

Resolution No.: 20-351
 Introduced: November 7, 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 #24-39 to the FY24 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Government
Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
(OEMHS) Respite Center for Arriving Migrants Grant Program,
SAMU Foundation (d.b.a. SAMU First Response) Grant, \$2,181,663
OEMHS Grant Administration, \$80,000 (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 six members of the Council.
2. The County Executive has requested the following FY24 Operating Budget appropriation increases for the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEMHS):

	<u>Personnel</u> <u>Services</u>	<u>Operating</u> <u>Expenses</u>	<u>Capital</u> <u>Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source</u> <u>of Funds</u>
SAMU	\$0	\$2,181,663	\$0	\$2,181,663	General Fund Undesignated Reserves
OEMHS	\$0	\$80,000	\$0	\$80,000	General Fund Undesignated Reserves
Total	\$0	\$2,261,663	\$0	\$2,261,663	

3. This appropriation provides a grant to SAMU Foundation (d.b.a. SAMU First Response) to provide respite services from January through June 2024, including emergency shelter, food, and transportation services for arriving migrants to Montgomery County. Also

included in this appropriation is funding for OEMHS to administer the grant to SAMU. These services have been provided by SAMU First Response, an organization with both the experience and the cultural and linguistic expertise to provide emergency services to migrant populations.

4. This increase is needed to continue Respite Center services from January to June 2024 that had been funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). These services were made available from FEMA from June 2022 through December 2023 through FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP). United Way was designated by FEMA to serve as fiscal agent for District of Columbia and Montgomery County EFSP funds. FEMA has informed the County that its current funding through United Way will end December 31, 2023.
5. FEMA created another program, Shelter Services Program (SSP), to manage funding for respite services across the country. SSP disbursed funds in two tranches in July and September 2023. Montgomery County was not allocated funds. FEMA made most allocations to border States. Montgomery County intends to seek Federal funding in the future if eligibility provisions will allow participation.
6. The County Executive has requested a special appropriation to the FY24 Operating Budget in the total amount of \$2,261,663 for Respite Center for Arriving Migrants Grant Program and specifies that the source of funds will be Undesignated General Fund Reserves.
7. The emergency grant is needed due to the abrupt end of FEMA support of the Montgomery County Respite Center operations. The grant is intended to provide bridge funding, facilitating critical short-term services for migrants. The County intends to maximize use of State funds that may become available, as the State of Maryland finalizes its funding support for jurisdictions providing services to migrant individuals and families. The County Executive's office is working with State partners to address the fiscal situation.
8. 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 Emergency Management and Homeland Security is approved as follows:

	<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
SAMU	\$0	\$2,181,663	\$0	\$2,181,663	General Fund Undesignated Reserves
OEMHS	\$0	\$80,000	\$0	\$80,000	General Fund Undesignated Reserves
Total	\$0	\$2,261,663	\$0	\$2,261,663	

2. A total of \$2,181,663 of this appropriation will support an emergency grant to SAMU Foundation (d.b.a. SAMU First Response) for the Respite Center for Arriving Migrants administered by the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, in coordination with the Office of Grants Management.
3. The County Council declares that this action is necessary to meet an unforeseen emergency and to act without delay in the public interest.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Sara R. Tenenbaum
Clerk of the Council