



Committee: Directly to Council
Committee Review: N/A
Staff: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst
Purpose: Final action – vote expected
Keywords: #PreventEviction

AGENDA ITEM #2M
July 28, 2020
Action

SUBJECT

Introduction/Action of Resolution to Amend the FY21 Operating Budget for the Montgomery County Government, Resolution 19-472, Section G, Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status: Housing Initiative Partnership, Inc. (HIP); Latino Economic Development Corporation; Legal Aid Bureau, Inc. (dba Maryland Legal Aid)

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Introduction/Action.
- An amendment to a resolution can be introduced and acted upon in the same Council session and does not require the Council to waive its rules of procedure.

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

Resolution 19-472, Section G authorizes non-competitive contract awards. The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) is recommending three new non-competitive contracts to support tenants who are facing possible evictions with on-site legal assistance at the District Court, and financial and other counseling and assistance.

No new appropriation is required.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- The COVID-19 pandemic has had a severe economic impact on many households that have lost jobs or have had their work hours reduced. A DHCA survey conducted as a part of the Recovery Team effort indicates that about 15% of tenants are behind on all or part of their rent compared to about 5% before the pandemic.
- As the District Court re-opens and stays on evictions are lifted, households behind on their rent will potentially face eviction. These renters will benefit from access to legal services, financial counseling and or assistance that can help prevent an eviction.
- On June 16, 2020, the Council approved FY20 non-competitive awards for these three organizations to provide legal aid and tenant education and assistance. These new contracts will increase their capacity to serve more renters in response to the increased demand that is expected as the courts re-open.

- These services are companions to other strategies that include outreach and education and short-term rental assistance. The Council is scheduled to take action on \$20 million in rental assistance later in this session. (Agenda Item #10)
- PHED Committee Chair Riemer has scheduled an update on rental assistance and tenant supports for the first PHED Committee session when the Council returns in September.

Attached:

Memo from CAO and Resolution to Amend
Resolution 19-472, Section G

1-3

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OFFICES OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE


Marc Elrich
County Executive

Andrew W. Kleine
Chief Administrative Officer

MEMORANDUM

July 22, 2020

TO: Sidney A. Katz, President, County Council

FROM: Andrew Kleine, Chief Administrative Officer 

SUBJECT: Request to Amend the Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget Year 2021 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status

The Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) is requesting to amend the Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status to provide essential services to tenants affected by the COVID-19 emergency.

In response to the increasing number of tenants having problems paying their rent and the increasing number of related filings with the District Court as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency, DHCA is recommending three actions to provide support to tenants. DHCA will establish a new contract with Legal Aid Bureau, Inc. (dba Maryland Legal Aid) for \$60,000 to provide on-site legal assistance at the Maryland District Court to help Montgomery County residents facing eviction, this would be in addition to the \$47,510 contract the Department has with that organization for FY20 for the same purpose. In addition, DHCA will establish new contracts with Housing Initiative Partnership, Inc. (HIP) and Latino Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) for \$80,000 each to provide counseling and assistance to help Montgomery County residents avoid eviction. The funding for these three FY21 contracts would be Federal Funds.

I have determined that amending the FY 2021 Operating Budget Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status to include these entities serves a public purpose and is in the public interest. Therefore, I recommend that the FY 2021 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Award Status be amended.

I appreciate your prompt consideration of this action.

AK:ps

c: Michael J. Coveyou, Director, Department of Finance
Fariba Kassiri, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Avinash G. Shetty, Director, Office of Procurement
Richard S. Madaleno, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Aseem K. Nigam, Director, Department of Housing and Community Affairs

Resolution No: _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: County Council

SUBJECT: Amendment to Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget
Resolution 19-472, Section G, Fiscal Year 2021 Designation of Entities for
Non-Competitive Contract Award Status: Housing Initiative Partnership, Inc.
(HIP); Latino Economic Development Corporation; Legal Aid Bureau, Inc. (dba
Maryland Legal Aid)

Background

1. Section 11B-14 (a)(4) of the Montgomery County Code states that “a contract may be awarded without competition if the Chief Administrative Officer makes a written determination that the contract award serves a public purpose and proposed contractor has been identified in a grant or appropriation resolution approved by the Council.” The result of this action is to amend the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status resolution to include the entities listed below.
2. The Chief Administrative Officer has determined that funding for contracts with these entities serves a public purpose and that such an expense would be in the public interest.
3. The Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) will fund contracts with the Housing Initiative Partnership, Inc. (HIP), Latino Economic Development Corporation (LEDC), and Legal Aid Bureau, Inc. (dba Maryland Legal Aid) using Federal Funds.
4. DHCA will establish new contracts with Housing Initiative Partnerships, Inc., Latino Economic Development Corporation, and Legal Aid Bureau, Inc. as stated in the Amended FY21 Designated Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award.

ACTION

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

The Council approves an amendment to the Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status and thereby amends Resolution 19-472, Section G, FY 21 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award. The Chief Administrative Officer has recommended these actions and stated that they serve a public purpose and are in the public interest:

The FY 2021 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status is amended to reflect that DHCA will:

Establish a new contract with the Housing Initiative Partnership, Inc. (HIP) in the amount of \$80,000 for the purpose of providing counseling and assistance to help Montgomery County residents avoid eviction;

Establish a new contract with Latino Economic Development Corporation in the amount of \$80,000 for the purpose of providing counseling and assistance to help Montgomery County residents avoid eviction; and

Establish a new contract with Legal Aid Bureau, Inc. (dba Maryland Legal Aid) in the amount of \$60,000 for the purpose of providing on-site legal assistance at the Maryland District Court for Montgomery County residents facing possible eviction.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council