



**Committee:** Joint  
**Committee Review:** Completed  
**Staff:** Vivian Yao, Legislative Analyst  
**Purpose:** Final action – vote expected

AGENDA ITEM #3K  
October 20, 2020  
**Action**

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## SUBJECT

Supplemental Appropriation #21-485 to the FY21 Operating Budget Montgomery County Government Department of Health and Human Services Increase Somatic and Mental Health Services at Montgomery County Public Schools, \$864,029

## EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

## COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- The Joint Health and Human Services (HHS) and Education & Culture (E&C) Committee unanimously recommended (5-0) approval of the supplemental appropriation recommended by the County Executive with the addition of a racial equity and social justice analysis.
- The Joint Committee expressed interest in scheduling a meeting to discuss culturally and linguistically appropriate parent engagement.

## DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) received funding from the Maryland State Department of Education Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program. MCPS is collaborating with DHHS to increase somatic and mental health services to support students and families.

## SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- The Executive is recommending a total appropriation of \$864,029. This funding will support services managed by DHHS at Gaithersburg, Highland, New Hampshire Estates, Sargent Shriver, South Lake, and Wheaton Woods Elementary Schools. DHHS will bill MCPS for reimbursement as follows: \$307,356 for three School Community Health Nurses and \$556,673 for contractual mental health services.
- The funding is a continuation of support for services for which the Council appropriated \$358,331 in March 2020.
- The special appropriation will have positive changes on racial equity and social justice in the County. The somatic and mental health services to be supported by the supplemental appropriation are targeted at the schools with very high concentrations of poverty, defined as having 80% or more of students eligible for the federal Free and Reduced-Price Meals

program in School Years 2017-2018 or 2018-2019.

These schools serve an overwhelmingly large majority of students of color with an average of 62.9% Hispanic/Latino students and 26.6% Black or African American students. In addition, the average percentage of ESOL students at these schools is 56.5%. The following table shows the breakdown of students' population by major race/ethnic categories and ESOL service delivery.

	Hispanic/ Latino %	Black or African Amer.%	White %	Asian %	ESOL %
Gaithersburg	14.7	79.1	≤5	≤5	50
Highland	74.4	8.6	8.1	5.8	49.2
New Hampshire Estates	74.9	16.7	≤5	≤5	69
Sargent Shriver	78.9	10.9	≤5	5.9	54.6
South Lake	70.8	19.7	≤5	≤5	60.9
Wheaton Woods	63.6	24.5	≤5	6.4	55.1
Average %	62.9	26.6			56.5

**This report contains:**

Executive memo	©1
CE proposed resolution	©2-3
Joint HHS & E&C Committee recommended resolution	©4-6
Joint HHS & E&C Committee review memo dated 10/14/20	©7-11

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OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Marc Elrich  
*County Executive*

M E M O R A N D U M

September 16, 2020

TO: Sidney Katz, President, County Council

FROM: Marc Elrich, County Executive *Marc Elrich*

SUBJECT: Supplemental Appropriation #21-485 to the FY21 Operating Budget  
Montgomery County Government  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Increase Somatic and Mental Health Services at Montgomery County Public Schools, \$864,029

I am recommending a supplemental appropriation to the FY21 Operating Budget of the Department of Health and Human Services in the amount of \$864,029 for providing services to Montgomery County Public Schools to fulfill requirements of the Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program. This appropriation will fund three School Community Health Nurses and contractual support for mental health services.

This increase is needed because Montgomery County Public Schools received funding from the Maryland State Department of Education for the Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program. Montgomery County Public Schools is collaborating with the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services to increase somatic and mental health services to support students and families. Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services will provide services and bill Montgomery County Public Schools for reimbursement. Of the \$864,029:

- \$307,356 would support three School Community Health Nurses; and
- \$556,673 would provide contractual support for mental health services.

I recommend that the County Council approve this supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$864,029 and specify the source of funds as Maryland State Department of Education Grant.

I appreciate your prompt consideration of this action.

ME:es

Attachment: Supplemental Appropriation #21-485

c: Dr. Raymond L. Crowel, Psy.D., Department of Health and Human Services Director  
Richard S. Madaleno, Acting Chief Administrative Officer  
Jennifer Bryant, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget

Resolution No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Introduced: \_\_\_\_\_  
Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

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Lead Sponsor: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

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**SUBJECT:** Supplemental Appropriation #21-485 to the FY21 Operating Budget  
Montgomery County Government  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Increase Somatic and Mental Health Services at Montgomery County Public Schools,  
\$864,029

**Background**

1. Section 307 of the Montgomery County Charter provides that any supplemental appropriation shall be recommended by the County Executive who shall specify the source of funds to finance it. The Council shall hold a public hearing on each proposed supplemental appropriation after at least one week's notice. A supplemental appropriation that would comply with, avail the County of, or put into effect a grant or a Federal, State or County law or regulation, or one that is approved after January 1 of any fiscal year, requires an affirmative vote of five Councilmembers. A supplemental appropriation for any other purpose that is approved before January 1 of any fiscal year requires an affirmative vote of six Councilmembers. The Council may, in a single action, approve more than one supplemental appropriation. The Executive may disapprove or reduce a supplemental appropriation, and the Council may reapprove the appropriation, as if it were an item in the annual budget.
2. The County Executive has requested the following FY21 Operating Budget appropriation increases for the Department of Health and Human Services:

<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
\$307,356	\$556,673	\$0	\$864,029	Maryland State Department of Education Grant

3. This increase is needed because Montgomery County Public Schools received funding from the Maryland State Department of Education for the Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program. Montgomery County Public Schools is collaborating with the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services to increase somatic and mental health services to support students and families. Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services will provide services and bill Montgomery County Public Schools for reimbursement:
  - a. The amount of \$307,356 would support three School Community Health Nurses.
  - b. The amount of \$556,673 would provide contractual support for mental health services.
4. The County Executive recommends a supplemental appropriation to the FY21 Operating Budget in the amount of \$864,029 for three School Community Health Nurses and contractual support for mental health services and specifies that the source of funds is Maryland State Department of Education Grant.
5. Notice of public hearing was given, and a public hearing was held.

**Action**

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

A supplemental appropriation to the FY21 Operating Budget of the Department of Health and Human Services is approved as follows:

<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
\$307,356	\$556,673	\$0	\$864,029	Maryland State Department of Education Grant

This is a correct copy of Council action.

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Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.  
Clerk of the Council

Resolution No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Introduced: September 22, 2020  
Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

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Lead Sponsor: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

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**SUBJECT:** Supplemental Appropriation #21-485 to the FY21 Operating Budget  
Montgomery County Government  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Increase Somatic and Mental Health Services at Montgomery County Public Schools,  
\$864,029

**Background**

1. Section 307 of the Montgomery County Charter provides that any supplemental appropriation shall be recommended by the County Executive who shall specify the source of funds to finance it. The Council shall hold a public hearing on each proposed supplemental appropriation after at least one week's notice. A supplemental appropriation that would comply with, avail the County of, or put into effect a grant or a Federal, State or County law or regulation, or one that is approved after January 1 of any fiscal year, requires an affirmative vote of five Councilmembers. A supplemental appropriation for any other purpose that is approved before January 1 of any fiscal year requires an affirmative vote of six Councilmembers. The Council may, in a single action, approve more than one supplemental appropriation. The Executive may disapprove or reduce a supplemental appropriation, and the Council may reapprove the appropriation, as if it were an item in the annual budget.
2. The County Executive has requested the following FY21 Operating Budget appropriation increases for the Department of Health and Human Services:

<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
\$307,356	\$556,673	\$0	\$864,029	Maryland State Department of Education Grant

3. This increase is needed because Montgomery County Public Schools received funding from the Maryland State Department of Education for the Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program. Montgomery County Public Schools is collaborating with the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services to increase somatic and mental health services to support students and families. Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services will provide services and bill Montgomery County Public Schools for reimbursement:
  - a. The amount of \$307,356 would support three School Community Health Nurses.
  - b. The amount of \$556,673 would provide contractual support for mental health services.
4. The County Executive recommends a supplemental appropriation to the FY21 Operating Budget in the amount of \$864,029 for three School Community Health Nurses and contractual support for mental health services and specifies that the source of funds is Maryland State Department of Education Grant.
5. The special appropriation will have positive changes on racial equity and social justice in the County. The somatic and mental health services to be supported by the supplemental appropriation are targeted at the schools with very high concentrations of poverty, defined as having 80% or more of students eligible for the federal Free and Reduced-Price Meals program in School Years 2017-2018 or 2018-2019. The schools that will receive services include Gaithersburg, Highland, New Hampshire Estates, Sargent Shriver, South Lake, and Wheaton Woods Elementary Schools, which serve an overwhelmingly large majority of students of color with an average of 62.9% Hispanic/Latino students and 26.6% Black or African American students. In addition, the average percentage of ESOL students at these schools is 56.5%.
6. Notice of public hearing was given, and a public hearing was held.

**Action**

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

A supplemental appropriation to the FY21 Operating Budget of the Department of Health and Human Services is approved as follows:

<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
\$307,356	\$556,673	\$0	\$864,029	Maryland State Department of Education Grant

This is a correct copy of Council action.

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Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.  
Clerk of the Council



**M E M O R A N D U M**

October 14, 2020

TO: Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee  
Education & Culture (E&C) Committee

FROM: Vivian Yao, Legislative Analyst

SUBJECT: Supplemental Appropriation to DHHS FY21 Operating Budget, \$864,029 to Increase Somatic and Mental Health Services at Montgomery County Public Schools

PURPOSE: Review and make recommendation on the proposed supplemental appropriation and receive an update on somatic and mental health supports for students

***Those expected to participate in the worksession include:***

- JoAnn Barnes, Chief, Children Youth and Family Services, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- Monica Martin, Administrator, Child and Adolescent School and Community-Based Services, DHHS  
Joan Glick, Senior Administrator, School Health Services, DHHS
- Jason Rundell, Management and Budget, DHHS
- Ruschelle Reuben, Associate Superintendent, Office of Student and Family Support and Engagement, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)

The Joint Committee will review the \$864,029 supplemental appropriation to DHHS and receive updates on efforts to expand mental health services for students by DHHS and MCPS and address the mental health needs of children during the COVID public health emergency. The draft resolution and accompanying memo from the Executive is attached at ©1-3.

A public hearing was held on October 6, 2020 , but there were no speakers. Action on the supplemental appropriation is scheduled for October 20, 2020

**Background**

The proposed supplemental appropriation of \$864,029 supplemental appropriation to DHHS comes from funding that MCPS received from the Montgomery State Department of Education (MSDE) Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program. The funding will support a collaborative effort between MCPS and DHHS to increase somatic and mental health services

for students and families. This funding also is a continuation of support for services for which the Council appropriated \$358,331 in March 2020.

Recognizing the unprecedented upheaval that COVID social distancing restrictions and extension of virtual learning through the first semester of school has placed on young people, the Council also appropriated \$250,000 to DHHS on July 28, 2020 to expand school-based mental health services expeditiously through existing DHHS program and service providers. These services coupled with a pilot mental health program funded in the MCPS FY21 budget demonstrate the great need for these services and the commitment of local policy makers to the health and well-being of the Montgomery County youth.

### **Supplemental Appropriation for Concentration of Poverty Schools**

The funding from the appropriation will be used as follows:

Gaithersburg ES	2 additional child/family therapists
South Lake ES	1.5 FTE child/family therapists 1 dedicated school health nurse
Sargent Shriver ES	1 additional child/family therapist 1 dedicated school health nurse
Highland ES	1 additional child/family therapist
Wheaton Woods	1 additional child/family therapist 1 dedicated school health nurse
New Hampshire Estates	1 additional therapist

The mental health portion of the appropriation will be used to continue providing expanded mental health services via Linkages to Learning. The target population for the above services is largely the same as Linkages to Learning's standard target population- students identified and referred by MCPS that are un/under-insured or have Medicaid.

### **Council staff recommends approval of the supplemental appropriation.**

Of the \$278,335 appropriated to the FY20 budget in mid-March for additional mental health services to be delivered through Linkages to Learning providers and sites, the amount expended through 6/30/2020 was \$99,978.12. Public Health spent a total of \$29,441. The expenditures were less than projected due to school closures related to COVID; however, MSDE allowed local school district to use the remaining funds from FY20 for FY21.

### **Update on Expansion Services**

#### ***DHHS \$250,000:***

DHHS has provided the following update on the funding appropriated by the Council this summer:

*The new designated School and Community-based Youth Services (SCYS) schools have been contacted and are currently able to make referrals. As we are only a month into the school year, capacity to serve the new schools currently exists with base funding. In the meantime, the contracting process for additional funds in the SCYS contracts is nearly complete. The contract with each provider is close to completion. Shephard Pratt (FSI) is working with Procurement on a final adjustment prior to signature; Every Mind in in Procurement awaiting approval; and the City of Rockville, which was the last to go to Procurement, is in review. HHS can provide an update at the session if necessary.*

*The new funding allows for child/family teletherapy and virtual groups to be provided 2 days/week by the following providers at the following schools:*

- *City of Rockville - Twinbrook ES (\$50,000)*
- *EveryMind - Glen Haven ES (\$50,000)*
- *Sheppard Pratt - Brown Station ES, Whetstone ES and Stedwick ES (\$150,000)*

*The target population is uninsured and severely underinsured children and families in the designated schools, and other schools in the contracted geographic service area will be served if extra capacity exists. We anticipate that 100 youth will be served via this new funding during this startup year, with more to be served in future years.*

### **MCPS Pilot**

MCPS reports the following update on its pilot mental health program:

*The MCPS RFP was released and closed. Five organizations submitted proposals that are under review. The goal is to select one or more organizations to provide services and submit the recommendations to the BOE for consideration on October 27, 2020. MCPS continues to be on track to implement these additional mental health services in schools at the beginning of the second semester. MCPS consulted with DHHS during the development phase of this RFP and coordinated to ensure that services provided addressed the mental health deserts in MCPS.*

### **Update on Health Services During COVID**

Updates to school-based health and mental health services are described in the packet at ©4-13. Some of the key points include the following:

- Linkages to Learning provided:
  - Mental health services for 734 students mostly by teletherapy, but some telegroup therapy and virtual psycho-educational/support groups.
  - Between April through August, over 66,810 children and adults were served, and while numbers are duplicated across months, the number do not reflect all that

occurred during the pandemic given the magnitude of increased need for emergency food and delays in tracking the service response.

- **School and Community-Based Youth Services contracts** provided mental health services to 467 youth and families – mostly teletherapy, but some groups.
- **The Cluster Projects** received 161 requests for mental health services (116 for children and 45 for adults), conducted 123 formal mental health referrals, and verified that 69 of these conducted an intake with a mental health provider.
- **High School Wellness Centers – Positive Youth Development:** All of the Wellness Center provided all services remotely during the pandemic. Identity reported that the Gaithersburg, Watkins Mill, and Wheaton Centers significantly increased the capacity to deliver critical case management services, direct client assistance and mental health services remotely and served 1020 youth and families from March 16 through September 30.
- **Capacity within virtual space** is very different than in-person programming. Because setting up virtual programming is time intensive, capacity is decreased across program types.
- **Areas of support have included:** support for parents stemming from loss of a sense of community and anxiety about school; financial assistance resulting from loss of or reduced employment; needed opportunities for physical/outdoor activities for students and parents; and help needed in using technology and connecting to school.
- **School-Based Health and Wellness Center – Somatic Health Services:**
  - Centers closed from February through June 2020 due to COVID – Care for Kids (CFK) clients were referred to other CFK providers during this time period.
  - For July and August (CFK) enrollees were referred to Mary's Center of Holy Cross Center in Germantown.
  - Current CFK enrollment is 1,300 children.
  - Centers are awaiting approval to provide telehealth services for all locations and MCPS approval to open 2 high school wellness centers.
  - The two contracted health care provider groups are calling all CFK clients enrolled in centers to ask about health needs and provide advice on acute issues or chronic illness management, with referrals to Mary's Center of Holy Cross Center in Germantown for medical concerns that cannot be addressed on the phone.
  - All school nurses are currently redeployed to provide COVID related services and/or providing support to MCPS. COVID related activities include staffing the call center, contact tracing and outbreak investigation, testing pods, and occupational medical services. MCPS functions include immunization compliance, Head Start activities and IEP/504/case management guidance.

- School Health Room Techs have provided staffing for shelters, DOCR-taking temperatures of staff; call center; contact tracing, testing pods, and occupational medical services.