

Resolution No.: 19-1357
Introduced: July 12, 2022
Adopted: July 26, 2022

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

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

SUBJECT: Supplemental Appropriation #23-9 to the FY23 Operative Budget
Montgomery County Government
Department of Health and Human Services
Assistance to Access Abortion, Reproductive Health, and Related Services,
\$1,000,000 (Source of Funds: General Fund: Undesignated Reserves)

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. On May 2, 2022, it was reported that the Supreme Court of the United States intended to strike down *Roe v. Wade*, a 50-year-old precedent, which affirmed the rights of a person to choose abortion care, and ensured that women had control of their own bodies. Since that point, many elected officials in states around the Country have affirmed their support for a complete ban on abortion care in their states, while others have supported heavy restrictions. While Maryland has strong legal protections for a woman's right to choose, it is expected that providers, nonprofits, and other Montgomery County based organizations will need increased resources to provide care for women throughout the region. On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court of the United States struck down *Roe v. Wade*.
3. On May 10, 2022, County Executive Elrich and Councilmember Navarro at a press conference announced their support for an additional \$1 million in County funding to

support the right to access abortion care, with a pledge that the County will “do all we can to protect women’s health and their personal rights.”

4. The County Executive has requested the following FY23 Operating Budget appropriation increase for the Department of Health & Human Services:

<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
\$0	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000	General Fund: Undesignated Reserves

5. The supplemental appropriation would allow for grants to be provided through the Department of Health and Human Services, in cooperation with the Office of Grants Management. The grants would be for the following allowable purposes:
 - Assisting with wraparound services to those who are accessing abortion services;
 - Providing grants to organizations in the County that provide abortion services, or that refer patients to abortion services as part of comprehensive family planning and reproductive health education;
 - Providing aid to organizations that are fighting legal battles on behalf of those seeking access to abortion services;
 - Security for providers who offer direct abortion services or referral to abortion services. Providers may require increased safety or security measures as a result of heightened tensions in the political and civic environment;
 - Support for organizations and providers who offer direct abortion services or refer to abortion services to begin practicing in Montgomery County. Examples include assistance with relocation costs, training costs for new providers, or other start up costs; and
 - Grants to facilitate providers of abortion services to offer reduced cost, low cost, or no cost abortion services to women who have financial hardships, to ensure equitable access to abortion services.
6. The Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Grants Management will seek proposals from organizations that exhibit cultural proficiency, use a racial equity lens in providing services, and demonstrate commitment to protect abortion and reproductive health access.
7. The County Executive will report to the County Council on the grant solicitation and award processes, including information such as the numbers of grants, for what purposes, and in what amounts.

- 8. The County Executive recommends a supplemental appropriation to the FY23 Operating Budget in the amount of \$1,000,000 and specifies the source of funds as General Fund: Undesignated Reserves.
- 9. Notice of a public hearing was given, and a public hearing was held.

Action

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

A supplemental appropriation to the FY23 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>
\$0	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000	General Fund: Undesignated Reserves

The supplemental appropriation will fund grants to support assistance to access abortion, reproductive health, and related services. Grants will be provided through the Department of Health and Human Services, in cooperation with the Office of Grants Management.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



 Judy Rupp
 Clerk of the Council