



OFFICE OF RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE


Marc Elrich
County Executive

Tiffany Ward
Director and Chief Equity Officer

MEMORANDUM

January 11, 2023

To: Jennifer Bryant, Director
Office of Management and Budget

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

Re: Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ) Supplemental Appropriation #23-59
EveryMind 988 Lifeline Call Center

- I. **FINDING:** based on available information, Supplemental Appropriation #23-59 *EveryMind 988 Lifeline Call Center* does not appear to substantively alter service offerings that began with funding from Supplemental Appropriation #23-2. Therefore, the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ) finding remains unchanged: “Supplemental Appropriation #23-2 988 Lifeline Call Center is likely to support universal suicide prevention efforts in the County, but available information does not indicate to what extent existing suicide statistics and those most impacted by suicide risk factors will be centered in the outreach, communications, or supportive services related to the hotline. Therefore, ORESJ’s finding is inconclusive”.
- II. **BACKGROUND:** The purpose of Supplemental Appropriation #23-59 *EveryMind 988 Lifeline Call Center* is to modify an existing contract with *EveryMind* to include a variety of administrative supports, including expanded Lifeline/988 hotline operations, phone equipment; staff training, recruitment, and expenses associated with electronic health records.

In July 2022, ORESJ conducted a racial equity impact assessment (REIA) of the supplemental appropriation that provided original the funding for the transition to 988. This supplemental appropriation expands the work that began under Supplemental Appropriation #23-2. Background information—circumstances leading to the contract modification—was not available, so ORESJ cannot assess the extent to which the specific modifications address any inequities that emerged in the initial phase of the lifeline

transition. However, based on available information, Supplemental Appropriation #23-59 does not appear to substantively alter service offerings, though the provision of staff training and phone equipment could strengthen the delivery of those services.

Given that Supplemental Appropriation #23-59 builds upon Supplemental Appropriation #23-2 and does not substantively alter the services, ORESJ's analysis, and findings remain unchanged. Please read ORESJ's REIA of 23-2 available here:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/23-02.pdf>

cc: Raymond Crowel, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Ken Hartman, Director, Strategic Partnerships, Office of the County Executive