



OFFICE OF RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE


Marc Elrich
County Executive

Tiffany Ward
Director and Chief Equity Officer

MEMORANDUM

January 27, 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) #25-43
Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) Urban Trees Grant Award

- I. **FINDING:** Based on available information, Supplemental Appropriation #25-43 Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) Urban Trees Grant Award does not appear to substantively alter eligibility requirements or program implementation related to Supplemental Appropriation #23-26 and 24-18. The only discernable difference is that Supplemental Appropriation #25-43 will not be used exclusively on Montgomery County Public School sites (as it was in #24-18). Despite this difference, the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ) finding remains largely unchanged:

Supplemental Appropriation #24-18 Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) Urban Trees Grant Award is likely to advance racial equity and social justice in the County, as eligibility criteria related to these grant dollars require the planting and care of shade trees in 'underserved areas' (as defined by the State of Maryland). In Montgomery County, these areas are more likely, because of structural inequities, to be where Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and low-income residents live. This supplemental appropriation, therefore, could reduce racial disparities in tree canopy coverage (and increase equitable distribution of tree-related health benefits).

- II. **BACKGROUND:** The purpose of Supplemental Appropriation #25-43 is to appropriate Chesapeake Bay Trust Urban Tree Grant #23961, in the amount of \$663,494 for planting and providing aftercare for shade trees. The grant will enable the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Tree Montgomery Program to plant and establish 1,112 new trees, with 275 additional trees planted as a local match. ORESJ conducted a Racial

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Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) of a grant award under the same program in January and October 2023. In those REIAs, ORESJ explained the role redlining and other systemic inequities have played in the inequitable distribution of tree canopy and its health benefits. Therefore, efforts to preserve and protect trees in areas eligible under this grant could help reduce disproportionate burdens on BIPOC communities and low-income communities. ORESJ suggests reviewing the following REIAs for additional background and analysis:

- Supplemental Appropriation #22-29 Tree Replacement
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/22-29.pdf>
- Supplemental Appropriating #23-26 Chesapeake Bay Trust Urban Trees Grant
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/23-26.pdf>
- Supplemental Appropriation #24-18 Chesapeake Bay Trust Urban Trees Grant
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/24-18.pdf>

cc: Jeffrey Seltzer, Deputy Director, Department of Environmental Protection
Tricia Swanson, Director, Strategic Partnerships, Office of the County Executive