

Resolution No.: 20-1045  
Introduced: January 13, 2026  
Adopted: February 24, 2026

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

---

Lead Sponsor: Council President Fani-González  
Co-Sponsors: Councilmembers Friedson and Katz

---

**SUBJECT:** Special Appropriation to the FY26 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Government, Office of Food Systems Resilience, Resident and Community Gardening Grant Program, \$100,000 (Source of Funds: General Fund Undesignated Reserves)

**Background**

1. Section 308 of the Montgomery County Charter provides that a special appropriation: (a) may be made at any time after public notice by news release; (b) must state that the special appropriation is necessary to meet an unforeseen disaster or other emergency or to act without delay in the public interest; (c) must specify the revenues necessary to finance it; and (d) must be approved by no fewer than seven members of the Council.
2. Urban and community gardening increases access to fresh, affordable, and culturally relevant produce in neighborhoods that experience food insecurity. By reducing reliance on distant food supply chains, these gardens strengthen local food resilience and promote healthier dietary outcomes. Reliable power and irrigation systems are essential to ensure consistent production, food safety, and long-term operational viability.
3. In Montgomery County, community gardens function as hands-on learning spaces where residents gain understanding of food systems, environmental stewardship, and nutrition. They also offer opportunities for youth and adults to develop applied skills in cultivation, land management, and program coordination.
4. Council President Fani-González recommends that the County strengthen its support for the FY26 Resident and Community Gardening Grant Program by increasing funding by \$100,000. This enhancement would expand resident engagement and community-based food production initiatives that advance food security, gardening education, and access to culturally appropriate foods. In FY24, the program achieved a 78 percent increase in food-growing space and engaged approximately 1,900 residents. However, due to the reduction in recommended funding for FY26, the program has not been able to launch and provide adequate support to potential grantees.

5. The County Council has determined the following FY26 appropriation is necessary to address urban farming and food access in Montgomery County:

<u>Appropriate To</u>	<u>Personnel Costs</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
Office of Food Systems Resilience	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	General Fund Undesignated Reserves

6. This special appropriation will fund the initiatives as detailed in Paragraph 4.
7. The public was notified of this special appropriation by a news release, and a public hearing was held.

**Action**

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

1. Special appropriations to the FY26 Operating Budget are as follows:

<u>Appropriate To</u>	<u>Personnel Costs</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
Office of Food Systems Resilience	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	General Fund Undesignated Reserves

2. The County Council declares that this action is necessary to fully support the FY26 Resident and Community Gardening Grant Program. This program expands the capacity of eligible nonprofit organizations to provide residents with access to yard, patio, and community gardening supplies, space, and education, supporting broader food security initiatives within Montgomery County.

This is a correct copy of Council action.




---

Sara R. Tenenbaum  
Clerk of the Council