance learning challenges have on them.
- The Source of Funds is Federal Grant Funds and General Fund Reserves.

- The Joint Health and Human Services and Education and Culture Committee discussed the need for these services at its meeting on October 15, 2020.

This report contains:

Proposed Resolution

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Resolution No.: _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsor: County Council

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
Children’s Opportunity Fund Non-Departmental Account
COVID-19 Educational Enrichment and Equity Hubs
\$1,800,000 (Source of Funds: Federal Grant Funds and General Fund Reserves);
Amendment to Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget Resolution 19-472
Section G, FY21 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive
Contract Award Status: Greater Washington Community Foundation

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 October 8, 2020, there were 23,293 confirmed cases in Montgomery County. There were 802 confirmed deaths and 40 probable deaths in Montgomery County.
3. To slow the spread of the disease, Maryland Governor Hogan declared a State of Emergency on March 5, 2020 and issued several Executive Orders that closed schools, closed non-essential business, and required Maryland residents to shelter at home. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). Although some restrictions have eased since the initial closure orders, MCPS continues the school year in a distance-learning environment. Consequently, many parents and caregivers who must work outside of the home are unable to provide adequate supervision and support for their children as they navigate on-line school. They may also lack technical knowledge to navigate the virtual environment.

4. Despite the MCPS efforts to implement a robust virtual learning environment, distance learning challenges have disproportionately affected vulnerable, black, brown and low-income students and exacerbated persistent educational disparities. Students who live in the communities hardest hit by COVID may not be able to engage in virtual learning because of barriers beyond their control and need additional support. Moreover, they may have experienced heightened trauma and need access to safe, supervised consistent learning environments.
5. The Children's Opportunity Fund and the Black and Brown Coalition have partnered with child care providers who are licensed by the State to deliver services in public school space to implement Educational Equity and Enrichment (EEE) Hubs. Currently, there are EEE Hubs in nine County Elementary Schools that provide care and supervision for school age children during the school day while MCPS is meeting virtually. School-based child care providers and MCPS staff collaborate to identify and target students that need this support. To date, services have been largely supported by philanthropic dollars.
6. The special appropriation will have positive changes in racial equity and social justice in the County. The goal of the program is to provide supervision and virtual learning supports to mitigate the negative impact that distance learning challenges have on vulnerable, low-income students of color. The program generally targets low-income students in Title I school communities, who are overwhelmingly students of color. The race/ethnicity make-up of participants is 10% White, 48% Latino, 33% African American, 9% multi-racial.
7. This special appropriation will provide \$1.8 million in public funding to the Greater Washington Community – Children's Opportunity Fund to expand the number of EEE Hub sites and serve 500 children over a 12-week period. Funds must be used to supplement tuition for before, during, and after school child care while MCPS is meeting virtually. The rate of tuition reimbursement with these funds, including required family co-payments, must be consistent with the DHHS School-Age Child Care Program.
8. To be eligible for tuition support with these funds, children must reside in Montgomery County and be enrolled in Montgomery County Public Schools, and their families must have income at or below 400% of the federal poverty level and apply for State and local child care subsidies if eligible. Tuition reimbursement must be reduced by the amounts received or eligible to be received from existing State and local childcare subsidy programs. For a provider to be eligible to participate, they must comply with COVID health requirements, including appropriate social distancing of students in child care space, and be able to access and support the MCPS virtual curriculum for each child.
9. Utilizing the goals and methods codified in Montgomery County's Early Care and Education Initiative, the Children's Opportunity Fund must assess and leverage available public and private resources that may support program outreach and implementation to include Regional Service Centers, consolidated services hubs, MCPS administrative or school-based staff, and/or community-based non-profit organizations.
10. The Source of Funds is Federal Grant Funds and General Fund Reserves.

11. 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 Children’s Opportunity Fund NDA is approved as follows:

<u>Personnel Expense</u>	<u>Operating Expense</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
\$0	\$1,200,000	\$0	\$0	Federal Grant Funds
\$0	\$ 600,000	\$0	\$0	General Fund Reserves

This special appropriation must only be used to implement the program using the guidelines described in paragraphs 7, 8, and 9. The Department of Health and Human Services will administer the funding.

The Executive must require the Greater Washington Community Foundation to provide monthly reports on implementation of the program to the County Council beginning on November 1, 2020 with a final report by March 1, 2021 about the use of these funds that include: 1) the number of students served each month by service site and home school and 2) the total monthly distribution by service site.

The County must enter into a noncompetitive agreement of \$1,800,000 with the Greater Washington Community Foundation to administer funds through the Children’s Opportunity Fund consistent with the requirements described in paragraphs 7, 8, and 9.

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