



Committee: HHS
Committee Review: N/A
Staff: Naeem M. Mia, Legislative Analyst
Purpose: To introduce agenda item – no vote expected
Keywords: food security, food assistance, COVID-19

AGENDA ITEM #15A
April 5, 2022
Introduction

SUBJECT

Special Appropriation #22-79 to the County Government's FY22 Operating Budget, COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental Account (NDA) - \$1,710,000 for COVID-19 Response: Montgomery County Food Security Fund (Source of Funds: American Rescue Plan Act Funds)

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS

- None - Introduction only to receive testimony.
- Public Hearing and action is scheduled for April 19, 2022. A motion is required.

BACKGROUND/DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

Since the Council's last approval of emergency food assistance funding in December 2021, rising food costs and sustained levels of demand for assistance has resulted in higher-than-anticipated costs to the County. The County Executive is requesting an additional \$1,710,000 in order to fund these costs for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2022; the source of funds is designated as American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.

Additional history of pandemic-related food assistance funding is below:

On June 23, 2020, the Council approved Resolution 19-506, Support for COVID-19 Response – Montgomery County Food Security Fund, authorizing \$10,300,000 of special appropriations to implement and support the implementation of the COVID-19 Pandemic Food Security Response Strategy ("Strategy"). \$300,000 was designated to the Greater Washington Community Foundation to support fundraising activities while the remaining \$10.0M was allocated to the County-administered COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental Account (NDA).

On December 8, 2020, the Council further approved Resolution 19-694 and authorized a special appropriation of \$12,803,250 (General Fund Reserves), including \$1,200,000 to the County's eight Consolidation Hubs (which also included funding for diaper/formula/wipes for families with young children), to continue funding for food security efforts through June 2021. The Council further approved Resolution 19-932 on June 29, 2021 and authorized a special appropriation of \$1,783,000 to provide 'bridge funding' for emergency food assistance through early fall of 2021 and to begin developing plans for a permanent "Office of Food System Resilience" in the County to address longer-term, structural food insecurity. At the time, it was anticipated that the roll-out of vaccines and re-opening of local economies would result in reduced demand for emergency services.

On December 7, 2021, the Council approved a request for special appropriations of \$7,119,000 to fund emergency food purchases and diaper assistance (\$6,450,000 of General Fund Reserves) through June

2022 and for continued funding for Food Security Task Force staff support to the Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Office of Emergency and Homeland Security (OEMHS), ongoing strategic planning efforts, Farm to Food Bank grants assistance, and contractor support for the Food Access Call Center (totaling \$669,000 of ARPA funds).

To date the Council has approved a total of approximately \$30 million for direct food security and assistance-related efforts since the beginning of the pandemic.

This report contains:

1. Draft Resolution © 1-2
2. County Executive's Transmittal Memo date March 23, 2022 © 3

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Resolution No.: _____
Introduced: April 5, 2022
Adopted: _____

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation #22-79 to the Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government, COVID-19 Human Services and Community
Assistance Non-Departmental Account (NDA)
COVID-19 Response: Montgomery County Food Security Fund
\$1,710,000 (Source of Funds: American Rescue Plan Act funds)

Background

1. Section 308 of the Montgomery 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 County Executive has requested the following FY22 Operating Budget Appropriation increases for the COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental Account (NDA):

<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
\$0	\$1,710,000	\$0	\$1,710,000	American Rescue Plan Act

3. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Food Security Task Force has executed several efforts, including; providing financial assistance to Food Assistance Providers, increasing the amount of available fresh food from local sources, enhancing community engagement, and increasing access to existing benefit programs through leveraging interdisciplinary coordination and innovative technology.
4. The Task Force developed a “Bridge Funding Proposal,” which identifies the use of bridge funding for providing food to our local food access providers as they continue to face unprecedented demand.
5. The Task Force estimates that an additional \$1,710,000 will be needed to provide fresh produce and shelf-stable items through June 2022.
6. Notice of public hearing was given, and a public hearing was held.

Action

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

A Special Appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget of the COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental Account:

<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
\$0	\$1,710,000	\$0	\$1,710,000	American Rescue Plan Act

This Appropriation is needed to act without delay in the public interest.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council




OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

MEMORANDUM

March 23, 2022

TO: Gabe Albornoz, President
Montgomery County Council

FROM: Marc Elrich, County Executive 

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation #22-79 to the FY22 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental Account (NDA)
COVID-19 Response- Montgomery County Food Security Fund
\$1,710,000 (Source of Funds: American Rescue Plan Act Funds)

I am recommending a Special Appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget of the COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental Account in the amount of \$1,710,000 for the County's response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This Appropriation will provide bridge funding to the Montgomery County Food Security Task Force (FSTF) from March through June 2022.

The Task Force developed a "Bridge Funding Proposal," which identifies the use of bridge funding for providing food to our local food access providers as they continue to face unprecedented demand. The Task Force estimates that an additional \$1,710,000 will be needed to provide fresh produce and shelf-stable items through June 2022.

I recommend that the County Council approve this Special Appropriation in the amount of \$1,710,000 and specify the source of funds as American Rescue Plan Act funds.

I appreciate your prompt consideration of this action.

ME:ll

Attachment: Special Appropriation #22-79

c: Raymond L. Crowel, Psy.D, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Jennifer R. Bryant, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Michael Coveyou, Director, Department of Finance