



OFFICE OF RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE


Marc Elrich
County Executive

Tiffany Ward
Director and Chief Equity Officer

MEMORANDUM

March 18, 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) for Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #25-56 FY25 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Government, Department of Health and Human Services, Continuum of Care Program, \$493,095

- I. **FINDING:** The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ) finds that *Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #25-56 FY25 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Government (MCG), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Continuum of Care (CoC) Program* is likely to advance racial equity and social justice (RESJ) in Montgomery County, particularly for adults and children at risk of or currently experiencing homelessness who identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC). According to information accompanying this supplemental request, in FY24, data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) showed that 6,805 persons were served by all programs in the CoC with 84% of them being BIPOC¹. Funds provided by this supplemental request are intended to support deeper data analysis, identify gaps, provide RESJ training, and address this evident disproportionality in homelessness.
- II. **BACKGROUND:** The purpose of *SA #25-56 FY25 Operating Budget, MCG, DHHS, CoC Program* is to implement a grant award from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that will assist adults and children experiencing homelessness through local planning efforts. The grant is available for a period of 12 months based on a

¹ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. *CoC Data Maturity Assessment Tool*. 2025. Available at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-data-maturity-assessment-tool/>

grant award start date of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. Specifically, the grant will support CoC planning activities, including coordinated entry services, development, project evaluation and monitoring, consolidated plan development, and compliance activities, including the annual point-in-time count.

Additionally, the grant enables the CoC to effectively allocate resources aimed at addressing racial inequities, such as conducting a qualitative analysis of the unique stressors and barriers faced by individuals experiencing homelessness, particularly for BIPOC persons. This is especially important as the FY24 point-in-time count revealed that 56% of individuals experiencing homelessness identified as Black, African American, or African, in addition to 21% of persons experiencing homelessness identified as Hispanic/Latinx.² As information accompanying this supplemental request points out, these clear racial disparities highlight the urgent need to address root causes of homelessness – including structural racism – underscoring the ongoing necessity to prioritize efforts in reducing racial disparities throughout systems.

In March 2023, ORESJ conducted a racial equity impact assessment (REIA) of supplemental appropriation #24-60³ which pertained to grant funding for the CoC Program. As this particular funding request relates to the same program, ORESJ's findings and analysis remain unchanged. Additionally, ORESJ has previously conducted REIAs documenting the historical and contemporary racial inequities shaping housing insecurity and homelessness in the U.S. and Montgomery County. Our analysis and findings regarding these topics can be found in the following REIAs specifically:

- REIA of Supplemental Appropriation #25-42 Services to End and Prevent Homelessness (SEPH), The Short-term Housing and Resolution Program SHARP, Shelter Services Expansion, Rental Assistance Program (RAP), and Housing Stabilization Services (HSS) Eviction Prevention Program
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/25-42.pdf>
- REIA of Supplemental Appropriation #24-72 Amendment to the FY24 Operating Budget and Amendment to Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget Resolution 20-184 Section G, FY24 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status: The Montgomery County Government, Department of Health and Human Services, Services to End and Prevent Homelessness, Shelter Services, Overflow and Security expansion. (Source of Funds: General Funds)
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/24-72.pdf>

² Ibid.

³ Montgomery County Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice. *Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #24-60 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Continuum of Care Program Grant*. March 2024. Available at:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/24-60.pdf>

Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #25-56 FY25
Operating Budget, Montgomery County Government, Department of Health and Human
Services, Continuum of Care Program, \$493,095

March 18, 2025

Page 3 of 3

- REIA of Supplemental Appropriation #24-60 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Continuum of Care Program Grant
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/24-60.pdf>
- REIA of Supplemental Appropriation #23-86 FY23 Operating Budget American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund – Homeless Children and Youth Grant
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/23-86.pdf>
- REIA of Supplemental Appropriation #22-31 Nebel Street Shelter
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/22-31.pdf>
- REIA of Supplemental Appropriation #22-10 Assistance in Community Integration Services Pilot
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/22-10.pdf>
- REIA of Supplemental Appropriation #21-527 Special Appropriation REAI_HHS Rental Assistance
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/21-527.pdf>

cc: Dr. James C. Bridgers, Jr., Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Tricia Swanson, Director, Strategic Partnerships, Office of the County Executive