



Committee: Directly to Council
Committee Review: N/A
Staff: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst
Purpose: Final action – vote expected
Keywords: Newcomers

AGENDA ITEM #20(B)
December 14, 2021
Introduction/Action

SUBJECT

Introduction/Action of Resolution to Amend the FY22 Operating Budget for the Montgomery County Government, Resolution 19-872, Section G, Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status: Asylum Works, Inc., Ayuda, Inc., HIAS, Inc., and University of Maryland, Baltimore

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Introduction/Action.
- An amendment to an approved resolution can be introduced and acted upon in the same Council session and does not require the Council to waive its rules of procedure.

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

Resolution 19-872, Section G authorizes non-competitive contract awards. The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) is recommending amendments to enter into the contracts for legal services that were funded in Resolution 19-968, Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance. Contracts will be with HIAS (\$80,000), Ayuda (\$70,000), Asylum Works (\$50,000) and University of Maryland, Baltimore (\$50,000). No new appropriation is required.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- One goal of the Newcomers initiative is to provide comprehensive legal screenings, services and representation for unaccompanied children, families and/or sponsors through support to legal immigration service providers.
- The following is a link to the November 29 Newcomers update to the Joint HHS and E&C Committee. [20211129_HHSEC1.pdf \(montgomerycountymd.gov\)](#)

Attached:

Memo from CAO and Resolution to amend Resolution 19-872, Section G ©1-4
Excerpt from November 29, 2021 presentation to Joint HHS and E&C Committee ©5-6

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OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

MEMORANDUM

December 13, 2021

TO: Gabe Albornoz, President
Montgomery County Council

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

SUBJECT: Decision Memorandum - Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget Resolution 19-968, Section G, Fiscal Year 2022 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status: Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance

The Community Engagement Cluster (CEC) is requesting to amend the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Operating Budget Resolution 19-872, Section G, and the FY22 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award to provide new contracts with the following entities, amounts, and purpose:

Named Entity	Purpose	Award
HIAS, Inc.	To provide a program to deliver pro bono legal screening and direct legal representation services to certain eligible low-income residents of Montgomery County who are in non-citizen deportation or removal proceedings.	\$80,000
Ayuda, Inc.	To provide a program to deliver pro bono legal screening and direct legal representation services to certain eligible low-income residents of Montgomery County who are in non-citizen deportation or removal proceedings.	\$70,000
AsylumWorks Inc.	To provide a program to deliver pro bono legal screening and direct legal representation services to certain eligible low-income residents of Montgomery County who are in non-citizen deportation or removal proceedings.	\$50,000

University of Maryland, Baltimore	To provide a program to deliver pro bono legal screening and direct legal representation services to certain eligible low-income residents of Montgomery County who are in non-citizen deportation or removal proceedings.	\$50,000
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The CEC is responsible to provide and support a program that delivers pro bono legal screening and direct legal representation services to certain eligible low-income residents of Montgomery County who are in non-citizen deportation or removal proceedings (clients). Services may include work required to pursue a U Visa, asylum, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, or another pathway to prevent deportation.

The benefits the County receives from this contract ensure the health and well-being of non-citizen residents of Montgomery County, which serves a public purpose and is in the public interest. These contracts will be funded by a special appropriation in Resolution 19-968. Therefore, I recommend that the Council amend the Miscellaneous Provision in Section G of Resolution 19-872 for the FY22 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Award.

RSM: rpm

Enclosure: Amendment to Section G, FY22 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award, Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance

Cc: Fariba Kassiri, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Avinash G. Shetty, Director, Office of Procurement
Jennifer Bryant, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Joy Nurmi, Chief of Staff to the Council President

Resolution No: _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: County Council

SUBJECT: Amendment to Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget
Resolution 19-968, Section G, Fiscal Year 2022 Designation of
Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status: Newcomers
Enhancements and Assistance: Asylum Works, Inc., Ayuda, Inc.,
HIAS, Inc., and University of Maryland, Baltimore

1. Section 11B-14 (a) (4) of the Montgomery County Code states that “a contract may be awarded without competition if the Chief Administrative Officer makes a written determination that the contract award serves a public purpose and the proposed contractor has been identified in a grant or appropriation resolution approved by the Council.” The result of this action is to amend the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award status resolution to include the entities listed below.
2. The Chief Administrative Officer has determined that funding for the contracts with these entities serve a public purpose and that such an expense would be in the public interest.
3. The Community Engagement Cluster will fund the contract with the entities listed below from a special appropriation in Resolution 19-968.
4. The Community Engagement Cluster will add an award to HIAS, Inc., in the amount of \$80,000 for the purpose: “To provide a program to deliver pro bono legal screening and direct legal representation services to certain eligible low-income residents of Montgomery County who are in non-citizen deportation or removal proceedings.”
5. The Community Engagement Cluster will add an award to Ayuda, Inc., in the amount of \$70,000 for the purpose: “To provide a program to deliver pro bono legal screening and direct legal representation services to certain eligible low-income residents of Montgomery County who are in non-citizen deportation or removal proceedings.”

6. The Community Engagement Cluster will add an award to AsylumWorks Inc., in the amount of \$50,000 for the purpose: “To provide a program to deliver pro bono legal screening and direct legal representation services to certain eligible low-income residents of Montgomery County who are in non-citizen deportation or removal proceedings.”
7. The Community Engagement Cluster will add an award to University of Maryland, Baltimore, in the amount of \$50,000 for the purpose: “To provide a program to deliver pro bono legal screening and direct legal representation services to certain eligible low-income residents of Montgomery County who are in non-citizen deportation or removal proceedings.”

ACTION

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

The Council approves an amendment to the Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award and thereby amends Resolution 19-872, Section G, FY22 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award. The Chief Administrative Officer has recommended this action and stated that this action serves a public purpose and is in the public interest.

The FY22 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status resolution is amended to reflect that the Community Engagement Cluster will:

1. Add a new award to HIAS, Inc., in the amount of \$80,000, for the purpose: “Provide a program to deliver pro bono legal screening and direct legal representation services to certain eligible low-income residents of Montgomery County who are in non-citizen deportation or removal proceedings.”
2. Add a new award to Ayuda, Inc., in the amount of \$70,000, for the purpose: “Provide a program to deliver pro bono legal screening and direct legal representation services to certain eligible low-income residents of Montgomery County who are in non-citizen deportation or removal proceedings.”
3. Add a new award to AsylumWorks Inc., in the amount of \$50,000, for the purpose: “Provide a program to deliver pro bono legal screening and direct legal representation services to certain eligible low-income residents of Montgomery County who are in non-citizen deportation or removal proceedings.”
4. Add a new award to University of Maryland, Baltimore, in the amount of \$50,000, for the purpose: “Provide a program to deliver pro bono legal screening and direct legal representation services to certain eligible low-income residents of Montgomery County who are in non-citizen deportation or removal proceedings.”

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council

Our goal: Provide comprehensive legal screenings, services and representation for unaccompanied children, families and/or sponsors through support to legal immigration service providers.



Hire a legal services coordinator, housed at the Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center, to coordinate referrals, liaise with legal service providers, and develop/implement a public-private partnership to increase funding for legal immigration services.

Increase the capacity of legal service providers, all of which are currently at capacity. The County currently funds 4 legal service providers that provide both legal screenings and direct legal representation to people in deportation and removal proceedings at a total cost of \$670,000. In July, the County Council appropriated an additional \$250,000 to increase legal service providers' capacity. These funds will be programmed through Gilchrist/Office of Community Partnerships.



Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center: (240) 777- 4940

Progress

- Catholic Charities' Legal Orientation Program for Custodians of Unaccompanied Minors (LOPC) provided legal orientations to 347 guardians in August and 357 in September.
- Currently, there are four contracts in place with legal immigration service providers to provide eligibility screening and direct legal representation of low-income county residents in deportation and removal proceedings. HIAS, Ayuda, KIND, and FIRN/Luminus have provided services 275 clients in 2021; 106 were unaccompanied minors. Due to capacity constraints, some of the service providers have referred clients out after initial screenings.
- Additional \$250,000 allocated in FY22 through grants process: four legal service providers for legal services and/or legal representation to newly arriving migrant and asylum-seeking children, youth and families. Ayuda, AsylumWorks, HIAS and UMD SAFE Center estimate they will be able to provide direct representation to between 43-47 clients in a 12-month period and services to an additional 180-200 people. Additional services will include legal screenings, education services, legal preparedness, referrals and full legal representation. This grant will also allow legal service providers to represent guardian or other adults who are seeking custody of the child for the limited purpose of seeking Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.

Constraints

- Even with the additional \$250,000 to support legal services for newcomers, providers are over capacity and unable to meet current needs.