



Committee: HHS
Committee Review: Completed
Staff: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst
Purpose: To receive testimony/final action - vote expected
Keywords: SAFE Center; Human Trafficking; Housing

AGENDA ITEM #9
October 19, 2021
Public Hearing/Action

SUBJECT

Supplemental Appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Government, Department of Health and Human Services; University of Maryland's Office of Research Administration, Short-Term Housing Assistance for Human Trafficking Survivors: A Path to Permanent Housing; \$300,000 (Source of Funds: University of Maryland Grant)

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

Amanda Harris, Chief, Service to End and Prevent Homelessness, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- The Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee met on October 11 and recommends (3-0) approval of this supplemental appropriation.
- This supplemental appropriation was introduced on October 5, 2021.

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

Human trafficking is a heinous crime and victims need protection and services to regain their lives. Since opening in 2016, the University of Maryland SAFE Center has served more than 240 human trafficking survivors. The University of Maryland has been awarded a grant from the Department of Justice and is partnering with Montgomery County to provide Rapid Re-housing assistance to victims who need help stabilizing their housing and becoming self-sufficient so they can maintain permanent homes and not return to homelessness.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Human trafficking is the criminal exploitation for profit of women and girls, and men and boys for commercial sex and forced labor. Traffickers use force, fraud, and coercion to entrap their victims and compel them to work in exploitative conditions for the traffickers' enrichment. Human trafficking occurs all around the world, including in the United States. Victims can be women, men, and transgender individuals; adults and youth; Americans and foreign nationals. Councilmember Rice, who serves on the Human Trafficking Task Force with Council President Hucker, noted that this exploitation can now include forcing people to make videos in order for the trafficker to make money.
- The University of Maryland's Support, Advocacy, Freedom, and Empowerment Center for Human Trafficking Survivors (SAFE Center) is a university-based, comprehensive direct services, advocacy, and research center on human trafficking. It serves victims and survivors of sex and labor trafficking of all ages, genders, and nationalities.

- Representatives from the SAFE Center told the HHS Committee that about 36% of those served by the SAFE Center have either been Montgomery County residents or were trafficked in Montgomery County. Referrals to the SAFE Center come from law enforcement, community members, and non-profit and community organizations.
- In Montgomery County, the SAFE Center also serves youth victims of trafficking through their navigation program which includes connecting with youth in the State’s juvenile detention center.
- The SAFE Center is doing prevention work through the schools, educating both students and parents as parents may see trafficking or be trafficked themselves.
- The Department of Justice, Office of the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs awarded the University of Maryland a \$499,990 Housing Assistance Grant. DHHS is receiving \$300,000 as a subrecipient to partner with the SAFE Center to provide Rapid Re-Housing assistance to victims and survivors to help them to stabilize their housing and avoid returning to homelessness.
- This Rapid Re-housing intervention will be provided for up to 24 months. Because of the unstable circumstances of these victims, this is a longer period than a more traditional Rapid Re-housing structure of 6 to 12 months. It is important to work with the victim to determine where they will be most safely housed. Rapid-Rehousing pays rent in full for the first several months and then reduces the assistance, so the client is slowly paying more toward monthly rent.
- To help ensure that people are able to support their housing costs at the end of the assistance period, the SAFE Center’s economic empowerment program will help clients with English language education, resume development, mock interviewing, GED preparation, job fairs and job applications.
- The County aims to enroll 15 clients and their families into the Rapid Re-housing program.
- The grant will also support the collection of data that will be critical to developing strategies for ending human trafficking in Montgomery County. The HHS Committee requested that DHHS be able to report on demographic information regarding the people served through this housing intervention.
- The HHS Committee requested a future joint session with the Public Safety Committee to further discuss trafficking including a discussion of law enforcement and prosecution of traffickers.

Attached:

Memo from County Executive	1-2
Approval Resolution	3-4
Summary information from SAFE Center website	5-7

Alternative format requests for people with disabilities. If you need assistance accessing this report you may [submit alternative format requests](#) to the ADA Compliance Manager. The ADA Compliance Manager can also be reached at 240-777-6197 (TTY 240-777-6196) or at adacompliance@montgomerycountymd.gov



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

MEMORANDUM

September 28, 2021

TO: Tom Hucker, President
County Council

FROM: Marc Elrich, County Executive 

SUBJECT: Supplemental Appropriation #22-11 to the FY22 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
Department of Health and Human Services
University of Maryland, Office of Research Administration, Short-Term
Housing Assistance for Human Trafficking Survivors: A Path to Permanent
Housing
\$300,000 (Source of Funds: University of Maryland Grant)

I am recommending a supplemental appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in the amount of \$300,000 for a grant from the University of Maryland, Office of Research Administration, Short-Term Housing Assistance for Human Trafficking Survivors: A Path to Permanent Housing.

This funding will be used to support residents of Montgomery County in continuum of care by providing resources directly to victims of human trafficking and will bolster DHHS efforts in administering assistance to victims of human trafficking. It will also support the collection of data that will be critical to developing strategies for ending human trafficking in Montgomery County. The program will be administered by DHHS, Services to End and Prevent Homelessness.

On August 4, 2020, the Department of Justice Office of the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs awarded the University of Maryland OVC FY20 Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Human Trafficking \$499,990. Montgomery County DHHS is a Subrecipient and is awarded \$300,000 for participating in the program.

The University of Maryland, Office of Research Administration through its Support, Advocacy, Freedom, and Empowerment Center for Human Trafficking Survivors awarded the funding for rapid rehousing, energy assistance, and moving assistance for single adults and families who are victims of human trafficking.

Supplemental Appropriation #22-11 to the FY22 Operating Budget
Page 2 of 2
September 28, 2021

I recommend that the County Council approve this supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$300,000 and specify the source of funds as University of Maryland Grant. This supplemental appropriation does not impact General Fund Reserves.

I appreciate your prompt consideration of this action.

ME:dl

Enclosure: Supplemental Appropriation #22-11 University of Maryland, Office of Research Administration, Short-Term Housing Assistance for Human Trafficking Survivors:
A Path to Permanent Housing

cc: Raymond L. Crowel, Psy.D., Director, DHHS
Victoria Buckland, Chief Operating Officer, DHHS
Jennifer Bryant, Director, Office of Management and Budget

Resolution No: _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

SUBJECT: Supplemental Appropriation #22-11 to the FY22 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
Department of Health and Human Services
University of Maryland, Office of Research Administration, Short-Term
Housing Assistance for Human Trafficking Survivors: A Path to Permanent
Housing
\$300,000 (Source of Funds: University of Maryland Grant)

Background

1. Section 307 of the Montgomery County Charter provides that any supplemental appropriation shall be recommended by the County Executive who shall specify the source of funds to finance it. The Council shall hold a public hearing on each proposed supplemental appropriation after at least one week's notice. A supplemental appropriation that would comply with, avail the County of, or put into effect a grant or a Federal, State or County law or regulation, or one that is approved after January 1 of any fiscal year, requires an affirmative vote of five Councilmembers. A supplemental appropriation for any other purpose that is approved before January 1 of any fiscal year requires an affirmative vote of six Councilmembers. The Council may, in a single action, approve more than one supplemental appropriation. The Executive may disapprove or reduce a supplemental appropriation, and the Council may reapprove the appropriation, as if it were an item in the annual budget.
2. The County Executive has requested the following FY22 Operating Budget appropriation increases for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS):

<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
\$0	\$300,000	\$0	\$300,000	University of Maryland Grant

3. This funding will be used to support residents of Montgomery County in continuum of care by providing resources directly to victims of human trafficking and will bolster DHHS efforts in administering assistance to victims of human trafficking. It will also support the collection of data that will be critical to developing strategies for ending human trafficking in Montgomery County. The program will be administered by DHHS, Services to End and Prevent Homelessness.
4. On August 4, 2020, the Department of Justice Office of the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs awarded the University of Maryland OVC FY20 Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Human Trafficking \$499,990. Montgomery County DHHS is a Subrecipient and is awarded \$300,000 for participating in the program.
5. The University of Maryland, Office of Research Administration through its Support, Advocacy, Freedom, and Empowerment Center for Human Trafficking Survivors awarded the funding for rapid rehousing, energy assistance, and moving assistance for single adults and families who are victims of human trafficking.
6. The County Executive has requested a supplemental appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget in the amount of \$300,000 for University of Maryland, Office of Research Administration, Short-Term Housing Assistance for Human Trafficking Survivors: A Path to Permanent Housing and specifies that the source of funds will be University of Maryland Grant.
7. The public was notified and a public hearing was held.

Action

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

A supplemental appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget of the Department of Health and Human Services 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	\$300,000	\$0	\$300,000	University of Maryland Grant

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council

SUMMARY INFORMATION from SAFE CENTER WEBSITE

<https://umdsafecenter.org/>

The University of Maryland SUPPORT, ADVOCACY, FREEDOM, AND EMPOWERMENT (SAFE) Center for Human Trafficking Survivors provides survivor-centered and trauma-informed services that empower trafficking survivors to heal and reclaim their lives. The SAFE Center aims to prevent trafficking and better serve survivors through research and policy advocacy.

The SAFE Center is an initiative of the University of Maryland Strategic Partnership: MPowering the State – a collaboration between the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP). *MPowering the State* leverages the sizable strengths and complementary missions of both institutions to strengthen Maryland’s innovation economy, advance interdisciplinary research, create opportunities for students, and solve important problems for the people of Maryland and the nation. Working together, UMB and UMCP achieve innovation and impact through collaboration.

As part of *MPowering the State*, the SAFE Center is housed under the University of Maryland, College Park and the University of Maryland, Baltimore, where we are part of the Graduate School.

WHAT WE DO:

Provide direct services for survivors of sex and labor trafficking.

Conduct research to fill gaps in knowledge on human trafficking and to improve our services to survivors.

Promote political advocacy in support of justice and empowerment for survivors.

WHO WE SERVE:

We serve survivors of sex and/or labor trafficking of all nationalities, ages, and genders.

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking is the criminal exploitation for profit of women and girls, and men and boys for commercial sex and forced labor. Traffickers use force, fraud, and coercion to entrap their victims and compel them to work in exploitative conditions for the traffickers’ enrichment.

Human trafficking occurs all around the world, including in the United States. Victims can be women, men, and transgender individuals; adults and youth; Americans and foreign nationals.

FORCE, FRAUD, AND COERCION

Force includes physical abuse, sexual violence, kidnapping, and physical confinement. *Fraud* involves deception and false promises; for example, convincing someone that they're bound by a phony contract or that they need to work to pay off a false debt. *Coercion* includes threats and psychological manipulation. Often traffickers will threaten violence and other types of harm against the victim or the victim's children and family should the victim try to escape the trafficker's control.

SEX TRAFFICKING

Under United States' Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, sex trafficking of a person aged 18 or older involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to entrap that person in commercial sex. If the person is under the age of 18, causing that person to engage in commercial sex constitutes human trafficking, regardless of how or why they became involved. Although the majority of sex trafficking victims are women and girls, men and boys also experience sex trafficking.

LABOR TRAFFICKING

Labor trafficking is also defined under United States' Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. Labor trafficking, or "forced labor," involves using force, fraud, or coercion to cause someone to work in exploitative conditions in industries such as construction, agriculture, hospitality, salons, restaurants, and as domestic servants in people's homes.

TRAFFICKING IN THE UNITED STATES

Foreign nationals are trafficked into the United States mainly from Central and South America, Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe. Traffickers prey people's vulnerabilities—their hopes for an education, a job, and a better life in the United States. Except once they arrive in the United States, they are forced into the commercial sex industry and forced labor.

Americans are also trafficked in the United States. Traffickers profit off of the sex trafficking of the most vulnerable youth in the U.S., including those who are homeless, have run away, have a history of abuse, or are in the child welfare system.

SIGNS OF SEX TRAFFICKING

Unable to attend school on a regular basis and/or unexplained absences

Frequently running away from home

References frequent travel to other cities

Bruises or other signs of physical or mental trauma

Lacks control over a personal schedule and/or identification documents

Inappropriately dressed (based on weather conditions or surroundings)

Shows signs of drug addiction

Provides coached or rehearsed responses to questions

Has a "boyfriend" or "girlfriend" who is noticeably older and/or controlling

Attempts to conceal scars, tattoos, or bruises

Demonstrates a sudden change in attention to personal hygiene

Has tattoos (a form of branding) displaying the name or moniker of a trafficker, such as "daddy"

RECOGNIZING LABOR TRAFFICKING

LOCATIONS FOR LABOR TRAFFICKING

Domestic Work

Agriculture
Restaurants / Food Service
Traveling Sales Crews
Construction
Health and Beauty Services
Begging Rings

RECRUITMENT TACTICS FOR LABOR TRAFFICKING

False Promises
Fraudulent contracts
Family/Peer Recruitment
Unethical Labor Contracting

SIGNS OF LABOR TRAFFICKING

Unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips.
Employed but does not possess an authorized work permit.
Employed with a work permit but clearly working outside the permitted hours .
Owes a large debt and unable to pay it off.
Not allowed breaks at work or being subjected to excessively long work hours.
Overly concerned with pleasing an employer and/or deferring personal or educational decisions to a boss.
Lacks control of his or her own money.
Lives with an employer or has an employer listed as their caregiver.
Desires to quit a job but not allowed to do so. Show signs of fear, anxiety, depression submission, tension and/or nervousness.