

Resolution No.:	<u>19-701</u>
Introduced:	<u>December 15, 2020</u>
Adopted:	<u>December 15, 2020</u>

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsor: County Council

SUBJECT: Amendment to Resolution 19-683; Special Appropriation to the FY21 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Government, Department of Health and Human Services, Children Youth and Family Services, Therapeutic Recreation Services for School-Age Youth, \$312,455, Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves

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. The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted youth mental health and well-being. Vulnerable youth face significant challenges as a result of the economic impacts resulting from COVID-19 and social isolation arising from the need to prevent the spread of the virus. Continued distance learning in public schools and limited opportunities to congregate safely with peers due to COVID-19 prevention measures have increased feelings of alienation and isolation among young people.
3. At this point in the pandemic, instead of expanding virtual teletherapy linked to specific school communities, the Department of Health and Human Services recommends investing in a flexible community-based therapeutic recreation model that allows for socially distant in-person opportunities for youth outside of their home that can be incorporated into current services models like School and Community Youth Services (SCYS), Positive Youth Development (PYD), Linkages to Learning (LTL).
4. This special appropriation provides \$312,455 for therapeutic recreation activities for school-age children and youth, which support mental health wellness, socialization, coping skills, and stress management, including the following:

- Healing-informed recreational leisure and family strengthening activities through PYD contracts and PYD programs including the Street Outreach Network, Safe Space, High School Wellness Centers.
 - One-on-one or small group services delivered by social emotional wellness staff, with bi-lingual skills, as needed, under the supervision of a licensed mental health professional through existing SCYS or LTL contracts.
5. The annual cost for the services is \$750,000.
 6. Notice of public hearing was given and a public hearing was held.
 7. 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.
 8. On December 8, 2020, the Council approved Resolution 19-683, Special Appropriation to the FY21 Operating Budget, Montgomery County Government, Department of Health and Human Services, Children Youth and Family Services, Therapeutic Recreation Services for School-Age Youth, \$312,455, Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves. The resolution appropriated \$312,455 with \$106,205 designated as personnel expense and \$206,250 designated as operating expense. The amount for personnel expense was allocated based on the presumption that DHHS would expand staffing in the Positive Youth Development program. However, subsequent to the approval of the resolution, the Department indicated that the whole amount of the appropriation should be designated as operating expense to initiate contractual services in the current fiscal year.

Action

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

A special appropriation to the FY21 Operating Budget of the Montgomery County Government, Department of Health and Human Services, Children, Youth, and Family Services is approved as follows:

<u>Personnel Expense</u>	<u>Operating Expense</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
<u>\$0</u> [106,205]	\$312,455 [\$206,250]	\$0	\$312,455	General Fund Reserves

This is a correct copy of Council action.


 Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
 Clerk of the Council