

Resolution No.:	<u>20-125</u>
Introduced:	<u>March 28, 2023</u>
Adopted:	<u>April 18, 2023</u>

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsors: HHS Committee Chair Albornoz,
E&C Committee Chair Jawando and Councilmember Balcombe

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government, Department of Health and Humans Services,
Children's Opportunity Fund Program \$200,000 (Source of Funds: General Fund
Reserves) and Amendment to Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Budget Resolution 19-
1285 Section G, FY23 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract
Award Status: Montgomery County Children's Opportunity Alliance

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. High quality accessible early care and education (ECE) for children 0-5 is an economic imperative. Parents need access to early care and education for their young children to participate in the workforce, and reliable child care supports employee productivity. Nationwide, absenteeism and lost productivity due to child care issues cost U.S. businesses about four billion dollars each year. Moreover, children in Montgomery County need access to high quality learning experiences so they may enter kindergarten ready to learn and start on a pathway of success in life.
3. Efforts to support the childcare sector and improve the ECE system are critical as the COVID-19 public health emergency has placed the sector in crisis. Revenue loss resulting from efforts to contain the spread of the disease and the stringent requirements for reopening has placed great strain on child care businesses. Prior to COVID-19 restrictions, the child care industry struggled with sustainability challenges. Cost of care studies showed the typical child care program operating at a deficit or at best, a break-even situation. Child care is an essential service to support families as they return to work

and is critical to the County's economic recovery.

4. An improved system of ECE will support today's working families, address the opportunity gap, and prepare the workforce of tomorrow. This special appropriation is needed to support critical start-up work of the Montgomery County Children's Opportunity Alliance, the County's ECE Coordinating Entity. The funds will support important stakeholder convening, data collection and analysis, and strategic planning and implementation efforts of the organization.
5. Notice of public hearing was given and a public hearing was held.
6. The County Council declares this request is in the public interest to be acted upon without delay as provided for under special appropriation requirements described in Article 3, Section 308 of the Montgomery County Charter.

Action

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

A special appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Budget for the DHHS Children's Opportunity Fund Program is approved as follows:

<u>Personnel Expense</u>	<u>Operating Expense</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Source TOTAL of Funds</u>
\$0	\$200,000	\$0	General Fund Undesignated Reserves

The funding appropriated in this resolution must be added to a noncompetitive agreement with the Montgomery County Children's Opportunity Alliance and only used to implement the programming described in paragraph four. The Department of Health and Human Services will administer the funds.

The funds appropriated in this special appropriation must be placed in a General Fund account, in which any unspent funds will be re-appropriated in Fiscal Year 2024.

This resolution amends Resolution 19-1285, Section G, FY23 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Award Status to fund a contract with the Montgomery County Children's Opportunity Alliance with the purpose to "support early care and education systems-building efforts including stakeholder convening, data collection and analysis, and strategic planning and implementation efforts."

This appropriation is needed to address a public health emergency and to act without delay in the public interest.

This is a correct copy of Council action:



Judy Rupp
Clerk of the Council