



Committee: Directly to Council
Committee Review: N/A
Staff: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst
Purpose: To receive testimony/final action - vote expected
Keywords: #saludybienestar; COVID-19

AGENDA ITEM #10.8
December 8, 2020
**Introduction/Public
Hearing/Action**

SUBJECT

Special Appropriation to the Fiscal Year 21 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Government, COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental Account (NDA), \$4,620,997 (Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves), Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar (For Our Health and Wellbeing)

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

Dr. Raymond Crowel, Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Sonia Mora, Senior Manager, Latino Health Initiative (DHHS)

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Council will review and consider action on a special appropriation to the COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance NDA.

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

On July 28, 2020 the Council approved Resolution 19-565 that appropriated \$5,596,115 for the Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar (For Our Health and Wellbeing) initiative of the Latino Health Steering Committee in response to the disproportionately high number of cases of COVID-19 in the Latino community. Salud y Bienestar is a linguistically and culturally comprehensive and collaborative response of community-based non-profit partners and county government. It includes outreach and education, testing and contact tracing, clinical follow-up and a "hospital at home" support effort, case management, and mental health support. The July appropriation also funded support for the Community Service Hubs to provide food, diapers, and other supplies and access to services to all residents who have been impacted by COVID.

The CARES funding will end on December 30, 2020 but COVID-19 continues to spread and ongoing funding for this targeted response is needed.

This special appropriation is part of a \$20,765,691 package forwarded by the County Executive that includes funding for Food Security, Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar, and the African American Health Program Executive Committee COVID Response. Ongoing funding for the Community Service Hubs is included in the Food Security appropriation.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- The Latino community continues to be disproportionately impacted by cases of COVID-19. The County website says that in November, people identified as Hispanic had over 25% of cases. In June, this was 42% of cases.

- Salud y Bienestar conducts targeted testing that is accessible to people living in the most highly impacted zip codes and communities. From November 5 through November 19, almost 7,000 tests were conducted with a focus on zip codes 20901, 20902, 20903, 20904, and 20877. Since the start of the initiative, almost 25,000 tests have been performed. The Salud y Bienestar website provides information on upcoming testing events.
- Health Promoters have reached over 42,000 residents, provided educational materials to over 22,000 and given 15,686 referrals. They work closely with the testing program. Calls to the help line have increased significantly. Salud y Bienestar has created public service announcements and has active coverage on television, radio, and digital platforms.
- Case management has been provided to almost 4,000 people. Households have lost jobs and income because of COVID and need substantial assistance with rent, food, and healthcare.
- On December 3, 2020 the Health and Human Services Committee received an update from the Latino Health Steering Committee on Salud y Bienestar and on the urgent need to continue this targeted comprehensive response. This special appropriation will ensure there is no gap in funding when CARES funding expires on December 30, 2020. The HHS Committee has requested a follow-up session when the Council returns from recess.
- Funding for Community Hubs, which was originally included in Salud y Bienestar will now be funded through the Food Security effort. Ongoing funding for the Community Hubs is included in the special appropriation that is Agenda Item #10.7.
- The Executive branch intends to seek reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for all pandemic-related expenses including, but not limited to, testing and contact tracing.

Link to Salud y Bienestar website:

<https://www.lhiinfo.org/saludybienestar/>

Linea de Ayuda (Help Line) 301-270-8432

This report contains:

Draft Special Appropriation Resolution
County Executive Transmittal Memo

© 1-2
© 3-4

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Resolution No: _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation #21-504 to the FY21 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental
Account (NDA); \$4,620,997 (Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves)
Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar (For Our Health and Wellbeing)

Background

1. Section 308 of the Montgomery County Charter provides that a special appropriation: (a) may be made at any time after public notice by news release; (b) must state that the special appropriation is necessary to meet an unforeseen disaster or other emergency or to act without delay in the public interest; (c) must specify the revenues necessary to finance it; and (d) must be approved by no fewer than six members of the Council.
2. The County Executive has requested the following FY21 Operating Budget appropriation increases for the COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental Account (NDA):

<u>Personnel</u> <u>Services</u>	<u>Operating</u> <u>Expenses</u>	<u>Capital</u> <u>Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source</u> <u>of Funds</u>
\$0	\$4,620,997	\$0	\$4,620,997	General Fund Reserves

3. This increase is needed to continue providing a targeted emergency response related to the disparate impact of COVID-19 on Hispanic or Latinx persons who have high COVID positivity rates compared with those of non-Hispanic persons. Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar (For Our Health and Wellbeing) has developed a proposal to continue implementing a culturally and linguistically competent health and wellness system that addresses critical needs for outreach, education, clinical follow-up, case management, and coordination of mental health services. The County will pursue FEMA reimbursement for all costs to the extent that those costs are eligible for reimbursement.

4. The County Executive has requested a special appropriation to the FY21 Operating Budget in the amount of \$4,620,997 for Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar (For Our Health and Wellbeing) and specifies that the source of funds will be General Fund Reserves.
5. Public notice of this special appropriation was provided and a public hearing was held.

Action

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

1. A special appropriation to the FY21 Operating Budget of the COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental Account (NDA) 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	\$4,620,997	\$0	\$4,620,997	General Fund Reserves

2. The Department of Health and Human Services will continue and amend its current non-competitive contract with The Primary Care Coalition of Montgomery County, Inc. as provided in Resolution 19-472, Approval of and Appropriation for the FY 2021 Operating Budget of the Montgomery County Government, Budget Provision #6 that provides this authority for contracts providing COVID-19 response.
3. The County Council declares that this action is necessary to act in response to a public health or safety 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



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Marc Elrich
County Executive

M E M O R A N D U M

December 4, 2020

TO: Tom Hucker, President, County Council

FROM: Marc Elrich, County Executive 

SUBJECT: Special Appropriations for COVID Food Insecurity Efforts, Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar program, and the African American Health Program COVID Response program

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the County has implemented a number of programs to help residents endure the hardships that have occurred. Without additional funding, there could be a lapse in service for three of these vital programs after December 30, 2020. I am recommending a special appropriation to continue to assist County residents facing food insecurity. In addition, I am recommending two appropriations that relate to addressing the impact of COVID on two of the County's racial and ethnic populations that were largely funded using Federal Coronavirus Relief Fund dollars – the Latino Health Initiative's (LHI) Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar program and the African American Health Program (AAHP) Executive Committee Targeted COVID Response program. The three appropriations are described below, and the source of funding for each of them will be General Fund Reserves.

Special Appropriation	Purpose	Amount
21-503	Food Security	\$12,803,250
21-504	Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar	\$4,620,997
21-505	AAHP COVID Response	\$3,341,444
Total		\$20,765,691

Food Security

I am recommending a special appropriation to the COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental Account for \$12,803,250 to continue the County's response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the food security of County residents. This appropriation will allow Montgomery County's Food Security Task Force to continue services through the end of the fiscal year. The funds will support the efforts to connect residents to food assistance in the short term and make investments in systems, programs, and partnerships that will last past the crisis.

The Task Force has developed the “COVID-19 Pandemic Food Security Strategic Plan,” which identifies actionable strategies to address critical needs to increase the volume of food in the food assistance system; improve the food delivery system; communicate to and connect residents with resources; and ultimately foster a permanently resilient and equitable food system in Montgomery County. The Task Force estimates that the additional funding is needed to continue providing services from January 2021 to June 2021. To date this program has been paid for using General Fund dollars, the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security feels very confident that FEMA will accept almost all costs associated with this program.

Minority Health Program COVID Response

I am recommending a special appropriation to the COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental Account for \$4,620,997 to continue LHI’s Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar program. This program provides a targeted emergency response related to the disparate impact of COVID-19 on Hispanic or Latinx persons who have high COVID positivity rates compared with those of non-Hispanic persons. It has developed a proposal to continue implementing a culturally and linguistically competent health and wellness system that addresses critical needs for outreach, education, clinical follow-up, case management, and coordination of mental health services.

I am also recommending a special appropriation to the COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental Account for \$3,341,444 to continue AAHP executive Committee Targeted COVID Response program. The program provides a targeted emergency response related to the disparate impact of COVID-19 on African American and Black residents because of the underlying conditions that are driving the cases and disparities in death rates. The African American Health Program Executive Committee Targeted COVID Response will continue implementing strategies that address critical needs for community outreach, communications, and education, mental health supports and services, support of a Black Physician Partnership, and funds to address food insecurity for African American and Black residents.

For each of these appropriations, the County will pursue FEMA reimbursement for all costs to the extent that those costs are eligible for reimbursement.

I appreciate your prompt consideration of this action.

ME:jw

Attachments: Special Appropriations 21-503, 21-504, and 21-505
Certification from the Chief Administrative Officer for amending Section G of Resolution 19-472, FY21 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Award Status

c: Raymond L. Crowel, Psy.D., Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Earl Stoddard, Ph.D., Director, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
Jennifer Bryant, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget