



Montgomery County Office of Grants Management

FY24 County Executive Recommended Budget

Community Grants Non-Departmental Account (NDA) Information Sheet

Overview

Community needs often have complex, multifaceted root causes and may require innovative and flexible solutions that do not always fit neatly into a single department's mission. Nonprofit community organizations are critical to an effective network of services and are often able to provide these services in a more cost-effective, culturally appropriate, and flexible way than County Government. Community partners are also able to leverage community resources that may be unavailable to the County Government. These realities drive a significant series of reforms and initiatives proposed within the community grants budget.

This budget proposes repurposing community grants funding to target needs not directly addressed by other departmental efforts, providing space for innovative and experimental programs, addressing critical gaps in specific communities or sectors, and providing resources to support nonprofit partners that cut across County government. These reforms are the culmination of years of engagement between the nonprofit community, County Council, and County government. The FY24 CE Recommended Budget directly incorporates nonprofit feedback, such as the request to create unrestricted funding support and separate resource pools for small and large organizations within the proposed structure for community grants.

Prior to FY21, County Executive and County Council community grants were listed in separate NDAs. During the pandemic, the County froze community grants funding to provide continuity of funding to community grants recipients. As we emerge from the pandemic, the Office of Grants Management (OGM) will implement its plan for more typical operations in FY24 and future years. This will provide a space for new programs and partners while also offering opportunities for traditional partners and programs.

The full proposed Community Grants NDA budget can be found on page 73-3 of the FY24 CE Recommended Budget publication.

Community Grants Focus Areas

The FY24 CE Recommended Budget targets the following areas for community grants funding in FY24:

- **Youth Support Grants:** \$1.5 million will be available for programs targeting the needs of the County's youth community.
- **Senior Support Grants:** \$1.5 million will be available for programs targeting the needs of the County's senior community.



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- **Grants for Organizations Supporting Individuals with Disabilities:** \$1.5 million will be available for programs targeting the needs of County residents who have disabilities.
- **Underserved Communities Project Grants:** \$1,258,128 will be available to nonprofit organizations from underserved communities who have unique insights into their local challenges and can develop the best programmatic solutions address them.
- **Community Projects Fund Grants:** \$1 million in one-time funding will be available for small, emerging, and volunteer led organizations to implement small, community focused projects, initiatives, and events with a quarterly application cycle.
- **Nonprofit Technical Assistance and Management Support Grants:** \$1 million will be available to strengthen County nonprofit organizations with a prioritization of organizations based in underserved communities.
- **Nonprofit Incubators:** \$560,987 will be available to pilot sustained, innovative, accessible, and community-based support for emerging nonprofit organizations with potential to serve the County's most hard-to-reach and underserved communities.
- **Place Based Management Grants:** \$400,000 will be available to continue support for Place Based Management activities in the County using the Main Streets USA model.

Arts Facility and Cost Sharing Capital Grants

Recommended for Community Grants but included as part of the Capital Budget within the Cost Sharing: MCG Project (CIP#720601) are the following that total \$3,000,000:

- **Arts Facility Capital Grants - Major Projects/State Match Fund:** \$750,000 will be available to maximize leverage of State matches for major (over \$100,000) County arts related capital projects. The County Council may match State Bond Bills in their FY24 Approved Budget. Any remaining resources not matched by State Bond Bills will be competed by the County through OGM and promoted matches within the FY25 State Bond Bill cycle.
- **Arts Facility Capital Grants - Small Projects Fund:** \$250,000 will be available to support small (\$100,000 and below) County arts related capital projects in underserved communities.
- **Cost Sharing Capital Grants - Major Projects/State Match Fund:** \$1.25 million will be available to maximize leverage of State matches for major (over \$100,000) County non-arts related capital projects. The County Council may match State Bond Bills in their FY24 Approved Budget. Any remaining resources not matched by State Bond Bills will be competed by the County through the Office of Grants Management (OGM) and promoted matches within the FY25 State Bond Bill cycle.
- **Cost Sharing Capital Grants - Small Projects Fund:** \$750,000 will be available to support small (\$100,000 and below) County non-arts related capital projects in underserved communities.



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Base Budget Shifts

In addition, 28 community grants programs previously funded through the Community Grants' budget will be shifted into departmental base budgets (\$1.7 million). Shifting programs will receive a 3% inflationary increase over their FY23 Approved funding level. The list of the programs and funding amounts shifting into department base budgets can be found on page 80-1 of the FY24 CE Recommended Budget publication.

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The FY24 CE Recommended Budget also expands the capacity of the OGM with two new individuals: a third program manager, and an administrative service coordinator who will focus on bringing to scale a wider use of grant agreements (instead of reimbursable noncompetitive contracts) and will manage efforts to support the County's nonprofit community. The Office will continue to coordinate Countywide strategies and tools to secure additional State and Federal funding while building on, improving, and scaling up the County's grant agreement and competitive grant programs that began in FY23.

The full proposed Office of Grants Management budget can be found on page 34-1 of the FY24 CE Recommended Budget publication.

Application Timeline and Bridge Funding

Recompeting programs within the Community Grants budget is an important step in reforming our grants process to be fairer and more equitable, while addressing new and evolving community needs. Except for community grants that are moving to a departmental base budget, FY23 Community Grants program recipients must reapply to receive funding in FY24. In FY24, OGM will manage the application and award process for these grant programs on a significantly different timeline than the traditional process. Then the appropriate department will manage the implementation of grant agreements.

To avoid a service gap between old and new funding for continuing programs, the FY24 County Executive Recommended Budget includes approximately \$1.2 million in Bridge Funding for all continuing FY23 Community Grant programs whose current contracts expire before October 1, 2023. Organizations who do not receive renewed funding will still receive these bridge funds to appropriately wind down operations.

The new application process and timeline will respect the County Council's role in making changes to Community Grants NDA by launching these grant competition programs after the FY24 Approved Budget is approved by Council. The Underserved Communities, Youth Support, Senior Support, and Individuals with Disabilities Support Grant Programs will be prioritized with new grant awards announced in early July and programs beginning on October 1, 2023.



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FY24 CE Recommended Budget Community Grants Proposed Timeline *

<i>Timeframe (2023)</i>	<i>Action</i>
March 15	FY24 CE Recommended Budget transmitted to the County Council
March – Early May	County Council deliberates the FY24 CE Recommended Budget and makes changes as desired OGM prepares Community Grant competitions and Bridge Funding awards based on County Council deliberations
Mid-May	County Council passes FY24 Approved budget
Late May	OGM adjusts Community Grant competitions, including 1 st Quarter Community Project Fund Grants, to fit FY24 Approved Budget and launches competitions OGM prepares and begins issuing Bridge Funding awards in line with FY24 Approved Budget
June	Nonprofits prepare applications for Community Grants competitions OGM and lead departments recruit and prepare Review Committees for Community Grant competitions All Bridge Funding grants signed by June 30, 2023
July 1	Bridge Fund grants activate for FY23 awards expiring before August 1, 2023
Early – Mid July	Review Committees score applications and make award recommendations OGM notifies award winners
Mid – Late July	OGM begins processing award decisions into draft grant agreements with performance period start dates of October 1, 2023
August 1	Bridge Fund grants activate for FY23 awards expiring before September 1, 2023
August	OGM and award winners sign final grant agreements by August 30, 2023 2 nd Quarter competition for Community Project Fund Grants
September 1	Bridge Fund grants activate for FY23 awards expiring before October 1, 2023
September	Award winners prepare for implementation of FY24 awards
October 1	FY24 Community Grant awards become active
October	3 rd Quarter competition for Community Project Fund Grants
February	4 th Quarter competition for Community Project Fund Grants

* The proposed timeline does not include other competitive grant programs sitting in department base budgets that will be implemented through OGM.