Montgomery County, Maryland
Recovery Plan

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

2022 Report

Montgomery County, Maryland

2022 Recovery Plan

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Executive Summary

On March 5, 2020, the Governor of Maryland declared a state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, more than 196,000 County residents have contracted COVID-19 and more than 2,000 County residents have lost their lives to this disease.

Over the past year, the County Executive and County Council have made many difficult financial and operational decisions to adjust to these unprecedented times. The County's Federal and State partners have provided some much-needed assistance. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provided the County with $183.3 million in flexible aid to help address many of our most pressing expenditure challenges. Furthermore, President Biden's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) has provided the County government with $204.1 million in Federal aid that will continue to be used over the coming months and years to respond to the challenges created by the pandemic.

The County's approach to the allocation of these infusions of Federal aid has focused on three main goals: Response, Recovery, and Resilience, so that County residents and businesses can continue to pull through this crisis and the County can continue to move towards several of the County Executive's key goals of promoting Equity and Advancing Social Justice, advancing Economic Development Across the County, and providing Efficient and Effective Public Services.

As shown in the following table, the County Executive and County Council have allocated $193.1 million of the County's $204.1 million share (94.6%) of the ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). In fiscal year 2021 (FY21), the County recognized $92 million in pandemic-related revenue losses. This amount was determined through the calculation methodology prescribed by the U.S. Treasury Department and will be used to pay for government services that County residents have come to rely upon.

Of the budget enhancements in fiscal year 2022 (FY22), $25 million has been allocated to pay for an expansion to the Working Families Income Supplement Program to provide financial assistance to low-income working families in the County. The County's minority health programs received over $13 million in ARPA funds to continue the vital work of ensuring an equitable pandemic response among all of the County's diverse communities. The County allocated over $5 million to establish a mobile health clinic to promote equitable health outcomes, enhance therapeutic recreation services and provide for mental health services for students and families, and continue the vital human services that are provided at the County's service consolidation hubs including meals, diapers, telemedicine, and comprehensive wraparound services to residents most impacted by the pandemic. In addition to this funding, $3 million is being provided to support the expansion of high school wellness programs in high schools that do not currently have a wellness center to support needs of high school students and their families, plus almost $400,000 to expand positive youth development initiatives through after school support and engagement hubs and the out of school time initiative. In addition, $1.5 million is being provided to expand the County's rapid rehousing program and rental assistance program to ensure that the County's most vulnerable residents can continue to have a roof over their heads. Furthermore, $1.3 million has been provided to support the County's broadband

infrastructure programs. For workforce development and business assistance efforts - $3 million was allocated to support workforce development programs, including the Youth Employment Program, Grant Relief for Onboarding Workers Program, and Workforce Recovery Network Program; and over $8 million was allocated to support the business rental assistance and hotel relief programs, as well as provide grants to arts organizations impacted by the pandemic, and provide operational support to the County's Conference and Visitor's bureau. Finally, the County also allocated $3 million in funding to support storm water infrastructure projects, $2.4 million to support enhancements for food security efforts, $1.2 million to provide aid to Adult Medical Day Care providers who have been significantly impacted by the effects of the pandemic, and over $700,000 to support community violence interventions. While funding for these programs was allocated in FY22, implementation of the programs will continue into FY23.

Of the budget enhancements in fiscal year 2023 (FY23), $25 million has been allocated to continue to fund the expansion to the Working Families Income Supplement Program which provides financial assistance to low-income working families in the County. The County's Health and Human Services Department will receive $3.3 million to continue providing important services at the County's Service Consolidation Hubs including food and diaper distribution as well as care coordination for residents most impacted by the pandemic. The department will also receive an additional $500,000 to continue to support the development of a mobile health clinic. In addition, $3.44 million is being allocated to provide rental assistance to the County's most vulnerable residents to reduce evictions and provide stable housing.

Allocation of ARPA SLFRF Funds
($ in Millions)

Project Number	Expenditure Category	Project Name	FY21	FY22	FY23
2004010	6.1	Revenue Loss Factor Recognition	$91.95		
2004399	2.3	Working Families Income Supplement Expansion		$25.00	$25.00
2004490	1.14	Latino Health Initiative - COVID Response "Por Nuestra Salud"		$2.95	
2004836	1.14	Latino Health Initiative - COVID Response "Por Nuestra Salud"		$4.44	
2004491	1.14	African American Health Program - COVID Response		$1.70	
2004837	1.14	African American Health Program - COVID Response		$3.16	
2004576	1.14	Asian American Health Initiative - COVID Response		$1.15	
2004395	1.14	Enhance Therapeutic Recreation Services		$0.75	
2004406	1.14	Establish Mobile Health Clinic to Promote Health Equity		$0.88	$0.50
2004407	1.14	Provide for Health and Human Service Hubs to Promote Equity		$3.60	$3.30
2004408	2.26	Mental Health Services for Students & Families		$0.25	
2004405	2.2	Rapid Rehousing Expansion		$0.49	
2004398	2.2	Rental Assistance Program Enhancement		$1.00	$3.44
2004397	2.34	Operational Aid to Conference Visitors Bureau		$0.80	
2004401	5.21	Broadband Infrastructure FiberNet2 Maintenance		$0.50	
2004402	5.21	Broadband Infrastructure FiberNet3 Build Out		$0.70	
2004403	5.21	Broadband Infrastructure Digital Equity Program		$0.10	
2004396	1.4	Circuit Court Remote Proceeding Modifications due to COVID		$0.27	
2004567	2.1	Food Security Program Enhancements		$0.67	
2004779	2.10	Workforce Development		$3.00	
2004786	2.29	Business Rental Assistance Program		$2.00	
2004773	2.35	Hotel Relief Program		$2.69	
2004795	2.37	Arts Grants		$2.75	
2004745	2.26	Highschool Wellness Center Services Enhancement		$3.00	
2004834	2.25	Youth Development - After School Support and Engagement Hubs		$0.25	
2004835	2.25	Youth Out of School Time Initiative		$0.13	
500320	5.6	Storm Water Infrastructure		$3.08	
2004741	2.1	Food Security Task Force Funding		$1.71	
2004838	1.11	Violent Crime Information Center		$0.47	
2004839	1.11	Group Violence Intervention Initiative		$0.16	
2004841	1.11	Midnight Madness Activities Pilot Program		$0.07	
2004840	1.11	Youth and Family Violence Prevention Program		$0.04	
2004752	1.14	Adult Medical Day Care Providers COVID Assistance		$1.20	
		Total	$91.95	$68.95	$32.24

Notes: $1.4M for Short-term line of credit costs that were initially included in the FY22 ARPA appropriation (and reported in the 2021 Recovery Plan) were subsequently determined to be ineligible for ARPA funding under Treasury guidelines and removed from the County's allocation of ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. The above table reflects when funds were allocated for the programs, implementation of some of the programs will continue into FY23. To-date, the County has allocated $193.1 million in ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, with $10.9 million remaining to be allocated for future needs.

Figure 1. Allocation of American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Uses of Funds

The goal of Montgomery County's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Program is to successfully address COVID-19's impact by encouraging economic recovery, being inclusive of all communities, and executing decisions that are sustainable. First, Montgomery County enacted a ground-breaking program to encourage economic recovery in both working families

and businesses. The Working Families Income Supplement Program boosts working families' revenue each month and the business rental assistance program enhances hotels and other industries' ability to continue making their lease payments. Second, by appropriating and distributing funds to the Latino Health Initiative, African American Health Program, and the Asian American Health Initiative, Montgomery County's Department of Health and Human Services is being inclusive of three minority communities. Third, the choices that Montgomery County has made to support rental assistance, mental health services, and a food security program are sustainable initiatives.

      a. Public Health. The Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar (PNSB) initiative was established to implement a holistic, culturally competent, and integrated wrap-around services approach to address COVID-19 in the Latino communities of Montgomery County. The African American Health Program is an opportunity to build infrastructure within the area of Public Health that is geared toward the black community, including the possibility of a black physicians network. The Asian American Health Initiative includes eleven community-based organizations that serve Asian American Pacific Islander communities in Montgomery County. The Asian American Health Initiative awarded grants to provide education, outreach, mental health/social service support, and access to COVID-19 testing and vaccination. The Department of Recreation will leverage its work in therapeutic recreation to initiate the Therapeutic Recreation Services, which is designed to enhance healthy cognitions and increase participants' ability to constructively view the events that take place in one's life and, ultimately, to create a mindset that leads to healthy lifestyle via diet, sleep, and exercise. Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services is establishing a Mobile Health Clinic and Mobile Services Unit that will travel across the County to provide health and social care services, with the explicit mission of bridging health and social disparities. Health and Human Services created Service Consolidation Hubs that are a critical backbone for the County's response to COVID-19 and the primary access point for serving the County's most vulnerable residents. The Hubs will continue to work with community providers and faith-based groups within the neighborhoods they serve to provide free food at weekly drive-through and walk-in distribution sites (serving upwards of 5,000-6,000 families per week); diapers and baby needs; home delivery of food, prepared meals, and other necessities for COVID-19 affected households or households experiencing emergencies or transportation barriers; and, more recently, case management to connect families to broader resources and County services. Mental Health Services for Public School Students and Families will provide individual youth, family, and/or group counseling services aimed at early identification and treatment of social/emotional/behavioral health risks or problems. Rapid Rehousing is an intervention designed to help individuals and families to quickly exit homelessness, return to housing in the community, and not become homeless again in the near term. Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services has established a COVID-19 Rent Relief Program that provides short-term rental assistance to eligible households who have experienced lost income due to the COVID-19 pandemic that has caused them to fall behind on their rent. Finally, Mental Health and Mentorship includes wellness centers at County high schools that include behavioral health and support

services, youth development and prevention services, case management screening, referral and social services.

b. Negative Economic Impacts. The Working Families Income Supplement expansion provides financial assistance to the County's low-income working residents who are eligible to receive the State's Expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit under Maryland Senate Bill 218 of 2021. The County matches 100% of the State Earned Income Tax Credit. The Conference Visitors Bureau's marketing efforts will assist with hotel revenues generated by booked hotel room nights. In addition, these hotel room revenues have a multiplier effect through the local economy from visitor spending. Funds are being used for FiberNet and Montgomery Connects Digital Equity, which provides digital equity technology training for adults 50 years and older. Montgomery County is working on a strong and equitable recovery by directing funds to Workforce Montgomery. Workforce Montgomery is focused on three areas of the workforce that were heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic: a youth employment program; onboarding, training, and retention at small and minority owned businesses; and training for occupational and entrepreneurial skills. Finally, funds are being used for Business Rental Assistance.

c. Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity

d. Premium Pay

e. Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. Funding will support storm drain and/or culvert work that otherwise would not be able to be funded in FY23. This includes $2,275,000 in funding for ten storm drain improvements that improve climate resilience by reducing flooding and runoff risks, and $800,000 for a culvert replacement project.

f. Revenue Replacement. The County recognized $91.95 million of this revenue replacement factor in fiscal year 2021.

Overall Recovery Vision

To create a more effective and efficient government that will lead the effort to revitalize the diverse communities throughout Montgomery County so that we successfully overcome the impact of COVID-19 by strengthening our economy, being inclusive of all communities, and implementing innovative and sustainable solutions.

The guiding principles of the County's COVID-19 recovery efforts are:

- **Racial Equity:** Provide equitable access to quality services and resources by examining and changing policy, practice, and allocation of County resources so that race is not a predictor of recovery.
- **Inclusion:** Make Montgomery County a place where all people can recover regardless of race, ethnicity, language, age or economic circumstances through a transparent process of public groups and forums where residents can provide feedback and recommendations on the County's recovery deliverables.
- **Innovation:** Harness advancements that sustain a continuation of County services and resources while improving access to services, cost effectiveness, and service delivery.

- **Sustainability:** Ensure that recovery decisions made today remain relevant and consistent with our shared vision of a resilient future through the thoughtful and rigorous application of the recovery framework.

Key Outcome Goals

The guiding principles will be achieved by the six recovery Mission Areas through the following goals:

- **Economic Revitalization:** Aid County businesses in adapting to the post-COVID-19 economy by guiding businesses through the re-opening process, adapting to changed consumer behaviors, and supporting the local economy and workforce by providing new opportunities for employment and commerce.
- **Government Services:** Improve how County Government does its work by giving employees more flexibility, providing customers more options for accessing services, reducing our carbon footprint, and making more efficient use of space and other resources.
- **Education:** Leverage County Government and School Systems' organizations and resources to create better outcomes for students, parents, and staff.
- **Health and Human Services:** Address inequities in social services, health, and other support services amplified by the pandemic.
- **Housing**: Provide assistance to, and work in cooperation with, tenants, property owners, lenders, common ownership communities, and regulatory authorities, and recommend actions that Montgomery County can take to reduce evictions, prevent homelessness, defaults, and foreclosures.
- **Food Resilience:** Guide the development of a long-term strategy building on the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic response and work towards a vision of a sustainable, resilient food system.

Recovery Mission Areas:

To achieve the key outcome recovery goals, the work of recovery planning was organized around six Mission Areas:

- **Government Operations and Services** focused on restoring government operations, services, and facilities back to pre-disaster conditions or better and will match interim and restored services to the anticipated renewed demand of the community. The mission area worked to address reconstituting County Government workplaces safely to restore all services, plan for summer programming in the context of the health situation, implement process improvements, improve service delivery, expand telework effectively for the long-term, and retool the workforce in conjunction with evaluating how workplaces can be restructured to be more efficient and effective.
- **Economic Revitalization** focused on returning economic activity to a sustainable level while also looking at innovative and viable economic opportunities. This mission area addressed the reopening of businesses and other vital community resources consistent with public health guidance; helped businesses, non-profits, and workers impacted by

the economic disruption get back on their feet; recognized the economic challenges presented by the pandemic; and identified opportunities for business advancement and related efforts to prepare the workforce for a changed economy.

- **Health and Human Services** focused on meeting the needs of vulnerable people and communities in the County, whose access to food, health care, social services, and other support services have been negatively impacted by the pandemic. This mission area also addressed childcare, behavioral health, and other cross-cutting issues critical to recovery, and worked closely with non-profit partners to help them restore services. It is also working to develop plans for addressing the racial disparities that have been laid bare in this crisis.
- **Housing** focused on interim and long-term solutions for housing relief and sustainability. The mission area has worked to address keeping people housed, ensuring health and safety in multi-family housing, and expanding housing opportunities This work has involved working with tenants, landlords, and lenders to prevent evictions and foreclosures, increasing affordable housing options, and assisting common ownership communities hurt by economic disruption.
- **Education** focused on supporting the development and implementation of recovery plans by public, independent, and private sectors of K-12 and higher education as approved by their governing bodies. Essential elements of the plans that will be monitored are the equitable and effective delivery of remote instruction and support programs, sustainable and agile return-to-building strategies, and adaptation to the economic and fiscal environment.
- **Food Resilience** focused on coordinating and implementing the long-term recovery of the Montgomery County food system from the COVID-19 pandemic and building a more resilient, equitable food system in Montgomery County. This mission area uses data to guide decision-making and strengthen the County food system's critical infrastructure.

Noteworthy Challenges

- Our ability to collect data about impacted communities/sectors in order to take action is complicated by the fact that some data is not immediately available.
- The up-and-down nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, to include the challenges brought by variants has necessitated a shift from recovery back into response several times.
- Economic challenges at the local level and in the community have made accessing and utilizing funding more complicated and dynamic than in normal times and previous emergency events.

Noteworthy Opportunities

- Montgomery County was able to implement its "Pre-Disaster Recovery Plan", which was completed in 2019, to jumpstart the local recovery process. In doing so, County Government has identified methods, systems, and partnerships that will likely continue beyond COVID-19.
- COVID-19 has given the County a unique opportunity to step-back and envision positive changes and new opportunities in our communities that were not previously contemplated.

- COVID-19 restrictions throughout the pandemic have enabled the County to rethink, restructure, and offer services and resources in new ways that are more accessible to the community.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

In December of 2019 County Executive Marc Elrich, with the full support of the nine-member County Council, signed the Racial Equity and Social Justice Act, creating the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ). The primary goal of the law and the Office is to embed a racial equity lens in all county decision making. The law requires that we train all County employees on the tenets of racial equity and social justice, and that that every bill and budget decision be examined for racial equity impacts. Using the well-established Government Alliance on Race and Equity framework of normalizing, organizing, and operationalizing for racial equity as a guide, ORESJ has developed a robust training plan, structured organizing practices, and analytical tools and products that support staff in applying a racial equity lens to their work. Using a racial equity lens brings conscious attention to potential racial equity impacts of government decisions by providing insights into historical and current structural inequities that are likely to produce or exacerbate disparate or disproportionate outcomes.

The County uses racial equity tools to make the application of an equity lens more concrete. Racial equity tools are analytical approaches or structured sets of questions and guidance that support decision makers in applying a racial equity lens at various decision points. The County has developed and currently uses a racial equity impact assessment tool and a budget equity tool to evaluate the current or predicted impact of a proposed policy, program, or budget decision on racial disparities. Central to the use of both tools is disaggregating data and directly engaging residents of color to deepen our understanding of who is most impacted, and how, by proposed decisions. Using this type of analysis brings attention to the range of systems influencing racially disparate outcomes observed today. It also helps decisionmakers gain new insights while also strengthening connections to the community. In this way, racial equity impact assessments and budget equity tools are both a product and a process supporting the County's mission of shrinking and eliminating racial disparities. Effective use of these tools is constrained by organizational readiness to adopt a growth mindset that prioritizes building authentic community relationships and questioning established decision-making practices. To fully realize the benefits of applying a racial equity lens, decision makers will need to factor in time for increased internal collaboration and evaluating and refining proposed solutions when new insights come to light.

Community Engagement

Community Recovery Advisory Group: Consists of representatives from across the spectrum of communities, populations, issue areas, and institutions impacted by the pandemic. The group, which meets as needed, advises the County Executive and County Council on the needs of the community in recovery and how the County can achieve a new normal that is more equitable than before the pandemic. The group is supported by the Office of Community

Partnerships, the Chief Equity Officer, OEMHS recovery staff, the Mission Area Teams, and other staff and subject matter experts as necessary.

Public Health Advisory Group: Consists of public health, epidemiology, and clinical experts and provides guidance to the Public Health Officer on the criteria for public health measures. This includes reviewing metrics and data to understand the course of the virus and making recommendations regarding how to phase and carry out closures or re-openings, as well as developing an implementation plan to minimize the threat and impact posed by the expected other waves and variants of the virus.

Economic Advisory Group: Consisted of County leaders from businesses of various sizes and sectors, non-profits and representatives of Labor. Its purpose was to inform the County Executive and County Council on conditions in the community and to advise the County Executive and County Council on long-term strategies to adjust to a changing economic landscape. Through this effort, the County was poised to take advantage of the opportunity to enhance the local economy by helping businesses retool, pivot, and survive while simultaneously connecting employers with the various employee skillsets they need to prosper. In addition, the Economic Advisory Group helped identify new opportunities and strategies to build on the County's economic assets.

Economic Revitalization & Recovery Town Hall: A forum that was hosted by the County Executive's Economic Development team to broadly engage the business community, share up-to-date information regarding the COVID-19 response and recovery, deliver helpful information on relevant topics, and receive valuable feedback from the community.

The Racial Equity and Social Justice Advisory Committee: Established by the County Council and effective on March 2, 2020. It plays a major role in addressing structural inequities and addressing systemic inequality and social justice issues throughout the County. Works with department heads, government agencies, and leaders to bring the change Montgomery County residents seek. Engages with the public, advises the County Council and County Executive, and promotes subcommittee and committee findings while exploring new and innovative strategies to address racial equity and social justice issues in Montgomery County.

Health and Human Services - Service Hubs: One of the positive outcomes from the COVID-19 pandemic was the creation of Service Consolidation Hubs across Montgomery County. These eight Hubs are placed within government buildings, churches, or other non-profit sites in neighborhoods with high needs and easy access to public transportation and are mostly run by community volunteers. Our ability to reach more residents of each community has been easier and the Hubs have been able to serve clients who have never sought services before due to fear or other circumstances. Word of mouth through the communities has allowed the Hub client numbers to grow quickly and residents know they can get food assistance, access to SNAP and other benefits, and other services in the Hubs without having to leave their neighborhood. The hubs have case managers to work with families and individuals with multiple needs and offer assistance in navigating services in the community and offered by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Montgomery Connects Digital Equity Programs: Leverage text-based promotions, offer promotional materials in Spanish as a standard practice, translate materials into other languages based on demand and need from partner organizations, leverage trusted community

partners to expand participation within vulnerable communities and other traditionally underserved groups, and support the ability of community organizations to expand internet-based communications and service delivery to their clients. In addition, FiberNet equipment supports the ability of County agencies and community organizations to offer services by leveraging public WiFi at government and educational buildings and outdoor plazas.

Visit Montgomery: Promotes the County's assets and quality of life to all residents of Montgomery County, including the parks system, historic sites, retail outlets, restaurants, museums, entertainment venues, sports venues, event venues and special events throughout the county. In turn, we provide the tools and assistance needed for businesses to promote their products and services to all the residents through our Tastemakers Trail, MoCo Eats and visitmontgomery.com website.

When developing our programs to support local businesses, Visit Montgomery collaborates with local interest groups and stakeholders to ensure the structures of the programs align to serve community residents' interests. Recent collaborations include Heritage Montgomery, Montgomery Parks, Montgomery County Office of Agricultural Services, MoCo Pride, Montgomery County Food Council, Montgomery County Small Business Navigator and Regional Centers, Arts & Humanities Council, and the Arts & Entertainment Districts.

Labor Practices

Montgomery County uses strong labor standards to promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality projects while supporting the economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for workers.

Project Labor Agreement (PLA): There are currently no ARPA-funded projects utilizing a PLA, though Montgomery County does have other projects in which vendors were given points if they signed an attestation that they would work in good faith to enter into a PLA.

Minority, Female, Disabled Persons owned Program (MFD): The MFD program sets a 21% subcontracting goal to MFD vendors for construction contracts. This requirement applies to all construction contracts that are over $50,000. The County has achieved on average 30% construction MFD subcontracting to construction MFD vendors in the past 3 years. In FY21, the MFD vendor utilization achieved a high of 52% in construction area, or $22.76 million out of the total $43.53 million in construction. There were less active construction projects in FY21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic but MFD subcontracting vendors participation remained strong. The MFD program has helped the disadvantaged community to continue to get County dollars during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Labor Peace Agreement (LPA): The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) has the authority to require a contractor awarded a covered contract to enter into a Labor Peace Agreement with a labor organization to prevent the interruption of services to County residents provided by private contractors due to concerted economic action or a lock-out during a labor dispute. However, this law is only applicable to "trash collecting and recycling services directly to County residents with a value equal to or greater than $250,000."

Prevailing Wage Law (PWL): On September 9, 2008 Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett signed into law the Prevailing Wage bill that passed the County Council with

overwhelming support. Beginning with contracts executed on July 1, 2009, the Prevailing Wage Law is patterned after the Federal Davis-Bacon and State of Maryland's prevailing wage laws. It requires the prevailing wage be paid to workers on County financed construction contracts. The prevailing wage rate is the rate paid for comparable work in the private sector within the County. The rates are calculated by the State, based on surveys of construction company employers. In the instance where a job classification is not listed, one may request a rate determination via an online form.

Wage Requirement Law (WRL): The Wage Requirement Law Program ensures workers on County funded non-construction services (examples: custodial services, landscaping services, security guard services, consulting services, staffing, marketing) receive a living wage. Contractors and subcontractors must pay their employees an hourly wage rate compliant with the annually adjusted rate established by the Montgomery County Wage Requirements Law on qualifying contracts. The County Council passed on June 11, 2002, and the County Executive signed on June 20, 2002, Bill 5-02, relating to Wage Requirements Law on Service Contracts. Please note that effective April 1, 2010, the exemption to the Wage Requirements Law for having fewer than ten employees has been repealed. The following Wage Requirements Law rate is valid through June 30, 2023: $15.65 Large employer (an employer who employs 51 people or more), $14.50 mid-size employer (an employer who employs 11-50 people), and $14.00 small employer (an employer who employs ten or fewer people).

In addition to the aforementioned, the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights also manages and enforces a Minimum Wage Law and an Earned Sick and Safe Leave Law which relate to all businesses in Montgomery County.

Use of Evidence

Montgomery County strongly believes in and promotes the use of evidence-based practices. Many of the projects and interventions listed below that are leveraging and benefitting from SLFRF funds are grounded in research and evidence, particularly in the Health and Human Services realm. When determining program design, a variety of steps are taken to promote the best possible outcomes, including: research and literature reviews, identification of best and/or promising practices, investigation into the practices of peer and surrounding jurisdictions, use of validated instruments for evaluation, use of data to identify and target program beneficiaries, and the identification of evidence-based practices. Where possible, the County has commissioned a study for new evaluation to help create additional research and evidence.

To facilitate ongoing evaluation, refining, and success of these programs, both output and outcome metrics will be developed and regularly reviewed. Some programs' metrics are still to be determined due to their recent adoption.

Performance Report

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for each project were developed by the project team. Some teams were aided by department-specific evaluation units like the Planning, Accountability and Customer Service (PACS) team within the Department of Health and Human Services. Additional assistance and review were provided as needed by CountyStat, the County's performance management and data analytics team. Some measures were defined in accordance with peer reviewed, national standards, as in the Mental Health Services for Public School Students and Families project, while others were designed to reflect local nuances and

community outcomes as in the Asian American Health Initiative. Project managers determined the methods by which their outcomes were tracked that were most appropriate to their specific projects. In some cases, KPIs were tracked in preexisting databases while others were maintained in newly developed tracking spreadsheets.

KPIs are reported for each individual project in the inventory except where noted.

Project Inventory

Project 2004010: Revenue Loss Factor Recognition
Funding amount: $91,950,000

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview
Using the methodology outlined in the Interim Final Rule, Montgomery County government computed its revenue replacement factor. The County recognized $91.95 million of this revenue replacement factor in fiscal year 2021 and used the funds to pay for the provision of government services as outlined by the Interim Final Rule.

Use of Evidence
N/A

Performance
N/A

Promoting Equitable Outcomes
N/A

Project 2004399: Working Families Income Supplement Expansion
Funding amount: $50 million (FY22: $25 million; FY23: $25 million)

Project Expenditure Category: 2.3

Project overview
- The Working Families Income Supplement expansion provides financial assistance to the County's low-income working residents who are eligible to receive the State's Expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit under Senate Bill 218. The County matches 100% of the State EITC. The State on behalf of the County mails out checks to eligible families and individuals at the end of July, October, and January to allow late filers to claim the credit. The County reimburses the State for these funds.
- MD Senate Bill 218, Child Tax Credit and Expansion of Earned Income Credit
- Montgomery County Expedited 14-21 – Working Families Income Supplement – Amendments

Use of Evidence

- The Working Families Income Supplement expansion provides financial assistance to the County's low income working residents that are eligible to receive the State's Expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit under Senate Bill 218 using SLFRF funds.
- As of July 31, 2022, out of the $50,000,000 ARPA funds allocated to this project, a total of $17,398,880 has been spent to date.

Performance

The County is currently unable to report specific KPIs on this project. The Working Families Income Supplement Expansion is a state-run and administered program. County law requires the County to match 100% of the State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), therefore doubling the amount of the credit for Montgomery County residents. The State Relief Act during the pandemic expanded the program to include residents who have an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) rather than only those who file a tax return. County law was changed to follow suit. The ARPA funds are used to fund this expansion.

The State pays the money on the County's behalf. The County then reimburses the State based on invoices for the actual costs and therefore has no control over the overall payments made. The State does not provide detailed information to discern those receiving the credit prior to the expansion and those receiving the credit because of the expansion.

Project 2004490: Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar (PNSB)

Supporting COVID-19 recovery and resiliency through culturally competent and linguistically appropriate information, services, and care for Latino residents of Montgomery County, Maryland

Funding amount: $2,946,776

Project Expenditure Category: 1.14

Project Overview:

The Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar (PNSB) initiative was established to implement a holistic, culturally competent, and integrated wrap-around services approach to address COVID-19 in the Latino communities of Montgomery County. These communities have been identified as high-risk due to the known higher incidence of COVID-19 cases and/or because of existing high-risk health, social, economic, and environmental factors prevalent in those communities making them vulnerable to COVID-19.

Through a unique public-private partnership between Montgomery County and seven preeminent Latino community-based organizations - CASA de Maryland, Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Health, Care for Your Health, Identity, Inc., Mansfield Kaseman Health Clinic, Proyecto Salud Clinic, and the Upcounty Consolidation HUB at BlackRock - PNSB has leveraged a broad array of programmatic areas to reduce and mitigate the impact from COVID-19 and its related issues, and to support the recovery among Latinos in the County.

Use of Evidence
PNSB's objectives are:

- Increase the dissemination of information on COVID-19 testing and vaccination to mobilize the Latino community around prevention, testing, treatment, and vaccination services
- Increase the number of COVID-19 tests for Latinos
- Provide COVID-19 vaccinations to high-risk, high-need Latino communities
- Provide effective clinical and social support for Latinos affected by COVID-19 and assist with placement and care as needed
- Conduct case management and navigation to address social services and the general health needs of the Latino community.

The Recovery Plan funds will support the following PNSB program areas: Community Outreach and Engagement; Case Management; Data Management, Analysis, and Reporting; and Non-Clinical Community Mental Health.

Performance
The following key performance indicators cover the period of September 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021:

Case Management
- Number of Case Management Services (Clients): 4,711
- Number of Referrals Provided: 8,927

Mental Health Trainings
- Number of Trainings: 9
- Number of Participants: 84

Emotional Support Groups
- Number of Groups Conducted: 20
- Number of Participants: 194

Health Promoters
- Number of Residents Reached: 112,743
- Number of Residents Educated: 70,425
- Number of Referrals Provided: 64,361

Promoting Equitable Outcomes
By definition, the PNSB initiative exists to eliminate COVID-19 related disparities and inequities among Latinos in Montgomery County. PNSB's has been designed and is being implemented with this focus and aim throughout all its components.

Latinos – a historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected group.

Latinos have historically been a vulnerable community that experiences many health and social inequities. Data from May 2020 showed that in the ten County Zip Codes with the highest number of COVID-19 cases, the percent of positive tests for non-Latino Whites was 16.1% compared to 67.6% for Latinos. In June 2020, 73% of the new cases were among Latinos. Over the last year, significant reductions in the percentage of residents testing positive for COVID-19 have been achieved. Despite this improvement, as of

August 2021, one out of five (20.1%) residents in Montgomery County were Latino but disproportionately represented 30% of all COVID-19 cases and 20.8% of all COVID-19 deaths in the county.

Awareness: How equal and practical is the ability for Latino residents to become aware of PNSB services

Awareness of PNSB program and services is high among the Latino community in Montgomery County. The several components of the PNSB program worked to provide a one-stop wrap around delivery service model that focuses on promoting access and engagement for the Latino community to PNSB services.

Community Health Workers (CHW) conducted outreach and education throughout the County seven7 days a week. As part of providing information on PNSB services, CHW directed residents to testing and vaccination events, referred them to case management services, and provided information to enroll in community mental health groups. In addition to providing information to residents, CHW submitted a referral spreadsheet to the case management services component for follow-up as needed.

In the case of community mental health groups, what started as a pilot in May of 2021, has grown to more than doubled in the number of groups hosted, highlighting the need of for bilingual and culturally proficient community mental health services. This exponential growth in just six6 months supported the claim of how aware residents are of PNSB services.

In addition, even though not part of this grant, PNSB has a robust communication campaign in which Spanish public service announcements are broadcast on radio and television and there is a very active social and digital media presence in several different platforms that promote PNSB services

Access and Distribution: Are there differences in levels of access to benefits and services across groups? Are there administrative requirements that result in disparities in ability to complete applications or meet eligibility criteria?

The Latino community experience several socially determinant factors that contribute to the ongoing inequities in accessing services. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the most challenging obstacles were related to the use of technology and language barriers. Applications were online, meetings virtual, and most of the time were not hosted in Spanish. Our case management service and community health workers played a pivotal role in navigating and supporting Latino residents in applying for services such as food distribution, housing, rental assistance, and COVID-19 services. Case managers provided attention to clients via phone, virtually, and in some instances in-person. To mitigate the delay that some Latino residents experienced in receiving services due to the high demand, under emergency situations, case managers offered emergency transition funds and food and supplies to families. Community Health Workers supported and navigated residents to services and referrals from their smart phones and assisted residents in making phone calls during their encounters in community activities.

The Latino community in Montgomery County was deeply affected by COVID-19, in May of 2020, they accounted for 73% of all positive cases. Such devastating circumstances foster stress, grief, and depression along with the bleak economic situation. Our

Community Mental Health Workers (CMHWs) provided non-clinical trauma-informed emotional support virtually to Latino and underserved residents. This support helped the participants manage the tremendous mental health impacts of trauma (including COVID-19 traumas and those specific to immigration and separation/reunification) with culturally informed strategies. These emotional support groups are called "Encuentros" (Encounters) and are offered in nine sessions. At the end of these sessions, participants have shared about having more tools to cope with difficult situations, such as grieving, managing anxiety, improving their self-care, and learning to manage their emotions.

Outcomes: Are intended outcomes focused on closing gaps, reaching universal levels of service, or disaggregating progress by race, ethnicity, and other equity dimensions where relevant for the policy objective?

In April of 2021, after the COVID-19 vaccine was launched, Latinos lagged 18 points behind White non-Latinos in the County receiving the vaccine against COVID-19. Our outreach efforts along with our communication campaigns closed the gap in July of 2021. Since then, Latinos in Montgomery County have remained the group with the highest number of first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine in all age groups.

Describe how your jurisdiction's planned or current use of funds incorporates written, oral, and other forms of input that capture diverse feedback from constituents, community-based organizations, and the communities themselves.

PNSB uses a variety of methods and tools to gather insight and feedback from the Latino community, CBOs, and other entities that assist in planning and refining strategies and approaches, and gauging the effectiveness and acceptance of its interventions:

1. Periodic surveys and focus group discussions with different priority groups.
2. Informal meetings with community members at large, partner and collaborating public and private sector organizations, and patients and clients that have received PNSB services.
3. Gathering "street intelligence" and insight from Community Health Workers who are "on the ground" day in and day out interacting with community members.
4. Feedback and requests from representatives from media outlets.
5. Discussions and strategy sessions with decision makers and political leaders.

Project 2004836: Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar (PNSB)

Funding amount: $ 4,437,390

Project Expenditure Category: 1.14

See description under Project 2004490: Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar

Project 2004491: African American Health Program – COVID Response (Implemented by the Black Physicians and Healthcare Network)

Funding amount: $1,701,809

Project Expenditure Category: 1.14

Project Overview
We continue to contract with a local non-profit to support targeted COVID-19 pandemic efforts. The pandemic reinforced healthcare challenges and structural barriers that were previously identified within Montgomery County. Eligibility requirements have historically been an obstacle for the black community. Via the Black Physicians and Healthcare Network (BPHN), we are expanding the County's public health infrastructure. The BPHN increases access within a segment of the community that requires culturally appropriate support from healthcare professionals. Success of this initiative will result in collective population health improvements. Nonetheless, gaining the trust and patronage of the Black diaspora required the acknowledgement of multiple challenges at the onset of the program:

- Significant time and effort required during the start-up phase since a diaspora-targeted program did not previously exist.
- Serving the spectrum of distinct black communities within Montgomery County.
- Development of COVID-19 related messaging that acknowledged the diaspora's vaccination history and ongoing vaccine hesitancy.
- Development of culturally appropriate messaging and outreach practices to educate the diaspora on protective health practices, COVID-19 testing resources, and vaccination options.
- Identification and recruitment of culturally competent or black healthcare providers within Montgomery County.

More information regarding the BPHN can be found on the program's website: Bphnetwork.org

Use of Evidence
Use of Evidence for this project will be evaluated and presented as appropriate in future reports.

Performance
KPIs for this project have evolved since its initiation. The following KPIs cover the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022:

	July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022
Total Number Persons Tested	14,653
Total # Test Events	321
# COVID Kits Distributed on Site	11,313
# Backpacks Distributed on Site	9,895
# Food Bags Distributed on Testing Site	13,471
# Households Received 2-week Food Supply for positive test	298 families/1,159 people
Total Pounds Food Distributed	360,228.10 pounds
Total Persons Vaccinated	1,330
Referrals	
Community Resources Referrals	7,495
Black Physicians and Healthcare Network (BPHN) Provider Referrals	862
Mental Health Referrals – Hearts In Mind	716

Promoting Equitable Outcomes
The BPHN exists to increase access to COVID-19 resources as well as address pre-existing healthcare disparities and inequities impacting Montgomery County's Black diaspora.

Project 2004837: African American Health Program – COVID Response (Implemented by the Black Physicians and Healthcare Network)

Funding amount: $ 3,163,910

Project Expenditure Category: 1.14

> *See description under Project 2004491: African American Health Program – COVID Response*

Project 2004576: Asian American Health Initiative

Funding amount: $1,150,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.14

Project overview
The funding supported a partnership with the Asian American Health Initiative to develop, administer, and monitor a Request for Proposal (RFP) process. Eleven community-based organizations that serve Asian American Pacific Islander (AAHPs) communities in Montgomery County were awarded grants to provide education, outreach, mental health/social service support, and access to COVID-19 testing and vaccination. The RFP amount was $1 million with the extra cost going toward administrative, planning and reporting responsibilities. The RFP was released in October 2021 and awards were given to CBOs by November 2021. Importantly, the grants allowed capacity building within the AAPI community. Through this process, community-based organizations were strengthened, improving their ability to become strong partners to the County and their communities.

Use of Evidence
Use of Evidence for this project will be evaluated and presented as appropriate in future reports.

Performance
The following KPIs cover the period November 2021 through May 2022:
- 77,741 Asian American clients served
- 32,850 individuals were educated about COVID-19 and encouraged to socially distance and vaccinate
- 21,574 clients received COVID-19 vaccination and testing services as well as providing
- 17,661 clients received social services including help applying for rental relief, healthcare services and more
- COVID-19 also negatively impacted the mental health of the community and increased the incidence of anti-Asian hate crimes and bias incidents. The COVID-19 relief grantees:
    - Provided 568 individuals with mental health counseling
    - Educated 5,088 individuals on Anti-Asian hate and bias and how to cope with such scenarios
- 57 educational workshops held which were attended by 2,514 individuals total
- 12,255 individuals returned satisfaction surveys; 96% of participants reported that they were satisfied with services provided by the grantees
- The following demographic characteristics were collected from the participants who were surveyed:
    - 47% were male, and 53% were female
    - 34% were individuals over 65 years old; 23% were 55-65 years old; and 27% were 35-54 years old age
    - 50% were Vietnamese; 18% were Chinese; 11% were Korean, 8% were Asian Indian, 5% were Indonesian; and 2% were Filipino

Geographically, the surveyed individuals were concentrated in 4 Zip Codes: 13% were in 20847 Rockville; 12% were in 20833 Brookeville; 12% were in 20853 Rockville; and 11% were in 20818 Cabin John

Promoting Equitable Outcomes
By definition, the Asian-American Health Initiative COVID Response Program exists to eliminate COVID-19 related disparities and inequities among the AAPI communities in Montgomery County.

Project 2004395: Therapeutic Recreation Services

Funding amount: $750,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.14

Project overview

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services offers a wide array of services through school-based programming. This connection to children and their families has highlighted significant concerns around the negative psychological impact of COVID-19 and the need to help students re-acclimate to interacting normally with peers and general society as stay-at-home orders lift and they return to learning in schools as ooposed to virtually from home. In response, the department will leverage its work in therapeutic recreation, which is designed to enhance healthy cognitions and increase the participant's ability to constructively view the events that take place in one's life—and, ultimately, to create a mindset that leads to healthy lifestyle via diet, sleep, and exercise.

Therapeutic recreation is about using physical movement and activity to holistically enhance a youth's ability to confront and regulate mental and behavioral challenges and find productive coping mechanisms. The sessions, which typically last between one and two hours, are intended to occur weekly throughout the calendar year. Relevant program activities include:

- Nature walks and hikes
- Arts and crafts projects
- Discussion groups
- Sport activities
- Community outings for our students who are isolated from community events and activities (pool days, County parks, etc.)

This program commenced in the Spring of 2021. Given the in-person nature of the activities, it was deferred until the pandemic had sufficiently abated. The intention is to continue this program beyond FY22. This program is delivered primarily by contracted partners, including the City of Rockville, EveryMind, and Sheppard Pratt. Through the program, youth will: identify and manage complex emotions via disclosure personal anxieties, goals, hopes, and fears both with peers and with facilitators; manage negative emotions towards COVID-19 and in-person learning, and learn how to re-engage with the community; build and practice skills that foster peer-to-peer and adult-to-student relationships; actively participate in therapeutic recreation activities on a consistent basis; and be empowered to engage with and participate in community-based activities

Performance

Between July 1, 2021 and May 31, 2022, 210 youth participated in the program. However, due to the adoption of a clinical outcome measurement tool for the mental health services of the program, the previous outcome measurement collection was discontinued. The new method did not specifically adopt a measure for therapeutic services. A combined outcome measurement is reported under the Mental Health Services for Public School Students and Families.

To promote equity, the eligibility requirements for the program were kept flexible for youth in the catchment area to allow access to any youth who would benefit from face-to-face therapeutic recreation services and who would otherwise have difficulty accessing these types of services

(due to financial or other barriers). In addition, to ease access and participation, transportation and, if needed, meals are provided.

Use of Evidence
Current interventions draw from an array of practices. Peer-to-peer engagement and support strategies are based upon the [evidence-based practice of **peer support**; literature and resources](#).

Promoting Equitable Outcomes
In collaboration with the County's Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice, disaggregated demographic data related to outcomes will be reported.

Project 2004406: Mobile Health Clinic
Funding amount: $1,379,218 (FY22: $879,218; FY23: $500,000)

Project Expenditure Category: 1.14

Project overview
COVID-19 has highlighted the need for greater capacity to provide health and human services directly in hard-to-reach and vulnerable communities throughout the County. In response, the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services is establishing a Mobile Services Unit that will travel throughout the County to provide health and social care services, with the explicit mission of bridging health and social disparities. The unit will connect residents to integrated services that will span: Immunizations (COVID-19, flu, TB, School Health) and Testing (COVID-19, TB, HIV/STD); Preventive Screening and Referrals (oral health, physical health, mental health); Exams and Treatment (maternal health, crisis, HIV/STD); Health Education and Health Fairs (range of topics); and Enrollment and Eligibility for State and County Benefits (food stamps, child care subsidies, etc.).

This project seeks to advance the County's goal of Thriving Youth and Families by alleviating health disparities and improving health outcomes, including by increasing access to somatic mental health care and decreasing the spread of disease in the community. The project also seeks to address the upstream factors that impact health beyond healthcare delivery by additionally providing access to socioeconomic resources. In addition, the project seeks to foster strategic and trusted relationships with community partners (e.g., Service Hubs) to collectively address health disparities across Montgomery County.

This project is currently completing the planning phase, having (1) determined the steps for the procurement process in collaboration with Fleet Management; (2) determined the services to be provided to define the preliminary vehicle specifications; (3) and discussed and toured mobile service unit vehicle experiences with other Maryland jurisdictions. In August, the proposed program design was presented to and validated by the Department of Health and Human Services' Senior Leadership Team, which also led to the formation of a cross-department workgroup to coordinate access to a wide spectrum of DHHS services beyond public health, across children and family services; homeless services; aging and disabilities services; and behavioral health services. This planning is currently being translated into specifications for procurement.
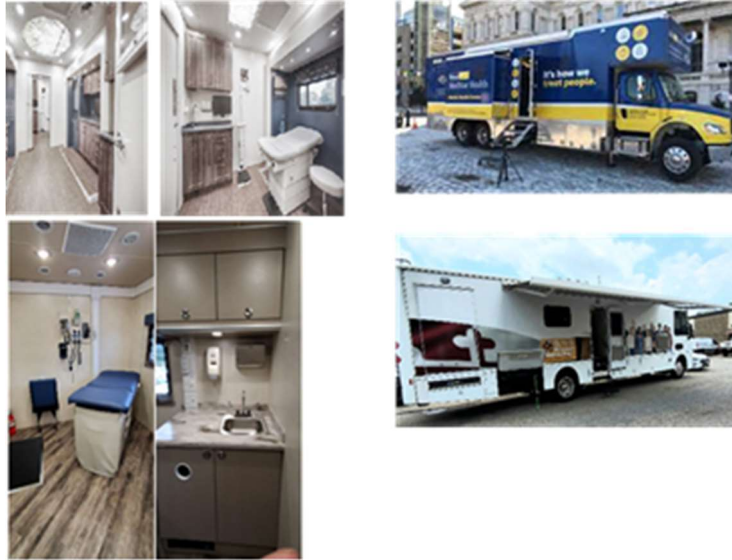
Figure 2. Pictures of mobile service unit vehicles operated by peer jurisdictions

The contracting for a vehicle is expected to take one year. Once a contractor has been selected, the team will initiate the hiring of staff. The unit is expected to be staffed by up to five full-time equivalents, including the roles of nurse practitioner, clinical social worker, community health workers, and a driver also serving as an administrative aide. Subsequently, the full implementation of the mobile services unit and staff are expected in late FY22 / early FY23.

Equity considerations sit at the core of this project, which seeks to expand the County Government's capacity to proactively address disparities in health care and health care access. To do so successfully, the Mobile Health Unit will make extensive use of data to target underserved and hard-to-reach communities as well as communities experiencing poor health outcomes. This targeting will be informed by an extensive evidence base developed by the department's epidemiology team, which includes the upcoming Health Equity report and the Zip Code Health Ranking Project.
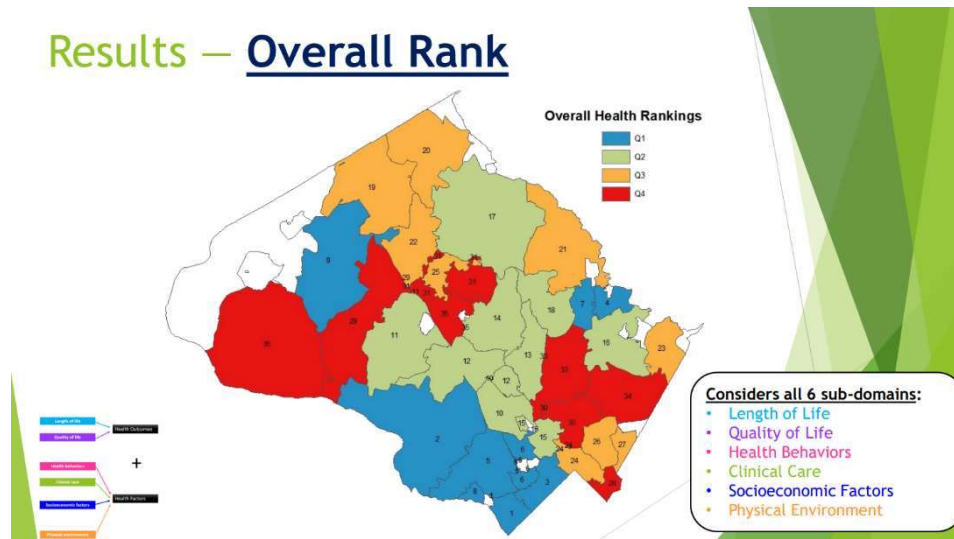

Figure 3. County Zip Codes and their Health Ranking

Performance

As part of the design phase, the project has proposed the following Key Performance Indicators, which will be refined as the project moves into the implementation phase:

- Number of residents served by the Mobile Health Unit
- Number of events organized/attended
- Percent of residents served who connected to additional health and human services in the six months following initial engagement (ex: dental services, food stamps, behavioral health support, childcare subsidies, rental assistance, etc.)
- Percent of residents served in (or from) high-need and vulnerable communities as defined by community indicators of social vulnerability (CDC) and healthcare access

The department will leverage its integrated case management system (eICM) and electronic health records (EHR) system to track client engagements and support the reporting required for the measures listed above.
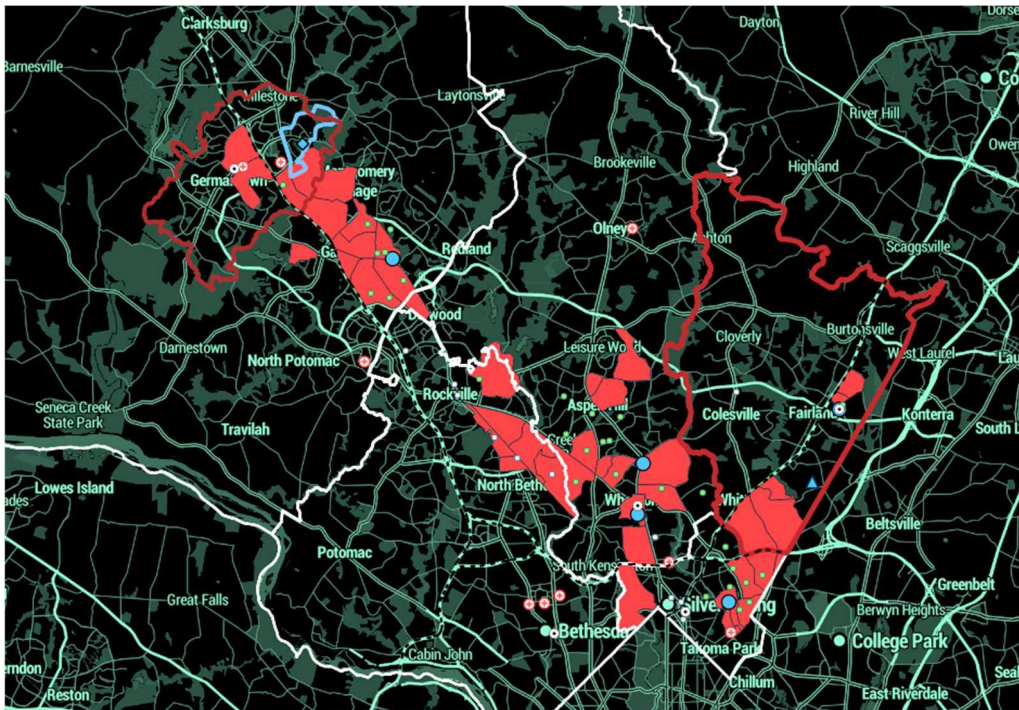

Figure 4. Map of County Census Tracts that Score in the Top 20% on the CDC Social Vulnerability Index

Use of Evidence

The project design was preceded and informed by extensive research on industry best practices, including reviewing and touring mobile service unit vehicles operated by peer jurisdictions and an extensive review of the available literature. The unit will use in-depth data and analytics to target the most vulnerable neighborhoods, including by drawing from the County's Zip Code Health Ranking Project.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

In collaboration with the County's Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice, disaggregated demographic data related to outcomes will be reported.

Project 2004407: Provide for Health and Human Service Hubs to Promote Equity

<u>Funding amount</u>: $6,900,000 (FY22: $3.6 million; FY23: $3.3 million)

<u>Project Expenditure Category</u>: 1.14

Project overview

With the closing of most traditional service delivery locations during the pandemic, as well as large increases in the number of people needing access to food, the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services recognized the need to establish a network of alternative service access points, with a particular focus on addressing the considerable needs in the County's hardest hit and most impoverished communities. In response, the department partnered with eight community-based organizations to launch Service Consolidation Hubs in mid-2020 that bring together County Government and a range of nonprofit partners to serve Montgomery County residents in need with food and other basic necessities. Pre-COVID-19, the County was home to over 60,000 residents experiencing food insecurity. The stresses of COVID-19 dramatically escalated that number as the pandemic brought unprecedented levels of unemployment.

The Hubs quickly formed a critical backbone for the County's response to COVID-19 and served as the primary access point for serving the County's most vulnerable residents. Specifically, the Hubs work with community providers and faith-based groups within the neighborhoods they serve to provide free food at weekly drive-through and walk-in distribution sites (serving upwards of 5,000-6,000 families per week); diapers and baby needs; home delivery of food, prepared meals, and other necessities for COVID-19-affected households or households experiencing emergencies or transportation barriers; and, more recently, case management to connect families to broader resources and County services (with almost 1,900 case management encounters by the end of July 2021). In so doing, the Hubs enabled the Department and its partners to continue to serve at-risk populations during the pandemic, while improving care coordination across a wide range of providers.
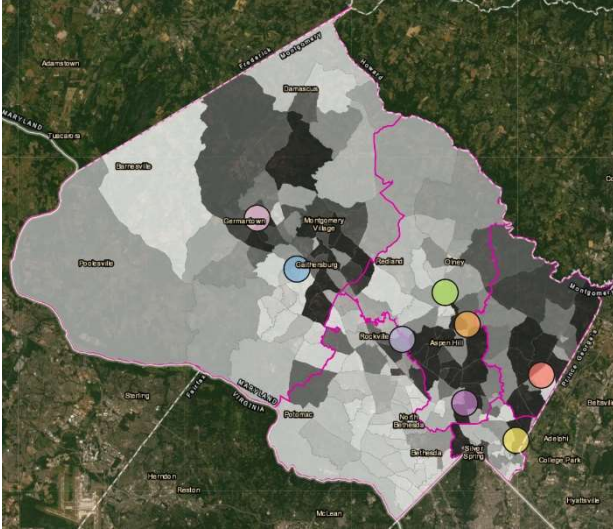
Figure 5. Map: Hub Locations and COVID Case Rate by Census Tract (darker = higher)
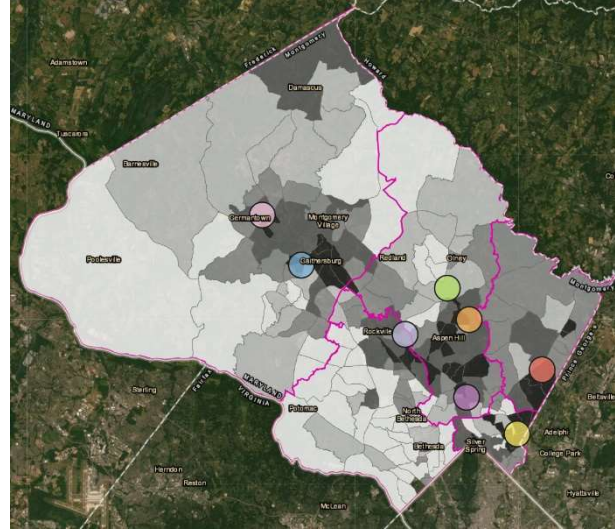
Figure 6. Map: Hub Locations and 200% Poverty Rates by Census Tract (darker = higher)

The Service Consolidation Hubs continue their mission of bridging the gap between social service providers and the clients they serve by co-locating services from government and community partners directly in the most vulnerable neighborhoods. The improved access and collaboration facilitated by the Hubs have proven to be an important asset in advancing the Department's strategic priorities of "ready access", "painless navigation", and "equity." Accordingly, the County Government intends to extend the work of the Hubs to support the COVID-19 recovery effort and form the foundation for a new place-based approach to delivering health and human services in the County. The funds will be used to support this transition and sustained activity.

The primary intention of this work is to ease access for clients to food distribution and care coordination services. Ultimately, it is the intended outcome of this work to stabilize supported families by giving them vital nutritional support and connecting them to other community-based and HHS-provided services. The County maintains an online directory of the Hubs and their services.

The department and its partners apply an equity lens to both the design and operations of the program. First, the team leveraged data to target the communities most in need by selecting sites in neighborhoods with high COVID-19 case rates, high levels of poverty, and high socio-economic racial disparities (see maps above). This place-based nature of the work of the Hubs ensures a focus on promoting equity in service provision, as reaching clients where they are reduces barriers to service access for all individuals within a given community. Moreover, this approach enables the partners to reach segments of the population that may typically be harder to connect with, including by utilizing trusted community organizations and houses of worship to be the true arms and legs of the effort.

Performance
Each Hub tracks the number of households, individuals, youth, and seniors served, number of diapers distributed, number of prepared meals distributed, and pounds of non-prepared food

distributed. The data is captured in individual spreadsheet and compiled/aggregated for all the sites using a central online reporting tool.

The following key performance indicators cover the period from July 2021 through May 2022.

Indicator	FY22	FY23**
Households served*	310,909	TBD
Individuals served*	1,272,579	
Pounds of food distributed	8,286,083	

*Households and individuals served through food and diaper distributions, as well as care coordination
**The program is ongoing and FY23 data will be reported next year

In addition, the department and its partners seek to implement improved data collection to help track the impact of the care coordination work to include measures of outcome. The department is also examining opportunities for conducting an in-depth evaluation of the program to help inform its long-term design and operations beyond the pandemic.

Use of Evidence
The goal of the project, fundamentally, is to create opportunities for service access within the communities we serve. Place-based service has become an operational norm in human and social service systems across the nation. Embedding the services within the neighborhoods facing the greatest need reduces barriers and increases the likelihood of connecting potential recipients to programs and benefits they might not otherwise have access to for a variety of reasons (including transportation, language or cultural barriers, issues pertaining to trust of government, etc.). A barriers study has been commissioned within funding from the Kresge Foundation to evaluate one of our place-based initiatives. The learning that this study will be leveraged to evaluate the other initiatives over time.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes
In collaboration with the County's Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice, disaggregated demographic data related to outcomes will be reported.

Project 2004408: Mental Health Services for Public School Students and Families
Funding amount: $250,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.26

Project overview
The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services offers a wide array of services through school-based programming. This connection to children and their families has highlighted significant concerns around the negative psychological impact of COVID-19. As a part of the response to this concern, the department is placing a renewed emphasis on mental health services for public school students and families. These services are targeted to un- and under-insured school-aged youth who present with, or are at risk for developing, mental, emotional, or behavioral health problems that are mild to moderate in intensity, duration, and scope.

The scope of the services provided includes individual youth, family, and/or group counseling services aimed at early identification and treatment of social/emotional/behavioral health risks or problems. The goal of these engagements is to address problems before they become more significant (improving functioning and decreasing the intensity of problems/symptoms). Under this general umbrella of services, contracted mental and behavioral health service providers conduct the following activities:

- Provide screening, assessment, intake, and referral services for school-aged youth and their families.
- Offer individual, family, group and/or multi-family group counseling to youth and family members who are experiencing mild to moderate mental health problems related to their personal, social, or family well-being, using problem-solving, asset based, family-focused, evidence based and goal-oriented approaches.
- Provide programs/services that target early symptoms of mental health problems.
- Provide crisis intervention services to youth on an as-needed basis if suicidal ideation and/or other safety issues are presented in the course of the delivery the program services.

By increasing access to viable behavioral and mental health services for populations with limited access due to financial and/or insurance constraints, the program aims to improve equitable access and outcomes for public school children during this challenging time.

Performance
The intended outcome of this program is to decrease youth emotional and behavioral issues and improve psychosocial functioning as measured by an evidence-based and County-approved measure of severity, using the Pediatric Symptom Checklist Pediatric Symptom Checklist (massgeneral.org) completed by either the youth or the parent/caregiver (based on age of the child).

- The following key performance indicators cover the period from July 2021 through May 2022: 574 youth and 170 adults participated in services
- Youth participating in services experienced a 17% improvement in clinical symptoms after six months
- Youth participating in services experienced a 13% increase in psychological functioning after six months of services as measured on the Pediatric Symptom Checklist-17

A new measurement tool was adopted midway through the fiscal year which is why outcomes are reported after six months rather than one year.

Use of Evidence
The goals of the project are to enhance psychosocial functioning and decrease emotional and/or behavioral health problems for school-aged youth. In evaluating the success of the program AND individual client outcomes, contractors are using validated instruments, such as the Pediatric Symptom Checklist (massgeneral.org).

Promoting Equitable Outcomes
In collaboration with the County's Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice, disaggregated demographic data related to outcomes will be reported.

Project 2004405: Rapid Rehousing Expansion

Funding amount: $490,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.2

Project overview

The economic consequences of COVID-19, including an unprecedented rate of unemployment, has put intense pressure on the County's effort to end and prevent homelessness. To expand resources for proven strategies, the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services is allocating additional funds for its Rapid Rehousing program to best serve our most vulnerable families who face housing instability as a result of the pandemic.

Rapid Rehousing is an intervention designed to help individuals and families to quickly exit homelessness, return to housing in the community, and not become homeless again in the near term. The core components of a rapid rehousing program are housing identification, move-in and rent assistance, and rapid rehousing case management and services. The goal of the program is to help people quickly obtain housing, increase income, and support self-sufficiency to stay housed. Rapid re-housing is offered without any preconditions, such as employment, income, absence of criminal record, or sobriety. Rapid rehousing is complemented with extensive case management and cross-agency coordination to help ensure that households do not return to homelessness.

Rapid rehousing has proven to be an effective way to reduce the length of time a household experiences homelessness and increase the number of families exiting to permanent housing. In FY20, the Rapid Rehousing program served 690 households (up from 274 in FY17), with 67% exiting to permanent housing and with participants experiencing a 22% increase in income.

The funding allocated to this program is intended to be used to provide rapid rehousing to 31 additional households, including five households escaping domestic violence, to help meet the additional demand and pressure created by COVID-19 hardships.

Performance

The following key performance indicators cover the period July 2021 through May 2022:

- 30 households served
- 10% of households have exited to permanent housing. Households can be part of this program for 24 months before exiting.
- Of the 30 households served, 11 are families with minor children with an average length of homelessness from initial entry to the system until housed of 110.56 days

Use of Evidence

The department develops strategies to solve the seemingly intractable problem of homelessness by building on previous successes, employing best and promising practices, engaging multiple stakeholders, using data to make tough decisions about resource allocation, and creating long-term systemic change. Rapid Rehousing is a proven strategy and established best practice backed by extensive research and real-world experience.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

In collaboration with the County's Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice, disaggregated demographic data related to outcomes will be reported.

Project 2004398: Rental Assistance

Funding amount: $4,438,875 (FY22: $1 million; FY23: $3.44 million)

Project Expenditure Category: 2.2

Project overview

The devastating economic consequences of the pandemic and the associated unprecedented rates of unemployment have led to thousands of County residents facing deep rental debt and fearing evictions and the loss of basic housing security—while exacerbating an affordable housing crisis that predated the pandemic. To address these concerns and assist residents in need, the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services has established a COVID-19 Rent Relief Program that provides short-term rental assistance to eligible households who have experienced lost income due to the COVID-19 pandemic that has caused them to fall behind on their rent. This program draws from and braids together multiple funding streams, including ARPA funding, to raise the resources needed to serve as many impacted residents as possible.

While funds are available, the program will provide up to $12,000 to eligible households to pay for back rent owed and/or pay for up to three months of future rent. For households below 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI), additional financial help may be available. Funds awarded will take into account any other local, state, or federal assistance received to pay rent.

To prioritize the residents with the highest need and to ensure an equitable distribution of funds, the department is committed to adopting an approach that avoids a blunt first-come, first-served prioritization. Instead, applications will be processed based on a number of criteria, including location, employment status, and eviction status. First, the department developed a Homeless Prevention Index to evaluate all neighborhoods in relation to COVID-19 impact, housing stress, and social determinants. This index will be used to prioritize assignment of applications for processing. Additionally, households who have a member that has been unemployed for the previous 90 days or households with current eviction notices or judgements from the District Court will be prioritized. This needs-based prioritization will enable to the program to ensure that an equity lens is utilized, recognizing that communities of color have been significantly impacted by COVID-19, disproportionately experience homelessness, and are more likely to get evicted.
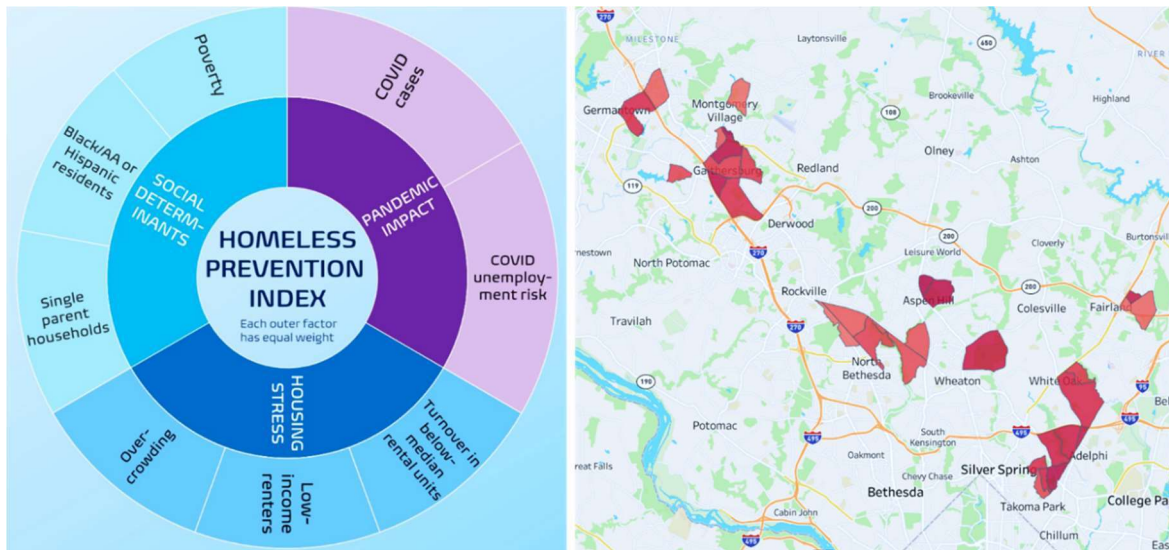
Figure 7. Montgomery County Homeless Prevention Index and Priority Neighborhoods

In addition, the department has established a partnership with the County's Department of Housing and Community Affairs and the Montgomery County Sherriff's Office to conduct rapid outreach to families issued a writ for eviction. This ensures that families at risk of losing their housing are made aware of the supports provided by the County to avoid eviction and homelessness.
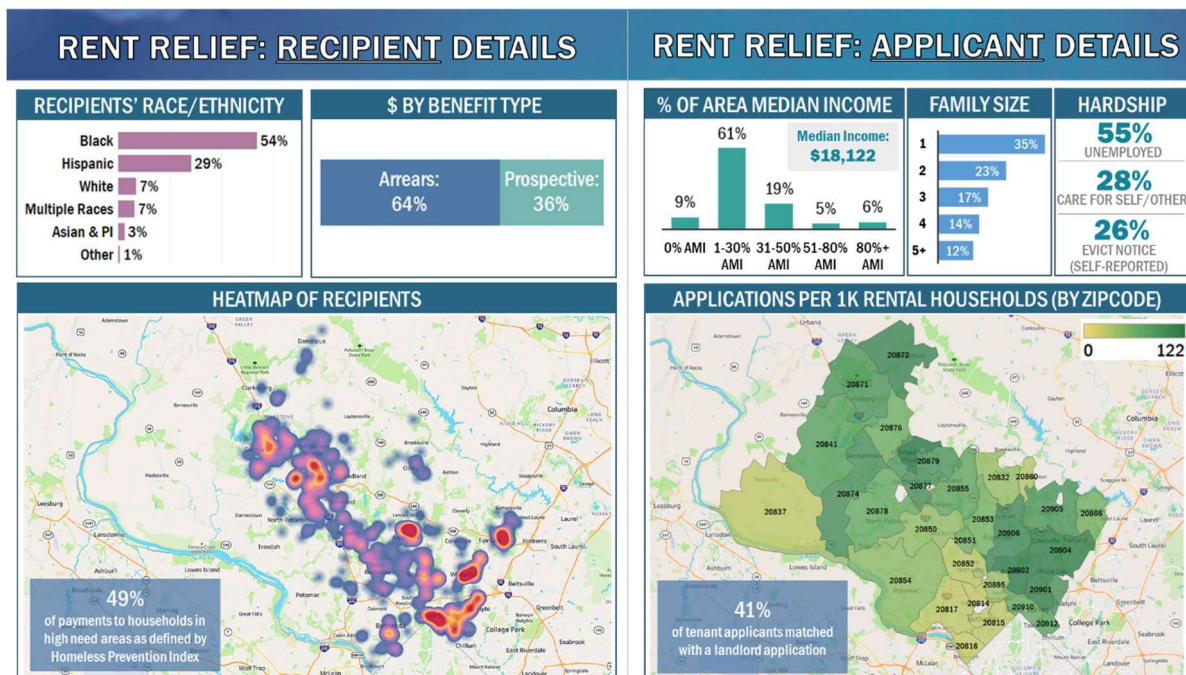

Figure 8. Profile of 2021 Emergency Rental Assistance Applicants and Beneficiaries

Performance
The following key performance indicators cover the period July 2021 through May 2022:

- 787 households approved for rental assistance
- $1,370,813 approved rental assistance dollars
- 50.85% of rental assistance dollars issued to priority neighborhoods with a high homeless prevention index
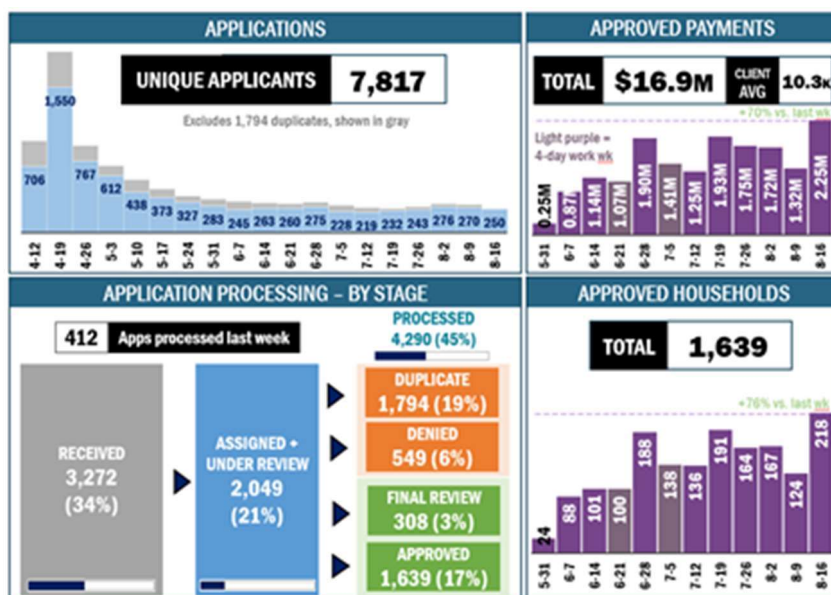

Figure 9. August 23, 2021 Snapshot of the Combined Emergency Rental Assistance Issued to County Residents for the 2021 Phase of COVID-19 Rental Assistance

Use of Evidence
The program uses national best practices and extensive data and analytics to prioritize application from residents most at risk at homelessness. This work included the development of a Homeless Prevention Index based on the current literature on risk factors for homelessness.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes
In collaboration with the County's Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice, disaggregated demographic data related to outcomes will be reported.

Project 2004397: Operational Aid to Conference Visitors Bureau

Funding amount: $804,200

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34

Project Overview
The mission of Visit Montgomery is to market and develop the County and its communities as a preferred destination for group and individual travel thereby fostering economic growth and

quality of place through tourism. The organization began receiving ARPA funding July 1, 2021 to assist with the tourism and hospitality industry recovery.

The CVB of Montgomery County, MD is funded by a 7% allocation of actualized hotel tax collections in Montgomery County. Revenues from the hotel tax from Fiscal Year 2019 to Fiscal Year 2020 decreased by 70% due to the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on the tourism and hospitality industry. The CVB will continue to market the County as a destination for weekend leisure travel and youth and amateur sports events implementing print and digital advertising and sales support services to group business. These marketing efforts will assist with hotel revenues generated by booked hotel room nights. In addition, these hotel room revenues generate a multiplier effect into the local economy through visitor spending. In addition, continued sustained funding of the CVB marketing the County as a location for recreational, leisure and entertainment opportunities will help to generate consumer spending in local shops, restaurants, hotels, and more leading to increased economic activity for businesses in the County.

These Federal funds will be used to offset the negative impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic reduction in hotel tax collections.

The funds will be used for operating costs including rent and personnel costs and print and digital advertising fees.

Use of Evidence
Use of Evidence for this project will be evaluated and presented as appropriate in future reports.

Performance
KPIs for this project are in development and future reports will be updated to include them.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes
Visit Montgomery's marketing and messaging focuses on representing the diversity of Montgomery County residents through its photography, editorial, social media posts, email newsletters and video content. The marketing team manages an editorial calendar that includes landing page and blog topics that promote Montgomery County's diverse attractions and experiences. The Visit Montgomery events calendar welcomes community events from all backgrounds. VisitMontgomery.com is created on a mobile-responsive platform and the design includes larger images and type fonts to accommodate populations with visual impairments. A language translator will be added to the website as part of the FY22 upgrade.

Project 2004401: FiberNet2 Equipment Maintenance
Funding amount: $500,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.21

> *See description under Montgomery Connects Digital Equity Program.*

Project 2004402: FiberNet3 Equipment Expansion and Support

Funding amount: $700,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.21

See description under Montgomery Connects Digital Equity Program.

Project 2004403: Montgomery Connects Digital Equity Program

Funding amount: $100,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.21

Project overview
The FiberNet2 funding provides for annual technical support contracts for Passive Optical Networking (PON) and Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) optical networking equipment powering the County's communications network (FiberNet).

FiberNet3 funding supports the annual technical support contract for remote monitoring of dense wave division multiplexing (DWDM) optical networking, including Internet Network Operations Center (INOC) and equipment support; and leasing of Equinix Ashburn VA data center space to enable wholesale purchase of internet access and cloud services.

FiberNet supports communications services (internet, data, video, and Teams voice services) for the County, and is a critical component of the County's cybersecurity and business continuity strategic planning and operations.

Montgomery Connects Digital Equity funding provided digital equity technology training for adults aged 50 and older using nationally recognized contractor, Older Adults Technology Services (OATS powered by AARP).

Use of Evidence
Implementation of network equipment will use technical Key Performance Indicators to measure and report successful installation of equipment.

Performance
The following KPIs cover the period July 2021 through May 2022:

- 211 workshops and lectures, and 5 five-week (13 session) courses taught
  - 4,613 participants
  - 58 course graduates
  - 306 total sessions (workshops, lectures, course sessions)
  - 454.4 hours of training provided.
- Participant survey responses:
  - 80% feel more connected to friends, family and community
  - 87% feel more confident in their ability to live independently
  - 89% have more access to health information

- 74% feel more prepared for work
- 87% feel more optimistic about their future
- 89% report quality of life has improved

Promoting Equitable Outcomes
Implementation of network equipment will use technical Key Performance Indicators to measure and report successful installation of equipment.

FiberNet supports communications services (internet, data, video, and Teams voice services) at 630 sites including 231 Montgomery County Public School locations. 38.7 percent of MCPS students are enrolled in the free and reduced meal program (FARMs). 56.5% of FARMs participants are Hispanic/Latino and 30.7% are Black or African American.

Project 2004396: Circuit Court Remote Proceeding Facilitators & Schedulers

Funding amount: $273,308

Project Expenditure Category: 1.4

Project overview
The Montgomery County Circuit Court's Family Division Services created the "Remote Proceedings Team" to support the scheduling and facilitation of remote hearings. Team members ensure that the hearings are scheduled in a timely manner and proceed efficiently through facilitating remote access and trouble-shooting technical issues (as they arise). Facilitation may also include collecting the necessary exhibits to support testimony for certain hearings. Prior to the hearings, team members collect and verify party contact information, provide parties and participants with a remote proceeding Zoom link and respond to calls from the court's Remote Proceedings Hotline.

Scheduling and facilitation support is largely offered for scheduling hearings, pendente lite hearings (when remote, although now they are mostly in person), uncontested divorce hearings, settlement conferences and pre-trial settlements conferences that are presided over by magistrates. Occasionally, the team members provide assistance for enforcement and contempt hearings and various family and civil proceedings heard by senior judges.

Use of Evidence
Use of Evidence for this project will be evaluated and presented as appropriate in future reports.

Performance
Chart 1 displays the number of hearings held/concluded in Fiscal Year 2022 (to date) between July 1, 2021 – May 31, 2022. Of the hearings supported by the Remote Proceedings Team, 543 (on average) were held/concluded over the reporting period.[1]

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[1] The number of hearings reflects the following concluded proceedings presided by magistrates or senior judges that are supported by the Remote Proceedings Team: Contempt Hearing, Enforcement Hearing, Pendente Lite Hearing, Scheduling Conference, Settlement Pretrial Hearing, Settlement Status Hearing and Uncontested Divorce Hearing. While the new case management system ('Odyssey') has a flag that

Chart 1. Remote Proceedings Team: Count of Concluded Hearings, FY2022 (July 2021-May 2022)
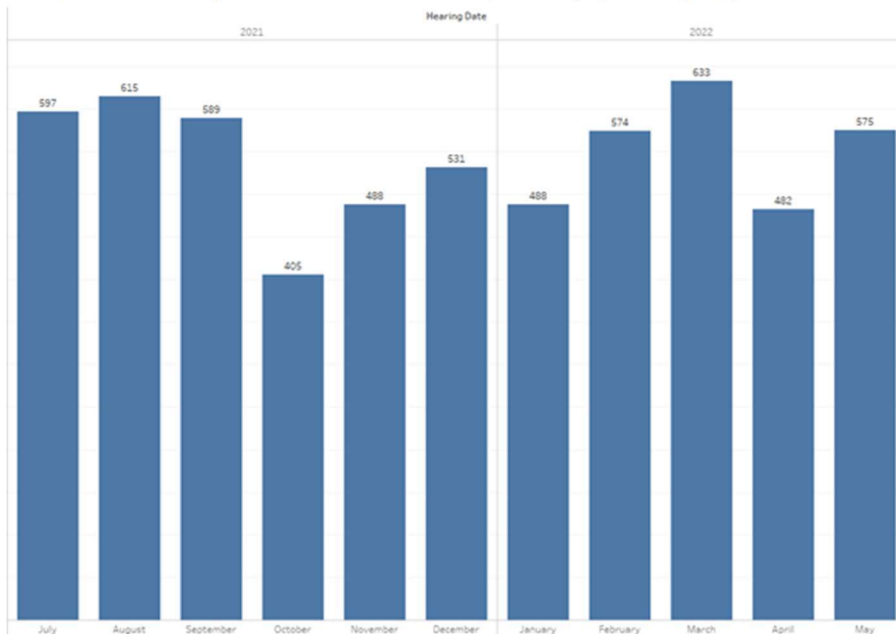
The lower number of held/concluded hearings in October 2021 aligns with the court's transition to the Maryland Judiciary's case management system (Odyssey) as the court reduced its workload, including the number of hearings. The time commitment to support remote proceedings varies. For instance, the hearings on contested matters such as enforcement and contempt hearings take much longer (up to a half- or full-day) than scheduling hearings and pre-trials conferences. In addition, for some hearings such as uncontested divorce hearings, parties file a request for remote spoken language interpretation, which requires active, extended assistance by Remote Proceeding Team members.

As noted in the original grant request, the COVID-19 pandemic created challenges for the judicial system. Virtual hearings, which were initially implemented to comply with social distancing requirements, have continued to operate to save counsel and litigants time and expense associated with traveling to the courthouse. The use of remote proceedings may also reduce the number of postponements as they provide greater access to court proceedings without requiring parties to appear in a courtroom.

The number of remote hearings largely depends on (original) caseload volume. Since certain hearings (such as family scheduling hearings and uncontested divorces) are initially scheduled to be held remotely (unless parties request otherwise, which is very rare), it is expected that the number of remote hearings will maintain within a particular range, as shown above. We would not expect an upward or downward trend over time unless, of course, the court changes its remote proceedings policies or dramatic shifts occur in caseload volume.

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indicates whether a given hearing is held remotely or not, the information has not been entered consistently since the court transitioned to the Odyssey at the end of October 2021. Accordingly, the current analysis used the type of proceeding and the judicial officer (i.e., magistrate and senior judge) to estimate the number of hearings supported by the Remote Proceedings Team. The court is working to improve the capturing of this information for future reporting.

As shown in Chart 2[2], in the first 11 months of Fiscal Year 2022, the number of Zoom meetings used for the court's hearing-related meeting types ranged from 893 (October 2021) to 1,298 (February 2022). A similar dip in Zoom meetings occurs in October 2021 as in Chart 1, aligning with the court's conversion to Odyssey[3]. During the reporting period, the average number of Zoom meetings is 1,114 with total participants equal to 9,167 on average.

Chart 2: Zoom Data - Meetings & Participants, Fiscal Year 2022 (to date)

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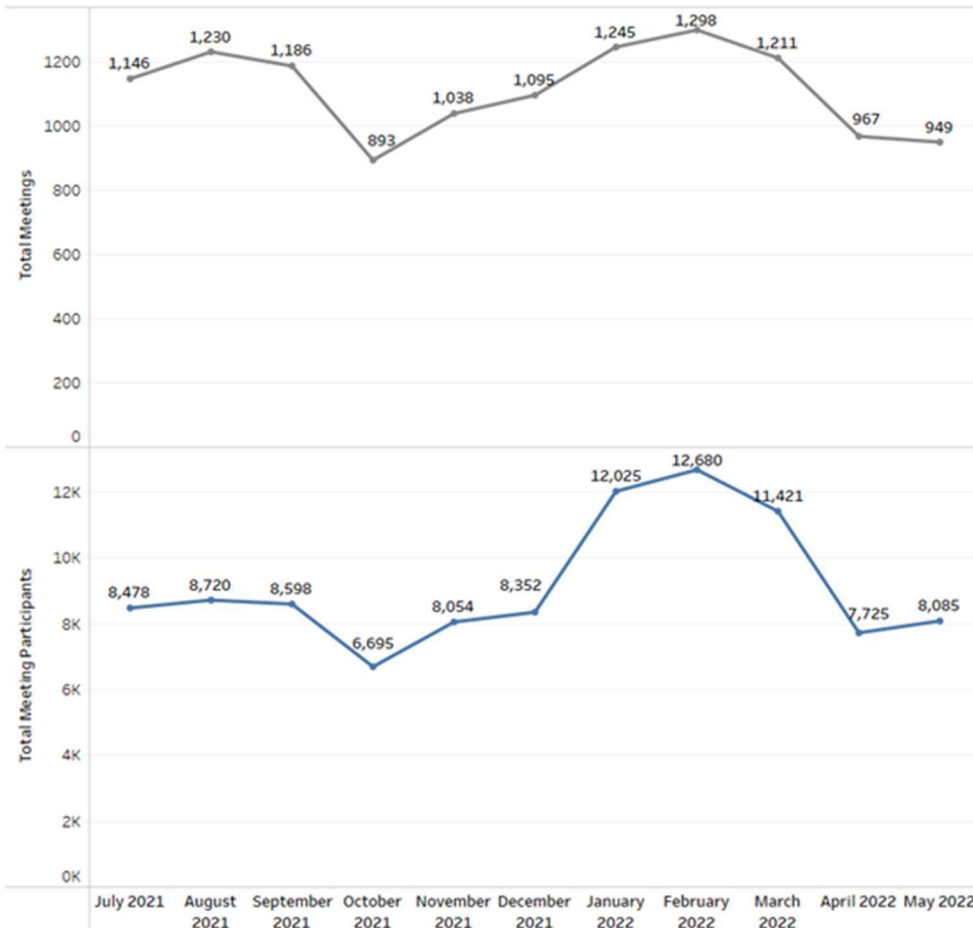
[2] The Zoom application data provides meeting information per Zoom meeting ID. The meeting-level information is compiled for each MeetingID and day. Accordingly, if a given Meeting ID is used multiple times for different hearings for the entire day, the meeting participants and meeting duration will be the aggregation of hearing participants and hearing durations for that entire day (based on the first value of duration and participants, which aligns with the total unique participants for the day/Meeting ID). In addition, a single Meeting ID may be used over several days within the same month. This "raw" information from the Zoom application data is aggregated by Meeting ID and Start Time (Day, Month and Year) to obtain the meeting and participant counts for each Meeting ID and Start Time combination, which are then aggregated to obtain the sum of Zoom meetings and meeting participants by month/year. Court hearings (from the Zoom application data) are identified by the meeting types of: 'court hearing on the record' and 'hearings.

[3] The chart also shows a substantial increase in the number of participants between January and March 2022. Additional investigation reveals that the increase is, in part, caused by miscoding of the Zoom meeting type where meetings (as opposed to court proceedings, are as "hearings." The court is working with staff to ensure that such miscoding is minimized, if not eliminated.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes
The court collects demographic information on parties in only select case types such as cases filed by the Office of Child Support Enforcement and possibly guardianship. In addition, those case types are not supported by the Remote Proceedings Team. Accordingly, analyzing the remote hearings outcome by demographic variables was not feasible.   Possible future work could focus on using geographic location/census tracts associated with parties of remote proceedings (based on address information) to estimate likely race/ethnicity and assess whether there is any difference in hearing appearance, duration, and outcomes between remote and in-person proceedings.

Project 2004779: Workforce Development
Funding amount: $3,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10

Project overview
Youth Employment Program: Work Source Montgomery (WSM) entered into an agreement with Eckerd Youth Alternatives (EYA) in October 2021 to expand employment and training services for out-of-school youth and young adults. Specifically, EYA will serve individuals between the ages of 16-24 years old who have been negatively impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition to serving those adversely affected by the public health crisis, the program is intentionally designed to reach individuals who are one or more of the following: low-income, homeless, pregnant and/or single parent, disabled, ex-offenders, English learners, public assistance recipients, or basic skills deficient. The provision of services includes but is not limited to case management and barrier remediation, career coaching and counseling, occupational skills training, paid work experience, job placement assistance, and post-employment support.

Grant Relief for Onboarding Workers (GROW): As Montgomery County businesses attempt to rebound from the negative effects of the pandemic, including The Great Resignation, WSM has committed significant ARPA resources to support small and minority-owned businesses. WSM recognizes the financial impact for employers who are laboring to fill multiple vacancies, train new staff, develop employee retention methods and innovative incentive strategies. As a result, GROW was created to financially support local and minority-owned businesses striving to achieve pre-pandemic revenue levels. GROW provides grants to cover 50-75% of a new employee's wages for the first twelve (12) weeks of employment. Among other criteria, applicants are required to engage with Montgomery County's public workforce system via Maryland Workforce Exchange to recruit and hire unemployed and underemployed Montgomery County residents. Applicants are also required to demonstrate their Covid-19 hardship through detailed narrative, estimated revenue loss, and pandemic related lay-offs (or closures).

Workforce Recovery Network (WRN): The WRN provides funding to support/expand local community-based organizations that provide employment and training services to individuals negatively impacted by the pandemic. Additionally, the programs may also serve those who are low-income, have criminal backgrounds, have disabilities, homeless, Veterans, English language learners, youth, or have other barriers to employment. Programs and services targeting individuals in Montgomery County's high poverty rate census tracks as well as the

communities near the pending Purple Metro Line corridor are also encouraged to apply for WRN funding. WRN funding supports expansion of existing services such as recruitment, assessment, case management, training, placement, subsidized employment, internships, and supportive services. The WRN is designed to be flexible and encourage new ways of offering programs and serving under-resourced individuals in Montgomery County. Funding should fill in gaps brought to light by the pandemic, address issues magnified because of the pandemic, and/or expand innovative ideas piloted during the pandemic. Examples of innovative WRN projects could include, but are not limited to:

- A workforce readiness program that addresses legal barriers with micro-grants to pay license re-instatement fees, expungement legal fees, and more.
- A digital equity initiative that provides technology infrastructure through micro-grants for program participants who have demonstrated a need for broadband connection to support remote job search, remote education access, or remote work. Digital literacy skills attainment training programs to support e-commerce opportunities, virtual services, and career exploration.
- Pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs in high-demand industries to get individuals exposure and entry into high-wage career pathways with work-based learning and earn-and-learn opportunities.
- Education and training programs that include support for stackable credentials.
- Investment in social enterprise models to address a key community need such as childcare, transportation, food insecurity, housing, etc. that, if implemented successfully, would lead to proof-of-concept and provide opportunities to scale with additional investments from other funding sources. The models should include training and clearly define benefits to the participant.
- Initiatives related to entrepreneurship to support individuals with entrepreneurial endeavors through coaching, education, support, etc.
- Virtual reality learning and training models to reach underserved populations.

Upskill MoCo: This initiative is forthcoming in the early Spring of 2021. Upskill MoCo is designed to provide funding for occupational and entrepreneurial skills training for individuals impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Specifically, the program will support training endeavors for residents impacted by Covid-19 who may not qualify, or wish to enroll in other programs e.g., Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA). Upskill MoCo will ensure that any unemployed/underemployed resident impacted by Covid-19 is able to receive support for occupational & entrepreneurial skills training. Additionally, WSM plans to launch the SkillUp® Montgomery virtual platform in February 2022. The platform is available for all Montgomery County residents through the Metrix Learning® platform. SkillUp® Montgomery offers FREE and UNLIMITED access to more than 5,000 high-quality online training courses for 180 days (6 months). Key Features include Integrated assessments; 5,000+ Workplace Skills/Business/IT courses;10 Career Pathways, 200 Occupations; 300+ Skill Tracks; 100+ Certification Training Tracks; FREE digital badges & certificates of completion. WSM has made some of the features of the Metrix Learning® System available to local employers. Employers will have cost-free access to assessments, online skill training, and cost-effective programs for 130+ industry-recognized certifications from anywhere with internet access, 24/7. As a result, the platform will add value to employers looking to upskill incumbent staff, find skilled candidates, or enhance new hire training.

Custom curricula can be developed to a particular employer or industry. Employers can also list job openings, descriptions, and the skills they are looking for. Jobseekers can then view the job listings and take an assessment. Passing the assessment allows them to upload their resume and send information directly to the employer. Employers can select relevant assessments to evaluate candidates' skills and schedule interviews. For jobseekers who are not successful in passing the assessment, the system provides course recommendations and a personalized learning plan that allows them to retake the assessment when they are ready

Use of Evidence
Use of Evidence for this project will be evaluated and presented as appropriate in future reports.

Performance
KPIs for this project are in development and future reports will be updated to include them.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes
In collaboration with the County's Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice, disaggregated demographic data related to outcomes will be reported.

Project 2004786: Business Rental Assistance
Funding amount: $2,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.29

Project overview
The County approved $2 million to be disbursed in the form of a grant to small businesses to help pay for rent expenses. According to the current project timeline, the application should be available from September 1st – September 30th, and the funds should be deployed by March 30, 2023. Each eligible business can get up to 3 months of rent or up to $10,000, whichever is less. The funds are to be used for either current or in arrears rent. This grant is not for restaurants or foodservice businesses, or for businesses that received a previous small business rental assistance grant from the County.

Use of Evidence
Use of Evidence for this project will be evaluated and presented as appropriate in future reports.

Performance
KPIs for this project are in development and future reports will be updated to include them.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes
In collaboration with the County's Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice, disaggregated demographic data related to outcomes will be reported.

Project 2004773: Hotel Relief Program
Funding amount: $2,690,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.35

Project overview
The Hotel Relief Program provides financial assistance to hotels and other lodging entities located in Montgomery County, MD. Hotels and other lodging entities have been extremely hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and will have a long recovery. Montgomery County announced this relief program to continue stabilization efforts of the local hospitality industry in the County. Grant awardees will receive $500 per sleeping room under this program. Any hotel or accommodation owner with ten or more sleeping rooms, or a Bed and Breakfast with five or more rooms, who are based in Maryland are encouraged to apply. The applications will be accepted from July 1, 2022 through July 22, 2022.

Use of Evidence
Use of Evidence for this project will be evaluated and presented as appropriate in future reports.

Performance
KPIs for this project are in development and future reports will be updated to include them.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes
In collaboration with the County's Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice, disaggregated demographic data related to outcomes will be reported.

Project 2004795: Arts Grants
Funding amount: $2,750,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.37

Project overview
The County provided $3.25 million to the Arts and Humanities Council to support various arts organizations and local artists, supported by funding provided through the CARES Act. This additional funding is being provided for another round of funding. This option currently includes $2,750,000 based on the previous round of funding for these types of grants and aligned with other business assistance programs under ARPA consideration. The funding could be divided, like previously, between small grants for local artists and operational support for arts and humanities organizations in the County.

Use of Evidence
Use of Evidence for this project will be evaluated and presented as appropriate in future reports.

Performance
KPIs for this project are in development and future reports will be updated to include them.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes
In collaboration with the County's Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice, disaggregated demographic data related to outcomes will be reported.

Project 2004745: High School Wellness Centers Services Enhancement
Funding amount: $3,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.26

Project overview
In April 2022, the County Council approved a special appropriation for $3 million as part of a larger package to expand and enhance mental health and positive youth development services in high schools that do not currently have a wellness center. Vulnerable youth face significant challenges as a result of the economic impact resulting from COVID-19 and social isolation arising from the need to prevent the spread of the virus. These funds will respond to urgent mental health and social support needs of high school students and their families. The services provided will include behavioral health and support services, youth development and prevention services, case management screening, referral and social services.

Use of Evidence
Use of Evidence for this project will be evaluated and presented as appropriate in future reports.

Performance
KPIs for this project are in development and future reports will be updated to include them.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes
In collaboration with the County's Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice, disaggregated demographic data related to outcomes will be reported.

Project 2004834: Youth Development – After School Support and Engagement Hubs
Funding amount: $250,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25

Project overview
Youth from low-income families 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. 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 and impacted engagement of students in schools. In May 2022, the County Council appropriated $250,000 to support enhanced delivery of after-school youth support and engagement hub services in four high-needs school cluster/communities in the County and associated administrative and technical supports.

Use of Evidence
Use of Evidence for this project will be evaluated and presented as appropriate in future reports.

Performance
KPIs for this project are in development and future reports will be updated to include them.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes
In collaboration with the County's Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice, disaggregated demographic data related to outcomes will be reported.

Project 2004835: Youth Out of School Time Initiative

Funding amount: $125,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25

Project overview
Youth from low-income families 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. 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 and impacted engagement of students in schools. In May 2022, the County Council appropriated $125,000 to support facility fee assistance programs for services that primarily serve low-income youth – including fields, courts, gyms, all-purpose rooms, auditoriums, and classroom spaces available for Out-of-School Time (OST) programs.

Use of Evidence
Use of Evidence for this project will be evaluated and presented as appropriate in future reports.

Performance
KPIs for this project are in development and future reports will be updated to include them.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes
In collaboration with the County's Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice, disaggregated demographic data related to outcomes will be reported.

Project 500320: Stormwater Infrastructure

Funding amount: $3,075,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.6

Project overview
This project includes $2,275,000 in funding for ten storm drain improvements that improve climate resilience by reducing flooding and runoff risks, and $800,000 for one culvert replacement project:

- Conway Road - storm drain extension with stormwater best management practices (BMPs), $500,000
- Glenwood neighborhood - stormwater BMPs to reduce flood risk, $200,000
- MacArthur Blvd culvert - sediment removal from culvert under road to reduce flooding, $200,000
- Kenilworth driveway - inlet upgrade and pipe upsizing across Kensington Parkway, $250,000
- Woodbine Street – parts of planned storm drain system never installed, $250,000
- Beech Tree Road – area sits at the bottom of large drainage area with a piped stream, multiple flooding complaints over several years, $75,000
- Fairfax Road – flooding of multiple below-grade garages, $125,000
- Reading Road – Storm drain system extension in design, $150,000

- Summit Avenue at Knowles Avenue – multiple homes with flooding impacts from storm drain that runs between and behind houses, $300,000
- Parkwood Drive – storm drain system extension to address issues when runoff leaves street down driveways, $225,000
- Seven Locks Road – culvert replacement, $800,000

Use of Evidence
Use of Evidence for this project will be evaluated and presented as appropriate in future reports.

Performance
KPIs for this project are in development and future reports will be updated to include them.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes
In collaboration with the County's Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice, disaggregated demographic data related to outcomes will be reported.

Project 2004567, 2004741: Food Security

Funding amount: $1,710,000 (Project 2004741) and $669,000 (Project 2004567)

Project Expenditure Category: 2.1

Project overview
project Project 2004567 provided $669,000 to support the development of the County's food security initiatives including funds for strategic planning and coordination and critical response programs. In addition, Project 2004741provided $1,710,000 in funding to the Montgomery County Food Security Task Force to purchase and provide fresh produce and shelf-stable items through June 2022.

Use of Evidence
Use of Evidence for this project will be evaluated and presented as appropriate in future reports.

Performance
KPIs for this project are in development and future reports will be updated to include them.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes
In collaboration with the County's Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice, disaggregated demographic data related to outcomes will be reported.

Project: 2004838: Violent Crime Information Center

Funding amount: $471,875

Project Expenditure Category: 1.11

Project overview
This initiative would establish a violent crime information center to supplement the Montgomery County Police Department's (MCPD) crime analysis and intelligence teams. The center would house four contract analysts that will monitor school safety, conduct phone and social media

analysis, tracking weapons data, generate violent crime statistical reports, etc. The team will also help identify individuals to participate in the group violence intervention initiative. The amount provided will fund it through the end of FY23 as a pilot project.

Use of Evidence
Use of Evidence for this project will be evaluated and presented as appropriate in future reports.

Performance
KPIs for this project are in development and future reports will be updated to include them.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes
In collaboration with the County's Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice, disaggregated demographic data related to outcomes will be reported.

Project 2004839: Group Violence Intervention (GVI) Initiative
Funding amount: $156,250

Project Expenditure Category: 1.11

Project overview
This initiative is a violence intervention best practice that would be implemented in partnership with the County's Street Outreach Network. GVI initiatives seek to reduce homicide and gun violence, minimize harm to communities by replacing enforcement with deterrence, and foster stronger relationships between law enforcement and the people they serve. It would include contractual hospital navigator positions that will help mediate conflicts during gang and violent situations. The amount provided will fund it through the end of FY23 as a pilot project.

Use of Evidence
Use of Evidence for this project will be evaluated and presented as appropriate in future reports.

Performance
KPIs for this project are in development and future reports will be updated to include them.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes
In collaboration with the County's Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice, disaggregated demographic data related to outcomes will be reported.

Project 2004841: Midnight Madness Initiative
Funding amount: $65,500

Project Expenditure Category: 1.11

Project overview
The Montgomery County Police Department will launch a Midnight Madness basketball league in collaboration with the Montgomery County Recreation Department to provide a 3-on-3 basketball league at one recreation center as a pilot program in the 3rd Police District. This program will provide a free basketball league to youths ages 14 through 17 Montgomery County students on Friday evenings. The participants will have access to other activities available at the

recreation center. A brief education series will be provided. The amount provided will fund it through the end of FY23 as a pilot project.

Use of Evidence
Use of Evidence for this project will be evaluated and presented as appropriate in future reports.

Performance
KPIs for this project are in development and future reports will be updated to include them.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes
In collaboration with the County's Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice, disaggregated demographic data related to outcomes will be reported.

Project 2004840: Youth and Family Violence Prevention Program

Funding amount: $37,500

Project Expenditure Category: 1.11

Project overview
This funding would allow broader advertising and outreach to enhance awareness of available domestic violence resources. Throughout the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, MCPD and the DVCC, along with several other partners, have engaged in a campaign to bring awareness to the community about available, free, and confidential resources at the Family Justice Center and Montgomery County Police Department, and the Crisis Center, and to encourage victims to utilize those resources and to work towards a safer future for themselves and their families. Extensive academic research supports the theory that child witnesses of crime and violence and teens who are victims of dating violence are more likely to engage in risky behavior themselves in adulthood; therefore, continued efforts to break this cycle are warranted. The funding provided will allow the expansion of current efforts throughout the year to provide in depth programming during October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Use of Evidence
Use of Evidence for this project will be evaluated and presented as appropriate in future reports.

Performance
KPIs for this project are in development and future reports will be updated to include them.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes
In collaboration with the County's Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice, disaggregated demographic data related to outcomes will be reported.

Project 2004752: Adult Medical Day Care Provider COVID Assistance

Funding amount: $1,200,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.14

Project overview
Adult Medical Day Care (AMDC) programs provide critical support to individuals aged 16 and older who are medically compromised or are functionally and/or cognitively impaired. Many are frail seniors. These individuals cannot live independently, but with support can continue to live at home, preventing placement in residential facilities such as nursing homes. AMDC programs provide a range of services, including transportation and meals, and provide an important source of social activities for participants. AMDC providers were negatively impacted financially when they were required to close and received a lower reimbursement rate than the rate received for in-person programming. While programs are re-opening, attendance is only about 65 percent of pre-pandemic levels as clients and their caregivers continue to be concerned about COVUD for this at-risk population.

Many AMDC participants and low-income and eligible for Medicaid waiver supports. This COVID assistance is needed to address the negative economic impacts of COVID on these organizations.

Use of Evidence
Use of Evidence for this project will be evaluated and presented as appropriate in future reports.

Performance
KPIs for this project are in development and future reports will be updated to include them.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes
In collaboration with the County's Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice, disaggregated demographic data related to outcomes will be reported.

Appendix

1. The County launched a campaign to encourage younger people to get vaccinated that included radio and social media. Project 2004406. Mobile Health Clinic.

2. The County aggressively worked to get it's 5 to 11 year-old population vaccinated. Project 2004406. Mobile Health Clinic.

3. Boosterama event at Wheaton Plaza to provide vaccine to communities that are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Project 2004406. Mobile Health Clinic.

4. The County provided food to assist residents in need. Project 2004567. Food Security Program Enhancements.

5. The County had an aggressive and successful outreach campaign to the Latino community. A partnership with community-based organizations called Por Nuestra Salúd y Bienestar. Pictured are community partners who did outreach in the community. Project 2004490. Latino Health Initiative.

6. The PSAs from the Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar won a local Emmy Award. Project 2004490. Latino Health Initiative.

7. The County provided rental assistance to residents. Project 2004398. Rental Assistance Program Enhancement.