



Committee: HHS
Committee Review: Completed
Staff: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst
Purpose: Final action – vote expected
Keywords: FY21; Developmentally Disabled

AGENDA ITEM #2I
July 21, 2020
Action

SUBJECT

Special Appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget; Montgomery County Government; Department of Health and Human Services; Support Payments to Organizations Directly Serving Developmentally Disabled Persons; \$371,761 (Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves) Lead Sponsor: Health and Human Services Committee

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Introduced July 7, 2020. Public Hearing was held on July 14, 2020.
- The Health and Human Services met on June 11, 2020 and recommends approval of this special appropriation.

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

As a part of its May 21, 2020 approval of the FY 2021 Operating Budget for the Montgomery County Government, the Council appropriated \$17.56 million to provide support payments to eligible organizations that provide direct services to people with developmental disabilities including residential, community supported living arrangements, day habilitation, or supportive employment. This support is commonly referred to as the “DD Supplement.” At its budget worksession, the Council acknowledged that this amount was not adjusted for six new eligible organizations and that it would review this issue. The estimate for a continuity of services budget that accounts for these new organizations requires \$371,761 in additional funding.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- The Health and Human Services Committee reviewed this issue on June 11, 2020 and recommends approval of a special appropriation for \$371,761.
- The Executive’s Recovery Framework includes a workgroup in the Department of Health and Human Services that will make recommendations about the needs of organizations serving developmentally disabled persons that will address continued COVID-19 testing for residents and staff, contact tracing, equipment and supplies, and financial stability. The Health and Human Services Committee will review these recommendations when they are available. The Committee will also continue to work with the Executive branch and provider organizations on the structure for future support payments. Support is needed because the state rate paid by the

Developmental Disabilities Administration is not sufficient for the cost of operating in Montgomery County.

Attached:

Special Appropriation Resolution

pages 1-2

McKenna Testimony July 14, 2020

3-4

(Pls note that the testimony indicates that the 4% increase to DD rates was cut by the State; however, the Board of Public Works retained it until January when the General Assembly Returns.)

Link to June 11, 2020 HHS Committee staff report:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2020/20200611/20200611_HHS2.pdf

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Resolution No.: _____
Introduced: July 7, 2020
Adopted: _____

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead sponsor: Health and Human Services Committee

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
Department of Health and Human Services
Support Payment to Organizations Directly Serving Developmentally
Disabled Persons
\$371,761 (Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves)

Background

1. Section 308 of the County Charter provides that a special appropriation is an appropriation which states that it is necessary to meet an unforeseen disaster or other emergency, or to act without delay in the public interest. Each special appropriation shall be approved by not less than six Councilmembers. The Council may approve a special appropriation at any time after public notice by news release. Each special appropriation shall specify the source of funds to finance it.
2. On May 21, 2020 the Council approved Resolution 19-472, Approval of and Appropriation for the FY 2021 Operating Budget of the Montgomery County Government. As a part of this action, the Council appropriated \$17,562,175 to provide a payment to eligible organizations providing direct services to clients of residential, community supported living arrangements, day habilitation, or supportive employment through the Developmental Disabilities Administration. The Council also approved in Section G of Resolution 19-472 a list of eligible organizations.
3. Due to the COVID-19 health emergency, the Council adopted a continuity of services framework for the initial approval of the FY 2021 Operating Budget. The Council's May 21 appropriation was the same dollar amount as that approved for FY 2020 and did not fully account for inclusion of six new eligible organizations. The Council said it intended to review the need for additional support for these organizations.
4. On June 11, 2020 the Council's Health and Human Services Committee received information that an additional \$371,761 is needed to provide a continuity of services

funding levels that includes the six new eligible organizations. The Health and Human Services Committee recommends the Council approve a special appropriation for \$371,761 to provide a re-estimated continuity of services budget for this support payment. The source of funds is General Fund Reserves.

5. Public notice of this special appropriation was provided and a public hearing was held.

Action

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

A special appropriation to the FY21 Operating Budget of the Montgomery County Government, in the amount of \$371,761 is approved as follows:

	<u>Personnel Expense</u>	<u>Operating Expense</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
Department of Health and Human Services	\$0	\$371,761	\$371,761	General Fund Reserves

These funds must be used by the Department of Health and Human Services to increase the total amount of funding available to provide a support payments to eligible organizations that are funded through the Developmental Disabilities Administration and listed in Section G of Resolution 19-472.

This appropriation is needed to act without delay in the public interest.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council

Montgomery County Council Hearing
Special appropriation to FY21 Operating Budget, DHHS - \$371,761 for Support
Payment to Organizations Directly Serving Developmentally Disabled Persons
July 14, 2020
Testimony of Melissa McKenna



Good afternoon. My name is Melissa McKenna. I come today as a member of the ARC of Montgomery County, one of the many developmental disability service providers.

Many thanks to Council staff for recognizing that the continuity of services budget did not account for six new providers. Thank you Councilmembers for correcting the shortfall; however, "continuity of services" is not enough.

On July 1st, County minimum wage became \$14/hour. That same day, our Governor and Board of Public Works eliminated a mandated 4% increase to Development Disabilities Administration and Behavioral Health Administration providers, leaving Montgomery County to fend for ourselves.

Direct service providers (DSP) are generous, caring, highly trained, and dedicated individuals often more advanced in age and already scarce in supply. They have been S/Heroes these past months and deserve to be paid a wage commensurate with their training and experience that should ABSOLUTELY EXCEED minimum wage.

Increased funding is required, not just "continuity of services," especially during this pandemic. Additional funding is critical for these essential caregivers! In working on COVID-19 recovery, I urge you to consider more than just COVID-19 testing for group home residents and staff, PPE, and supplies.

As our county is doing all it can for small business, restaurants, and renters, this often silent portion of the community is struggling mightily and has been highly impacted by COVID-19. DHHS funding must be sufficient to protect and serve these most vulnerable among us and their families by ensuring these care providers will be available to provide essential services at PANDEMIC levels, just as many other HHS services have been ramped up.

During Operating Budget hearings what feel like a lifetime ago, I shared the critical need for Respite Services. Our special education students have been home all day for months, and the need for respite care for families has never been greater. The great news is that income eligibility

requirements for in-home respite provided to these families has been waived through August 1, 2020. Respite requests are up, parents and children are highly stressed and isolated at home, and all routines have been disrupted.

However, respite care is funded primarily through a contract with the DHHS. When the Provider Sustainability Recovery Planning subgroup report comes back, hopefully soon, and a recommendation is made to the HHS Committee, I implore you to support the “financial stability” of the ARC and all other DSPs. Remember that lackluster, business phrase is describing devoted individuals caring for our most vulnerable neighbors and their families.

I am still struck by Karen Montgomery's Operating Budget testimony in 2019 about how some days she wondered whose life she was going to take, her son's or her own, or both. This is not a nicety but an absolute necessity.

Thank you.

DSPs [#WeAreEssential](#).