



Committee: HHS
Committee Review: Completed
Staff: Tara Clemons Johnson, Legislative Analyst
Purpose: To receive testimony/final action - vote expected
Keywords: #Newcomers

AGENDA ITEM #15
November 15, 2022
Public Hearing/Action

SUBJECT

Special Appropriation #23-17 to the Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Budget Montgomery County Government, Department of Health and Human Services: Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance, \$1,593,442 (Source of Funds: General Funds - Undesignated Reserves)

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None.

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- This special appropriation was introduced on November 1, 2022.
- The HHS committee held a worksession on November 10, 2022. Councilmember Navarro introduced a proposal to increase the appropriation by \$200,000, supporting a competitive grant program administered by the County's Office of Grants Management. The grant will assist County organizations to provide culturally and linguistically proficient services to migrant individuals and families.
- The committee recommends approval (2-0, Councilmember Rice was absent). This increases the amount of the special appropriation from \$1,593,442 to \$1,793,442. The revised resolution is attached at ©3-5.

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

This special appropriation is needed to support the ongoing unanticipated influx of migrant families and unaccompanied youth in Montgomery County. The Bienvenidos program functions as a network of stakeholders and community partners who provide interdisciplinary services and supports. Collectively, County government agencies and community-based organizations provide access to social services, health, mental health, legal and education services and supports for migrant families.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- This funding will expand multilingual and multicultural case management, increased in-home and community based behavioral health and crisis stabilization services, emergency assistance, food security and long-term strategic planning.
- DHHS shared they are completing a 1-year report of the Bienvenidos program detailing how the program has expanded including prioritizing equity to support each individual with their specific needs.

This report contains:

County Executive transmittal memo

© 1-2

Special Appropriation Resolution - *Revised*
Special Appropriation Resolution – *Draft*
Racial Equity Impact Assessment
HHS Committee – Staff Packet from [Nov 10 2022](#)

© 3-5
© 6-7
© 8-10
[Online](#)

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OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

MEMORANDUM

October 27, 2022

TO: Gabe Albornoz, President
Montgomery County Council

FROM: Marc Elrich, County Executive *Marc Elrich*

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation #23-17 to the FY23 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
Department of Health and Human Services
\$1,593,442 (Source of Funds: General Fund: Undesignated Reserves)
Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance

I am recommending a special appropriation to the FY23 Operating Budget for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in the amount of \$1,593,442 for Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance. This special appropriation is needed to support the ongoing unanticipated influx of migrant families and unaccompanied youth and to build a system to provide the necessary structure and emergency assistance for newcomers who plan to remain in Montgomery County.

As work continues with the newcomers, it is evident that there is a need for investment in strategic planning, expanded multilingual and multicultural case management, increased in-home and community-based behavioral health and crisis stabilization services, emergency assistance, and food security. This request addresses the immediate needs of newcomers and helps to strategically develop long-term processes and align resources to support newly arriving migrant youth and families.

I recommend this special appropriation in the amount of \$1,593,442 and specify the source of funds as General Fund: Undesignated Reserves.

ME:dl

Supplemental Appropriation #23-17

October 27, 2022

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Enclosures: Special Appropriation #23-17

cc: Earl Stoddard, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the County Executive
Jennifer R. Bryant, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Raymond L. Crowel, Psy.D., Director, Department of Health and Human Services

Resolution No: _____

Introduced: _____

Adopted: _____

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

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

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation #23-17 to the FY23 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
Department of Health and Human Services
\$1,793,442 (Source of Funds: General Fund: Undesignated Reserves)
Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance

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 FY23 Operating Budget appropriation increase for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

| <u>Personal Services</u> | <u>Operating Expenses</u> | <u>Capital Outlay</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Source of Funds</u> |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| \$0 | \$1,593,442 | \$0 | \$1,593,442 | General Fund: Undesignated Reserves |

3. This increase is needed to support the ongoing unanticipated influx of migrant families and unaccompanied youth and to build a system to provide the necessary structure and emergency assistance for newcomers who plan to remain in Montgomery County. As work continues with the newcomers, it is evident that there is a need for an investment in strategic planning, expanded multilingual and multicultural case management, increased in-home and community based behavioral health and crisis stabilization services, emergency assistance, and food security. This request addresses the immediate needs of newcomers and helps to strategically develop long-term processes and align resources to support newly arriving migrant youth and families.
4. The County Executive recommends a supplemental appropriation to the FY23 Operating Budget in the amount of \$1,593,442 for the Department of Health and Human Services and specifies the source of the funds will be General Fund: Undesignated Reserves.
5. Councilmember Nancy Navarro proposed providing an additional \$200,000 in funding through this appropriation for a competitive grant program to support and strengthen culturally and linguistically proficient service delivery to bolster the systemic response. These grants will support smaller emerging organizations that fill specific service needs in the community.
6. Notice of public hearing was given, and a public hearing was held.

Action

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

1. A special appropriation to the FY23 Operating Budget for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) 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 | \$1,793,442 | \$0 | \$1,793,442 | General Fund: Undesignated Reserves |

2. A total of \$200,000 of this appropriation will allow for competitive grants to be provided through the Department of Health and Human Services, in cooperation with the Office of Grants Management. These funds will provide grants to small and emerging organizations in the County to support and strengthen service delivery to new migrant populations.

Allowable purposes for the grants include culturally and linguistically proficient direct service delivery to migrant individuals and families, as well as technical assistance and training for provider organizations that will strengthen the organization’s capability to respond to needs for services.

3. The County Council declares that this action is necessary to act without delay in the public interest, and that this appropriation is needed to meet the emergency.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Judy Rupp
Clerk of the Council

Resolution No: _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation #23-17 to the FY23 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
Department of Health and Human Services
\$1,593,442 (Source of Funds: General Fund: Undesignated Reserves)
Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance

Background

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|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| \$0 | \$1,593,442 | \$0 | \$1,593,442 | General Fund: Undesignated Reserves |

3. This increase is needed to support the ongoing unanticipated influx of migrant families and unaccompanied youth and to build a system to provide the necessary structure and emergency assistance for newcomers who plan to remain in Montgomery County. As work continues with the newcomers, it is evident that there is a need for an investment in strategic planning, expanded multilingual and multicultural case management, increased in-home and community based behavioral health and crisis stabilization services, emergency assistance, and food security. This request addresses the immediate needs of newcomers and helps to strategically develop long-term processes and align resources to support newly arriving migrant youth and families.
4. The County Executive recommends a supplemental appropriation to the FY23 Operating Budget in the amount of \$1,593,442 for the Department of Health and Human Services and specifies the source of the funds will be General Fund: Undesignated Reserves.
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Action

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

1. A special appropriation to the FY23 Operating Budget for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) 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 | \$1,593,442 | \$0 | \$1,593,442 | General Fund: Undesignated Reserves |

2. The County Council declares that this action is necessary to act without delay in the public interest, and that this appropriation is needed to meet the emergency.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Judy Rupp
Clerk of the Council



OFFICE OF RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE


Marc Elrich
County Executive

Tiffany Ward
Director and Chief Equity Officer

MEMORANDUM

November 2, 2022

To: Jennifer Bryant, Director
Office of Management and Budget

From: Tiffany Ward, Director
Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice 

Re: Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) for Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #23-17
Newcomer Enhancements and Assistance

- I. **FINDING:** The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ) finds that Supplemental Appropriation #23-17 *Newcomer Enhancements and Assistance* is likely to advance racial equity and social justice in the County, as it addresses the acute needs of recently arrived migrant families (many of whom are seeking asylum) and supports strategic planning for ongoing response coordination. Taking these steps will ensure that County residents already burdened by health and other inequities do not face additional challenges caused by extra stress on the county's systems.
- II. **BACKGROUND:** The purpose of Supplemental Appropriation #23-17 is to fund a number of activities that support the County's response to migrant families and youth arriving from Texas and Arizona. Activities outlined in an August 2022 memo from the County Executive to Council include:
- investment in strategic planning;
 - expanded multilingual and multicultural case management;
 - increased in-home and community-based behavioral health and crisis stabilization services;
 - emergency assistance; and,
 - food security.

The exact number of migrant families arriving in the Washington Metropolitan region is unclear. According to a report from NY-1 Spectrum News, as of October 5th, more than 8,200

Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) for Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #23-17 Newcomer Enhancements and Assistance

November 2, 2022

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migrants on nearly 200 buses have been sent to Washington, DC from Texas¹. For comparison, as of June 30, 2022, Montgomery County had received 1077 unaccompanied children. It is estimated that 10-15% of newly arrived migrants arriving from Texas and Arizona plan to remain in the region as they do not have connections elsewhere in the US². According to information that accompanied this request, newcomers arriving to the region have an increased level of need compared to other newcomer residents such as unaccompanied children living with sponsors in Montgomery County.

In August 2021 and in February 2022, ORESJ conducted racial equity impact assessments related to the funding of Newcomer Enhancements (Supplemental Appropriation [#22-7](#) and [#22-64](#)). In both cases, ORESJ found that the supplemental appropriations were likely to advance racial equity and social justice as they addressed the unique challenges facing newcomer families and children:

- Uncertainties in immigration status and complex systems of obtaining legal representation and status after release from federal custody;
- Financial insecurity and indebtedness related to the migration journey, resulting in difficult decisions about school and work, often leaving newcomers vulnerable to further exploitation and abuse; and,
- Traumatic experiences and inadequate healthcare before, during, and after release from federal custody leading to high rates of negative physical and mental health outcomes.

In the case of Supplemental Appropriation #23-17 it is unclear what specific activities may be expanded or changed considering the circumstances surrounding the more recent arrival of migrant families (many of whom are seeking asylum):

“...the process normally happens organically, quietly, and gradually. The buses have instead brought migrants to these cities in an orchestrated, visible, and deliberately disorderly way, generating challenges for cities trying to meet the newcomers’ humanitarian needs and raising the visibility of any failures to do so.”³

Presuming supplemental appropriation #23-17 continues and builds upon infrastructure described in previous supplemental appropriation requests, the needs of newly arrived families are likely to be met while also ensuring the continuity of service for existing county residents.

It’s important to note that recent migrant bussing is not the first time in US history that bussing has been used to make racist political statements by dehumanizing entire groups of people based on race. In 1962, southern segregationists paid to send Black Americans from the South to northern destinations like Cape Cod. This forced migration of about 200 Black Americans came to be known as the Reverse Freedom Rides. A February 2020 article called

¹ <https://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/politics/2022/10/05/-they-re-my-family-now--maryland-woman-houses-migrants-lured-to-dc-by-texas-gov->

² This information was provided to ORESJ in its REIA racial equity and social justice template. These percentages could not be independently verified through research.

³ <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/migrant-asylum-seeker-busing>

Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) for Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #23-17 Newcomer
Enhancements and Assistance

November 2, 2022

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“The Cruel Story Behind The 'Reverse Freedom Rides'” described the short and long-term consequences of these racist acts on families and entire communities⁴. As the county responds to the immediate needs of newly arrived families, it should also collaborate with regional and national partners to investigate these acts and bring legal challenges against perpetrating states when necessary. Further, investments in the county’s humanitarian response systems will become increasingly important as migration and asylum cases are unlikely to recede given ongoing political instability and climate change disruptions across the US (and globally).

cc: Ken Hartman, Director, Office of Strategic Partnership, Office of the County Executive
Dr. Raymond Crowell, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

⁴ <https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2020/02/29/809740346/the-cruel-story-behind-the-reverse-freedom-rides>