

Resolution No.: 20-350
Introduced: November 14, 2023
Adopted: December 12, 2023

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

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

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation #24-37 to the FY24 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
Department of Health and Human Services and Office of Food Systems
Resilience Food Security Initiatives (\$11,060,000); and Amendment to FY2024
Operating Budget Resolution 20-184, Section G, Fiscal Year 2024 Designation
of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status: Capital Area Food
Bank, Inc.

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. The County Executive recommends a supplemental appropriation to the FY24 Operating Budget in the amount of \$11,060,000 for Food Security Initiatives and specifies that the source of funds will be General Fund Undesignated Reserves.
3. The County Executive has requested the following FY24 Operating Budget appropriation increases for the Office of Food Systems Resilience (OFSR) and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

	<u>Personnel</u> <u>Services</u>	<u>Operating</u> <u>Expenses</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source</u> <u>of Funds</u>
DHHS	\$0	\$6,590,000	\$6,590,000	General Funds: Undesignated Reserves

OFSR	\$0	\$4,470,000	\$4,470,000	General Funds: Undesignated Reserves
------	-----	-------------	-------------	--

4. Funds in this appropriation for the Department of Health and Human Services are needed to support food resources for community members amidst high price inflation, rising demand for food assistance programs, and the end of critical federal pandemic assistance. The Food Staples program funding is projected to run out in December; the funds in this appropriation will support continuity for the food staples program to support vulnerable residents. The County will seek to maximize use of State and Federal funds that may become available to support this crisis response program.
5. Funds in this appropriation for the Office of Food Systems Resilience will reinforce the solid foundation of existing food security resources in the County, leverage federal and state funds, close service gaps, align investment with values of equity and resilience, and gather essential data to evaluate program performance and inform future funding decisions.
6. The special appropriation will allow for four grants programs to be provided through the Office of Food Systems Resilience, in cooperation with the Office of Grants Management. The four grant programs would be for the following allowable purposes:
 - a) Community School Distributions and Pantries grant: school-based Food Security Partnership Grants that will match individual schools with grant-funded food assistance providers for tailored in-school pre-packed bag, pantry, or market programs
 - b) Food gardening grant programs: will provide additional funding for the FY24 Resident and Community Gardening Grants program and grant funding for food education and production at the MCPS REACH Hub at Loiderman Middle School.
 - c) Infrastructure grants: will support strategically located programs that aggregate, process, and/or distribute food from local producers to address food insecurity in the County.
 - d) Expansion of SNAP Enrollment Grant Program: fund and administer SNAP outreach grants for designated Maryland Community Benefit Organizations in Montgomery County.
7. Section 11B-14 (a) (4) of the Montgomery County Code states that “a contract may be awarded without competition if the Chief Administrative Officer makes a written determination that the contract award serves a public purpose and proposed contractor has been identified in a grant or appropriation resolution approved by the Council.” The result of this action is to amend the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award status resolution to include the entities listed below.

8. The Chief Administrative Officer has determined that funding for the contract with this entity serves a public purpose and that such an expense would be in the public interest.
9. The Department of Health and Human Services will increase the award of an existing contract with Capital Area Food Bank, Inc. by \$6,500,000 for a revised award amount of \$12,500,000 for the purpose: “Provides for food staples to county food providers, to assist communities affected by food insecurity.”
10. A public hearing was held on November 28, 2023.

Action

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

1. A special appropriation to the FY24 Operating Budget of the Office of Food Systems Resilience (OFSR) and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is approved as follows:

	<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
DHHS	\$0	\$6,590,000	\$6,590,000	General Funds: Undesignated Reserves
OFSR	\$0	\$4,470,000	\$4,470,000	General Funds: Undesignated Reserves

2. Grant programs will be administered through the Office of Food Systems Resilience, in cooperation with the Office of Grants Management.
3. The County Council declares that this action is necessary to act without delay in the public interest, and that this appropriation is needed to meet the emergency.
4. The Council approves an amendment to the Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award and thereby amends Resolution 20-184, Section G, FY24 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award. The Chief Administrative Officer has recommended this action and stated that this action serves a public purpose and is in the public interest.

The FY24 Designation of Entities for Non-Competitive Contract Award Status resolution is amended to:

Increase the amount of an existing award with Capital Area Food Bank, Inc. by \$6,500,000 for a revised award amount of \$12,500,000 for the purpose: "Provides for food staples to county food providers, to assist communities affected by food insecurity."

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Sara R. Tenenbaum
Clerk of the Council