



**Committee:** Directly to Council

**Committee Review:** N/A

**Staff:** Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst

**Purpose:** To receive testimony/final action - vote expected

**Keywords:** #aahpcovid; COVID-19

AGENDA ITEM #10.9

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), \$3,341,444 (Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves), African American Health Program Executive Committee Targeted COVID Response

Amendment to the FY21 Operating Budget for Montgomery County Government, Resolution 19-472, Section G, Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status: The National Center for Children and Families, Inc.

## **EXPECTED ATTENDEES**

Dr. Raymond Crowel, Director, Department of Health and Human Services  
Dourakine Rosarion, Special Assistant to the Director, 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 and an amendment to the non-competitive award designation to reflect this additional funding.

## **DESCRIPTION/ISSUE**

On August 4, 2020 the Council approved Resolution 19-582 that appropriated \$3,354,084 for the African American Health Program Executive Committee (AAHP-EC) Targeted COVID Response to address the disproportionately high number of COVID-19 deaths in the African American and Black community. The high number of deaths is linked to the disproportionately high prevalence of chronic and underlying health conditions and socioeconomic factors. The AAHP-EC Targeted COVID Response is a comprehensive and collaborative partnership of community-based non-profits organizations and county government. It also includes a partnership with Black physicians and health care providers. The AAHP-EC Targeted COVID Response seeks to dramatically increase testing and use testing as the catalyst to address other needs. The initiative includes targeted testing, contact tracing, outreach and education, distribution of COVID kits, mental health supports (including specific outreach about domestic violence), food delivery, and data collection for ongoing analysis and evaluation.

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.

## SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Data on the County website indicates that since March the total death rate for non-Hispanic Blacks is 97.2 per 100,000 compared to 89.7 for the total County population. In April, 28% of county COVID deaths were African Americans and Blacks.
- The AAHP-EC COVID Response has tested over 2,100 people in hot spot zip codes and in partnership with organizations such as the Housing Opportunities Commission. There are 55 test events confirmed through December 30.
- The “Don’t Stress the Test” communications campaign has been widely disseminated through media, in print, and on buses. Public Services Announcements and videos explaining the testing process have been produced and aired. AAHP-EC representatives have provided media interviews on the effort.
- COVID kits containing digital, touchless thermometers, masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies and information are distributed to clients completing a COVID test. Nurse Navigators follow-up with those that test positive and made over 3,800 calls during November.
- Mental health supports include a resource team, family mindfulness support circle, and domestic violence helpline to assist with the stress and isolation that is a result of the pandemic.
- Food supports include the delivery of meals to families during their quarantine period.
- On December 3, 2020 the Health and Human Services Committee received an update from the AAHP-EC 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.
- 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 AAHP EC COVID Response website:**

<https://www.aahpcovid.com/>

Get additional information by e-mailing: [ResourceTeam@ahpcovid.com](mailto:ResourceTeam@ahpcovid.com) or 301-296-4444

AAHP Domestic Violence Hotline: 240-729-3911

### **This report contains:**

Draft Special Appropriation Resolution  
County Executive Transmittal Memo  
Section G Amendment memo from CAO

© 1-3

© 4-5

© 6

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

COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

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SUBJECT: Special Appropriation #21-505 to the FY21 Operating Budget  
Montgomery County Government  
COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental  
Account (NDA); \$3,341,444 (Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves)  
African American Health Program Executive Committee Targeted COVID Response  
and  
Resolution to Amend the FY21 Operating Budget for the Montgomery County  
Government, Resolution 19-472, Section G, Designation of Entities for Non-  
Competitive Contract Award Status: The National Center for Children and  
Families, Inc.

**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	\$3,341,444	\$0	\$3,341,444	General Fund Reserves

3. This increase is needed to continue providing 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. 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 \$3,341,444 for the African American Health Program Executive Committee Targeted COVID Response and specifies that the source of funds will be General Fund Reserves.
5. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will increase the amount of an existing contract with The National Center for Children and Families, Inc. by the amount of this appropriation to continue implementing this program.
6. The Chief Administrative Officer has determined that funding for the contract with this entity for this purpose serves a public purpose and that such an expense would be in the public interest.
7. 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	\$3,341,444	\$0	\$3,341,444	General Fund Reserves

2. This resolution amends Resolution 19-472, Section G, FY21 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Award Status to increase an existing DHHS contract with The National Center for Children and Families, Inc. for the purpose to “Implement the African American Health Program Executive Committee Targeted COVID Response Program” by \$3,341,444 from \$3,354,084 to \$6,695,528.

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.

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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
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$20,765,691</b>

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



**OFFICES OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

**Marc Elrich**  
*County Executive*

**Richard S. Madaleno**  
*Chief Administrative Officer*

**MEMORANDUM**

December 4, 2020

TO: Tom Hucker, President, County Council

FROM: Richard S. Madaleno, Chief Administrative Officer *RSM*

SUBJECT: Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget  
Resolution 19-472, Section G, Fiscal Year 2021 Designation of Entities for  
Non-Competitive Contract Award Status for African American Health Program  
Executive Committee Targeted COVID Response Program

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting to amend the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Operating Budget Resolution 19-472, Section G, and the FY21 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status as described below.

DHHS will increase an existing contract with The National Center for Children and Families, Inc. for the purpose to "Implement the African American Health Program Executive Committee Targeted COVID Response Program" by \$3,341,444 from \$3,354,084 to \$6,695,528.

I have determined that this action serves a public purpose and is in the public interest. Therefore, I recommend that the Council amend the Miscellaneous Provision in Section G of Resolution 19-472 for the FY 2021 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award.

RM:dl

c: Raymond L. Crowel, Psy.D., Director, Department of Health and Human Services  
Jennifer Bryant, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget  
Fariba Kassiri, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Avinash G. Shetty, Director, Office of Procurement  
Pam Jones, Division Chief, Office of Procurement