



Committee: HHS
Committee Review: At a future date
Staff: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst
Purpose: To receive testimony – no vote expected
Keywords: DHHS, Newcomers

AGENDA ITEM #6
March 8, 2022
Public Hearing

SUBJECT

Special Appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget; Montgomery County Government; Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance; \$224,956 (Source of Funds: General Funds Undesignated Reserve); Lead Sponsor: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Public hearing only.

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

Newly arriving migrant and asylum-seeking children (newcomers) and their families are arriving in the Washington metropolitan region as they flee violence and poverty in their home countries. The Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement placed 1,231 unaccompanied children in Federal Fiscal Year 2021 and 252 unaccompanied children during October and November of 2021 with sponsors in Montgomery County. DHHS, Montgomery County Public Schools, and community partners are collaborating to provide a comprehensive system of supports; Bienvenidos: ¡Aquí Para Ti! (Welcome [We are] Here for You!!). The Council appropriated funds July 27, 2022 to support this effort. DHHS finds that additional funding is needed to address safety/human trafficking and emergency assistance needs.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- The comprehensive strategy to support newly arriving migrant and asylum-seeking children has six basic goals: Communications; Navigation, Case Management, Health, & Mental Health; Legal Services; Positive Youth Development and Recreation; Anti-Discrimination, Public Safety & Trafficking Prevention; and Education & School-Based Services. The Joint Health & Human Services (HHS) and Education & Culture (EC) Committee was most recently updated on the implementation of this plan on February 7, 2022.
- DHHS has found that additional funds are needed to address safety issues for newcomer students who can be preyed on by human traffickers. A portion of these funds will be used to for training provided through the University of Maryland SAFE Center.
- Many newcomer students and their sponsors/family are in need of emergency assistance for winter clothing, transportation, and other emergency needs. A portion of the funds will be used to provide emergency assistance.

Attached:

Memo from County Executive
Appropriation Resolution

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OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

MEMORANDUM

February 15, 2022

TO: Gabe Albornoz, President
Montgomery County Council

FROM: Marc Elrich, County Executive 

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation #22-64 to the FY22 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
Department of Health and Human Services
Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance, \$224,956 (Source of Funds: General Fund:
Undesignated Reserves)

I am recommending a special appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget, for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in the amount of \$224,956 for Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance. This special appropriation continues to fund social service, school-based services, mental health services, and case management needs for Newcomer families and individuals.

As DHHS' work continues with Newcomers, it has found a need to invest in public safety strategies to strengthen cohesion between Newcomers and U.S. born Latino and African American youth. These strategies include investment in school-based programming focused on strengthening these relationships and building additional support for public safety and violence prevention efforts. Furthermore, Newcomers are often preyed on by human traffickers. The additional requested funding will be used to provide staff training and education around this issue through the Safe Center of University of Maryland. Lastly, funds will be provided for winter clothing, transportation, and other client assistance emergencies.

I recommend that the County Council approve this special appropriation in the amount of \$224,956 and specify the source of funds as General Fund: Undesignated Reserves.

I appreciate your prompt consideration of this action.

JB:dl

Enclosure: Special Appropriation #22-64

c: Raymond L. Crowel, Psy.D., Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Jennifer R. Bryant, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Sonia Mora, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer

Resolution No: _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation #22-64 to the FY22 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
Department of Health and Human Services, \$224,956;
Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance (Source of Funds: General Fund:
Undesignated Reserves)

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 FY22 Operating Budget appropriation increases for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS):

<u>Department</u>	<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
DHHS	\$0	\$224,956	\$0	\$224,956	General Fund: Undesignated Reserves

3. As DHHS' work continues with Newcomers, it has found a need to invest in public safety strategies to strengthen cohesion between Newcomers and U.S. born Latino and African American youth; including investment in school-based programming focused on strengthening these relationships and build additional support for public safety and violence prevention efforts. Additionally, the Department knows that Newcomers are often preyed on by human traffickers. As such, DHHS is adding additional funding to provide staff training and education around this issue through the Safe Center of University of Maryland. Lastly, DHHS also recognizes a growing crisis our newly arriving youth and families are facing regarding winter clothing, transportation, and other client assistance emergencies.

4. The County Executive has requested a special appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget in the amount of \$224,956 for Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance and specifies that the source of funds will be General Fund: Undesignated Reserves.
5. Notice of a public hearing was given, and a public hearing was held.

Action

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

1. A special appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is approved as follows:

<u>Department</u>	<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
DHHS	\$0	\$224,956	\$0	\$224,956	General Fund: Undesignated Reserves

2. The County Council declares that this action is necessary to act without delay in the public interest and to provide resources for a unified systemic approach to serve newcomers.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council