

Resolution No.:	<u>19-506</u>
Introduced:	<u>June 16, 2020</u>
Adopted:	<u>June 23, 2020</u>

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsor: County Council

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance Non-Departmental
Account (NDA)
Support for COVID-19 Response – Montgomery County Food Security Fund
\$10,300,000 (Source of Funds: Federal Grant Funds) and
Amendment to Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget Resolution 19-128
Section G, FY20 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive
Contract Award Status: Greater Washington Community Foundation

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 March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared coronavirus COVID-19 a pandemic, and it has spread rapidly throughout the world. As of June 2, 2020, there were 11,731 confirmed cases in Montgomery County. There were 584 confirmed deaths and 40 probable deaths in Montgomery County. To slow the spread of the disease, Maryland Governor Hogan declared a State of Emergency on March 5, 2020 and issued Executive Orders that have closed schools, closed non-essential business, and required Maryland residents to shelter at home.
3. The efforts to contain the spread of the disease and the disease itself have threatened food security for an increased number of vulnerable residents in Montgomery County. The need has increased as residents experience income loss from the resulting economic disaster. Since the beginning of March, Montgomery County residents have filed over 87,000 initial unemployment claims.

4. The loss of income for residents has resulted in a substantial increase in clients accessing food and meal distribution services in the county. From April 13 through May 26, the weekly demand for food grew by over 500% and approximately 350,000 pounds of food. Montgomery County Public Schools meals service, Senior Nutrition program and other community and faith-based organizations are reporting significant increases in demand. In addition, the County is experiencing a decline in food supply due to COVID-19's fiscal impact.
5. The Montgomery County Food Council, in partnership with numerous food providers, continues to facilitate a collaborative approach to address food insecurity in Montgomery County and produces the Food Assistance Resource Directory. In response to the current COVID-19 public health crisis, the County has also established the Montgomery County Food Security Task Force (Task Force), adapting an incident command system framework.
6. The Task Force has developed the "COVID-19 Pandemic Food Security Response Strategy," which identifies thirteen actionable strategies to address critical needs to increase the volume of food in the food assistance system; improve the food delivery system; communicate to and connect residents with resources; and ultimately foster a permanently resilient and equitable food system in Montgomery County. The Response Strategy estimates that \$41.55 million will be needed to execute the food security strategy over a six-month period.
7. The County will enter into a public/private partnership with the Greater Washington Community Foundation to establish the Montgomery County Food Security Fund to support the implementation of the food security strategy. The County will provide seed funding of up to \$300,000 to the Community Foundation to initiate the fund. The County will commit \$10,000,000 appropriated through this resolution to implement the COVID-19 Pandemic Food Security Response Strategy with the goal of raising \$5,000,000 in private donations in the Montgomery County Food Security Fund.
8. Notice of public hearing was given and a public hearing was held.

Action

A special appropriation to the FY20 Operating Budget of the Montgomery County Government, COVID-19 Human Services and Community Assistance NDA in the amount of \$10,300,000 is approved as follows:

<u>Personnel</u> <u>Expense</u>	<u>Operating</u> <u>Expense</u>	<u>Capital</u> <u>Outlay</u>	<u>Source</u> <u>TOTAL of Funds</u>
\$0	\$10,300,000	\$0	Federal Grant Funds

The County must enter into a noncompetitive agreement of up to \$300,000 with the Greater Washington Community Foundation to administer the Montgomery County Food Security Fund.

The fund will be set up to accept private donations, and all amounts collected by the Fund must be used to support the implementation of the COVID-19 Pandemic Food Security Response Strategy. Use of the fund will be directed by the Montgomery County Food Security Task Force.

Ten million dollars appropriated in this resolution must be used to implement the COVID-19 Pandemic Food Security Strategy. These funds are being committed with the goal of raising \$5,000,000 in private donations in the Montgomery County Food Security Fund.

The Department of Health and Human Services will administer the funding in the appropriation.

The Executive must provide monthly reports on donations collected in the fund.

This resolution amends Resolution 19-128, Section G, FY20 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Award Status to add a new contract with the Greater Washington Community Foundation to read "Provides for administration of the Montgomery County Food Security Fund" in the amount of up to \$300,000.

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.



Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council