



OFFICE OF RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE


Marc Elrich
County Executive

Tiffany Ward
Director and Chief Equity Officer

MEMORANDUM

January 30, 2025

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) Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #25-41
COVID-19 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance
Contract Support

- I. **FINDING:** The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice finds that Supplemental Appropriation #25-41 Covid-19 Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance Contract Support, which allocates \$374,156 in FEMA reimbursements to the Office Emergency Management and Homeland Security, neither advances nor impedes racial equity and social justice in the County as the funding will enable the Office to seek reimbursement for eligible Covid-19 expenses that have already been incurred.
- II. **BACKGROUND:** The purpose of Supplemental Appropriation #25-41 Covid-19 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Contract Support is to allocate \$374,156 in FEMA reimbursements for administrative costs previously paid for by the County. This funding will allow the office's FEMA Public Assistance work to continue by covering management expenses related to the FEMA reimbursement processes and supporting additional contractors to assist in completing related administrative work.
- III. **ANALYSIS:** According to information accompanying this supplemental appropriation, "these funds will be used solely for seeking reimbursement from the federal government. It is unknown which programs and initiatives those federal reimbursements will eventually fund"¹.

¹ OEMHS completed RESJ template.

Because this information is not yet known, it is difficult to anticipate specific beneficiary groups and, therefore, analyze the extent to which this supplemental appropriation helps to narrow racial disparities and inequities in the County.

Given that this funding relates to reimbursements for work that has already taken place, it's valuable to reflect on the REIAs ORESJ conducted on COVID-19-related supplemental appropriations. ORESJ estimates that between FY21 and FY23 it conducted 39 REIAs on COVID-19-related supplemental appropriations in the Operating Budget (including Federal,

REIA Finding Statement	Number of REIAs conducted by ORESJ (FY21-23)	Percent of Total COVID-19 Supplemental Appropriations (Operating Budget)
Likely to advance racial equity and social justice in Montgomery County	29	74%
Potential to advance racial equity and social justice in Montgomery County	1	<1%
Inconclusive	4	10%
Unlikely to advance racial equity and social justice in Montgomery County	5*	13%

*It's important to note that the five supplemental appropriations were unlikely to advance racial equity and social justice because they created a universal benefit and didn't clearly demonstrate how those most negatively impacted by COVID-19, and existing racial disparities and inequities would be targeted with supplemental appropriation funding.

This brief analysis shows that an estimated three out of four supplemental appropriations resulted in a "likely to advance" or "potential to advance" finding statement. Based on these data points, it's clear that supplemental appropriation funding related to COVID-19 helped to create equitable access to resources and helped to address racial disparities and inequities related to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 among BIPOC and low-income communities in the County.

cc: Luke J. Hodgson, Director, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
Earl P. Stoddard, Ph.D. Assist. Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the County Executive
Tricia Swanson, Director, Strategic Partnerships, Office of the County Executive