

Resolution No.: 17-802  
Introduced: June 11, 2013  
Adopted: June 25, 2013

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

**SUBJECT:** Supplemental Appropriation #13-358 to the FY13 Operating Budget  
Montgomery County Government  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Connector Program, \$2,881,000

**Background**

1. Section 307 of the Montgomery County Charter provides that any supplemental appropriation shall be recommended by the County Executive who shall specify the source of funds to finance it. The Council shall hold a public hearing on each proposed supplemental appropriation after at least one week's notice. A supplemental appropriation that would comply with, avail the County of, or put into effect a grant or a Federal, State or County law or regulation, or one that is approved after January 1 of any fiscal year, requires an affirmative vote of five Councilmembers. A supplemental appropriation for any other purpose that is approved before January 1 of any fiscal year requires an affirmative vote of six Councilmembers. The Council may, in a single action, approve more than one supplemental appropriation. The Executive may disapprove or reduce a supplemental appropriation, and the Council may reapprove the appropriation, as if it were an item in the annual budget.
2. The County Executive has requested the following FY13 Operating Budget appropriation increase for the Department of Health and Human Services.

<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>
	\$2,881,000		\$2,881,000	State Grant

3. In 2014, nearly 250,000 Marylanders are expected to become newly insured as a result of expanded Medicaid eligibility and the creation of subsidized and low-cost health insurance products offered through the MHBE Connector Program. The primary goal of the Connector program is to enroll all eligible, uninsured individuals and small businesses into health coverage, including facilitating enrollment into appropriate health insurance products, such as Medicaid, the Maryland Children's Health Program, and subsidized and non-subsidized qualified health plans. Montgomery County has a large population of uninsured residents who will benefit from access to affordable insurance.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is one of several “connector entities,” organized geographically in the State of Maryland and will be providing services throughout Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties as the “Capital Region.” Connector entities will provide services in their region(s) in two ways: 1) through the use of certified Individual Exchange “navigators,” and possibly licensed Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) Exchange navigators, and 2) through other non-certified personnel, such as “assisters.” Navigators and assisters must focus outreach efforts on uninsured individuals and small businesses, but may also serve insured individuals/businesses that are interested in a product or subsidy only available through the Individual or SHOP Exchanges.

The Department was selected to serve as a Connector Entity due to its expertise in working with vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations that have traditionally struggled to connect to or afford health coverage. Individual and SHOP Exchange navigators will be required to complete training that imparts the skills and expertise necessary to perform the required functions. Successful completion of the training is a requirement for the certification of Individual Exchange navigators. Prompt program structuring and hiring and training of all personnel will allow DHHS to be prepared for the October 1, 2013 open season start date. The Department is responsible for enrolling a minimum of 52,156 individuals during the open season.

4. The County Executive recommends a supplemental appropriation to the FY13 Operating Budget in the amount of \$2,881,000 for the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Connector Program and specifies that the source of funds will be State Grant Funds from the Department of Mental Health and Hygiene, Maryland Health Benefit Exchange. This supplemental will not impact County Government General Fund Reserves.
5. Notice of public hearing was given, and a public hearing was held.

**Action**

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

A supplemental appropriation to the FY13 Operating Budget of the Department of Health and Human Services is approved as follows:

<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
	\$2,881,000		\$2,881,000	State Grant

This is a correct copy of Council action.

  
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 Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council