



Committee: Directly to Council
Committee Review: N/A
Staff: Nicole Rodriguez-Hernandez, Legislative Analyst
Purpose: To receive testimony/final action - vote expected
Keywords: #MontgomeryCollege

AGENDA ITEM #12
December 14, 2021
Public Hearing/Action

SUBJECT

Special Appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget, Montgomery College, \$22,320,815 for the Federal, State, Private Grants and Contract budget (Source of Funds: Federal Grants)

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

None

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

The County Council will receive testimony and consider action on a special appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget, Montgomery College, \$22,320,815 for the Federal, State, Private Grants and Contract budget. The source of funds is the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) III grant and the HEERF Minority Serving Institution (MSI) grant.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- The Board of Trustees requested this appropriation amendment on November 19, 2021. The Council introduced the appropriation on November 30, 2021.
- This supplemental appropriation is needed for the College to utilize the funding prior to June 20, 2022 (HEERF III grant) and August 2, 2022 (HEERF III MSI grant). Specifically, funds will be used towards expenditures related to the pandemic such as HVAC enhancements, student reengagement activities, employee technology, and HyFlex student learning spaces.

This report contains:

Draft Special Appropriation Resolution	©1-2
Board of Trustees Request (November 19, 2021)	©3-6
Council Sponsored Special Appropriation: Racial Equity and Social Justice	©7-9

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Resolution No.: _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: County Council

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget
Montgomery College
Federal, State, Private Grants and Contract budget, \$22,320,815
Source of Funds: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III Grant and Higher
Education Emergency Relief Fund III Minority Serving Institution Grant

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. The Board of Trustees has requested a special appropriation of \$22,320,815 for Montgomery College's FY22 Operating Budget for the Federal, State, Private Grants and Contract budget from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III Grant and Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III Minority Serving Institution Grant.

<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	\$22,320,815	\$0	\$22,320,815	Federal Grants

3. This appropriation is needed to provide spending authority for the use of grant funds received from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III Grant and Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III Minority Serving Institution Grant. As grant awards, there is no effect on the County's current or future maintenance of effort requirements.
4. Notice of public hearing was given and the public hearing was held.
5. The County Council declares this request is in the public interest to be acted upon without delay as provided for under special appropriation requirements described in Article 3, Section 308 of the Montgomery County Charter.

Action

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

A special appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget of Montgomery College 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	\$22,320,815	\$0	\$22,320,815	Federal Grants

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council

November 19, 2021

The Honorable Marc Elrich
County Executive
Montgomery County
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, Maryland 20850

The Honorable Tom Hucker
President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Elrich and Mr. Hucker:

The United States Department of Education awarded Montgomery College a Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) grant, under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in the amount of \$40,503,407, of which \$20,493,396 is designated for Student Emergency Assistance, and \$20,010,011 is designated for institutional use. The College was also awarded a HEERF III Minority Serving Institution (MSI) grant, under ARPA in the amount of \$2,310,804.

The College requests approval of a supplemental appropriation to expend \$20,010,011 of the institutional portion HEERF III grant and \$2,310,804 of the HEERF III MSI grant in FY22 for a total of \$22,320,815.

The Department of Education will disburse funds directly to the College. The funds, under statute and the additional guidance from the Department of Education, must be used to defray certain institutional costs related to the COVID-19 public health crisis. The College has until June 20, 2022, to expend the institutional portion of the HEERF III grant and until August 2, 2021 for the HEERF III MSI grant.

On October 5, 2021, the County Council approved a supplemental appropriation of \$17,082,886 for the HEERF II grant increasing the FY22 Federal, State, Private Grants and Contract fund from \$17,355,000 to \$34,437,886. The College now seeks another supplemental appropriation to the FY22 Federal, State, Private Grants and Contract Fund to expend the institutional portion of the HEERF III grant and the HEERF III MSI grant. This supplemental appropriation will increase the College's FY22 Federal, State, Private Grants and Contract Fund from \$34,437,886 to \$56,758,701. The College designated the use both of these HEERF III grant funds for expenditures related to the COVID-19 public health crisis such as HVAC enhancements, student reengagement activities, employee technology, and HyFlex student

learning spaces which provides the College continued flexibility for emergency remote services and continuity of operations.

It is important to note that ARPA requires \$20,493,396 of the College's HEERF III grant be distributed to students for emergency assistance. The College is providing this much-needed financial relief directly to students. As of October 31, 2021, the College had disbursed 4,355 student awards from this grant, totaling \$11,038,428. Combined with other CARES Act and HEERF grant funds directed for student emergency assistance, MC has now disbursed 14,780 student awards totaling over \$20 million from March 2020 to October 2021.

Thank you for your assistance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Knapp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Michael J. Knapp
Chair, The Montgomery College Board of Trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlene Mickens Dukes". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Charlene Mickens Dukes, Ed.D.
Interim President, Montgomery College

Attachment: Montgomery College Board Resolution

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONTGOMERY COLLEGE**
Rockville, Maryland

Resolution Number: **22-11-025**
Adopted on: **11/15/2021**

Agenda Item Number: 11A
November 15, 2021

Subject: Supplemental Appropriation Request for the FY22 Federal, State Private Grants Budget

WHEREAS, On March 5, 2020, the governor of the state of Maryland proclaimed a state of emergency and health emergency to control and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus within the state; and

WHEREAS, On March 11, 2020, the president of the College issued a memorandum detailing the College's response plan to the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, The plan called for the College to begin providing instruction remotely, including counseling and support services, as well as requiring all non-essential employees to work remotely; and

WHEREAS, On December 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, also known as CRRSAA, was signed into law to address the economic and financial burden for students and educational institutions due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (HEERF II); and

WHEREAS, On June 21, 2021, the Board of Trustees adopted the FY22 Current, Enterprise, and Other Funds budget under resolution 21-06-070; and

WHEREAS, The Other Funds Budget remains as adopted and no further changes are necessary to the Boards original adoption on January 27, 2021 under resolution 21-01-017; and

WHEREAS, The Board's original adoption for the Federal, State, Private Grants, and Contract fund was \$17,355,000; and

WHEREAS, On June 21, 2021, under resolution 21-06-071, the Board of Trustees approved a supplemental request for the HEERF II grant in the amount of \$17,082,886 increasing the FY22 Federal, State, Private Grants and Contract fund from \$17,355,000 to \$34,437,886; and

WHEREAS, Since the Board of Trustees' original adoption and approval of a supplemental request, the federal government has awarded funding to help Montgomery College ensure learning continues for students during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Education awarded Montgomery College the HEERF III grant, under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), in the amount of \$40,503,407; and

WHEREAS \$20,493,396 must be expended for emergency student assistance. The balance of the funds, \$20,010,011, is available to the College for institutional costs; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Education awarded Montgomery College the HEERF III Minority Serving Institution (MSI) grant, under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in the amount of \$2,310,804; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Trustees approves and supports a supplemental appropriation request of \$22,320,815 to the Montgomery County Executive and County Council pursuant to the ARP Act, for the FY22 Federal, State, Private Grants and Contracts; and be it further

Resolved, That this action will increase the FY22 Federal, State, Private Grants and Contract fund appropriation to \$56,758,701; and be it further

	<i>Fed/State/Private Grants approved June 21, 2021</i>	<i>Supplemental</i>	<i>Fed/State/Private Grants</i>
Grant & Endowment Expenditure	\$ 34,437,886	\$ 22,320,815	\$ 56,758,701

Resolved, That the budgeted source of funds to fund the College's FY22 Federal, State, Private Grants and Contract fund are in the amounts listed in the table below.

	<i>Fed/State/Private Grants</i>	<i>Supplemental</i>	<i>Fed/State/Private Grants</i>
Federal Grants	\$ 26,362,886	\$ 22,320,815	\$ 48,683,701
State Contracts & Grants	\$ 4,160,000		\$ 4,160,000
Other	\$ 3,915,000		\$ 3,915,000
Total	\$ 34,437,886	\$ 22,320,815	\$ 56,758,701

Council Sponsored Special Appropriation: Racial Equity and Social Justice

SUBJECT

- Special Appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget, Montgomery College, \$22,320,815 for the Federal, State, Private Grants and Contract budget Source of Funds: Federal Grants
- Board of Trustees requested: November 19, 2021
- Council introduced: November 30, 2021
- Public Hearing and Action: scheduled December 14, 2021

Description and Background

Montgomery College received \$42,814,211 in additional funding Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III from the U.S. Department of Education under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). Under the HEERF III, the U.S. Department of Education awarded grants to 1) provide student emergency assistance; 2) defray certain institutional costs related to the COVID-19 public health crisis; and 3) provide additional assistance to minority serving institutions (MSI). The Council only needs to act on appropriations related to institutional use (not student emergency assistance). Approximately \$20,493,396 will be used for emergency student assistance. The remaining balance of \$22,320,815 (\$20,010,011 in HEERF III, \$2,310,804 in HEERF III MSI) will be considered by the Council.

The requested funds will be used to provide for:

- HVAC enhancements;
- Student reengagement activities;
- Employee technology; and
- HyFlex student learning spaces.

While student emergency assistance is separate from the Council's consideration, it is important to note that as of October 21, 2022, the College has provided over 14,780 student awards totaling over \$20,000,000.

Data

The Office of Racial Equality and Social Justice has referenced the following data in analysis of a related HEERF College appropriation¹:

In fall 2020, Montgomery College had a total enrollment of 20,037 students² down from 21,260 in fall 2019 and 21,720 in fall 2018. This decline follows national data but is far less steep than the national trend of 10.1% decline reported in fall 2020³. The majority of students at Montgomery College are people of color with the following distribution by race and ethnicity: 26% of students were Black or African American, 26% Hispanic or Latino, 22% White, 12% Asian, and 4% were multi-race. Students who were non-citizens made up 23% of enrolled students, and in 2018 students with disabilities represented 7% of the college's total population⁴. Information provided in the supplemental request indicates that the average household income of students eligible for financial aid was just over \$27,000 and 65% of students are enrolled part-time.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, students of color experienced disparities in resources, opportunities, and outcomes across educational settings (K-12 and post-secondary)⁵. The experiences of community college students are often complex and involve navigating systems that have not kept pace with changing educational and employment patterns or sufficiently recognized structural inequities affecting students' lives (i.e. caretaking responsibilities, access to transportation, etc.). These structural issues make the college transfer process and degree attainment, for example, more complicated. This is particularly true for Black and Latinx students who are most harmed by transfer inefficiencies—the six year bachelor's degree completion rate for Black and Latinx students who begin at community colleges is about half the rate of White students⁶. This on top of how student loan debt limits economic mobility, deeply affects not only how long it takes for students of color to complete their degree but the cumulative cost of higher education, particularly given the pronounced effects of the racial wealth gap⁷.

¹ <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/22-12.pdf>

² Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness. Montgomery College. Fall 2020 Official Enrollment Summary. April 2021. Available at: <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/documents/offices/institutional-research-and-effectiveness/student-enrollments/2020fall-official-enrollment-summary.pdf>.

³ US Department of Education. Office for Civil Rights. Education in a Pandemic: The Disparate Impact of Covid-19 on America's Students. June 2021. Available at: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/20210608-impacts-ofcovid19.pdf>

⁴ Montgomery College at a Glance. August 2019. Available at: https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/documents/offices/institutional-research-and-effectiveness/scorecard_toolkit_mc-at-a-glance/2019-08-mc-at-a-glance.pdf

⁵ Education in a Pandemic: The Disparate Impact of Covid-19 on America's Students.

⁶ Tackling Transfer Policy Advisory Board. The College Excellence Program. The Transfer Reset Rethinking Equitable Policy for Today's Learners. 2021. Available at: <https://higher.ed.aspeninstitute.org/the-transfer-reset/>

⁷ Andre M. Perry, Marshall Steinbaum, and Carl Romer. The Urban Institute. Student loans, the racial wealth divide, and why we need full student debt cancellation. Available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/research/student-loans-the-racial-wealth-divide-and-why-we-need-full-student-debt-cancellation/>

P!!The US Department of Education explained in a June 2021 report how the pandemic has impacted students of all ages and backgrounds, noting the following challenges for students in post-secondary settings: challenges to mental health and well-being; heightened risk of sexual harassment, abuse, and violence; identity-based harassment; new barriers for entry into, continuation and completion of studies. These challenges were felt most acutely by students of color, low-income students, students with disabilities, and students who are transgender or gender non-conforming. The report also explains that enrollment has declined across institutions who disproportionately serve students of color and low-income students and that the pandemic has created or exacerbated structural inequities. Disparities include many of the well-documented health and economic impacts of the pandemic disproportionately affecting Black and Latinx households and communities. The report also highlights how juggling education with additional caregiving and financial responsibilities has forced some students to step away from school. There are also noted disparities in access to technology and internet connectivity, housing access, and meeting basic needs during the pandemic which has also complicated students' attempts to stay connected to school in the online environment⁸.

Council Staff Comments

The purpose and implementation of this special appropriation as stated in the Board of Trustees materials appears consistent with the intent of the Federal grant, which is to defray certain institutional costs related to the COVID-19 public health crisis. The requested appropriation of Federal grant funds will be used to support pandemic-related operational and student activities across the College's campuses.

⁸ Education in a Pandemic: The Disparate Impact of Covid-19 on America's Students.