

MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT
Office of Grants Management

FY23 Underserved Communities Projects (UCP)
Grant Program

Program Opens for Applications: Tuesday February 14, 2023 at 10:00 AM

Grant Program Information Session*: Friday February 17, 2023 from 1:30 to 3:00 PM

* A link for the Information Session will be available on the Office of Grants Management application portal. The event will be recorded and posted in the same location on the website.

Submission Deadline: Wednesday March 15, 2023 at 9:00 AM

Grant Program and Submission Details: Application details can be downloaded and application may be submitted through the Montgomery County Office of Grants Management - Grants Application Platform. Online submissions only. Applicants requiring an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodation should contact the Office of Grants Management to discuss alternative submission options. Incomplete applications or those submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

FY23 UCP Application: <https://mcmdgrants.smapply.org/prog/FY23UCP>

Grants Application Platform: <https://mcmdgrants.smapply.org/>

Link to Information Session Event and Recording: [Click here.](#)

For technical support, please contact the Office of Grants Management using the contact information below:

Point of Contact:

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SECTION I – BACKGROUND

A. Introduction

The Office of Grants Management is soliciting grant applications for the County’s FY 2023 Underserved Communities Projects (UCP) Grant Program from qualified nonprofit organizations providing direct services to or advocacy for underserved communities in the County. Both the County Executive’s FY23 Recommended Budget and the County Council’s FY23 Approved Budget ([Resolution 19-1285](#)) provide \$750,000 to nonprofit organizations from underserved communities who have unique insights into their local challenges and can develop the best programmatic solutions address them. These grants will provide funding for new projects, programs, and initiatives within Montgomery County with a prioritization towards organizations who do not currently receive County funding. FY23 UCP award amounts will vary with a minimum award of \$50,000 and a maximum award amount of \$75,000. At present, the County Council has made this funding available for one year so all funded activities must be implemented within a 12 month performance period. Organizations are encouraged to submit multi-year funding proposals of up to three (3) years but funding beyond the first 12 month period will be contingent on both satisfactory program performance and future Council appropriations.

As charged in Bill 36-19, the Office of Grants Management provides a central point of contact regarding the grants that the County receives or awards. Office of Grants Management also develops countywide policies and procedures regarding grants management and ensures these are consistent with racial equity and social justice goals, performs outreach regarding grants offered by the County and other grants functions.

B. Target Population

The target population for this grant are individuals within Montgomery County who are members of underserved communities.

This program uses the same definition of underserved communities as [the January 20, 2021 Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government](#). The term “underserved communities” refers to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

C. Funding Areas

The goal of this program is to support a flexible range of new programs that address the needs of the County’s underserved communities that are designed and led by

nonprofit organizations based in these communities. Priority in awarding funds will go to organizations based in the same underserved community that the projects target.

Within their proposal, applicants must outline their plan to use the requested grant resources and how the proposed activities will have a positive impact on their target community. Grants provided under this program will be multi-year awards of up to three years, pending satisfactory program performance and continued appropriation of funding. Proposals should include at maximum a three-year budget that includes a projected inflationary increase for each of the future fiscal years. These grants cannot be used for the expansion of existing County funded programs. Nonprofits seeking resources to strengthen their organizational capacity should apply for the [FY23 Nonprofit Technical Assistance and Management Support \(NTAMS\) Grant Program](#) or other grant programs posted on [the Office of Grants Management grant application platform](#).

The range of programming allowed under this grant is intentionally very flexible with a focus on applicants justifying how the proposed project, program, or initiative will have a positive impact on their target communities. Organizations may only submit one application. All proposed expenses should be related to programmatic activities plus a maximum 15% rate for indirect costs. Award sizes will vary with a minimum award of \$50,000 and a maximum award of \$75,000.

Operating expenses cover on-going or non-fixed asset costs that are needed for the implementation of the program. Examples of potentially eligible operating expenses include, **but are not limited to**, the following:

- Salary for staff implementing or overseeing the program;
- Contract trainers or other temporary, non-staff support;
- Materials and supplies;
- Liability insurance;
- Transportation costs;
- Entrance or usage fees;
- Rent or lease costs for space;
- Minor equipment or electronics;
- Software licenses or services;
- Tuition or training/course fees; and
- Other expenses required to implement the proposed project.

Priority in awarding funding will be given to proposals that:

- Are submitted by nonprofit organizations based in underserved communities within Montgomery County, have a mission focused on serving these communities, and are have limited or no FY23 funding from the County;
- Demonstrate a strong understanding of their target community's needs and an effective program strategy to effectively meets these needs;

- Provide services, advocacy, or other support to the target community that is not already funded by other County resources;
- Provide technically, culturally, and/or linguistically proficient services to the target community; and
- Demonstrate a broad base of impact through their proposal to their target community.

The Office of Grants Management will seek proposals from organizations that:

- Exhibit cultural proficiency;
- Are inclusive of the LGBTQIA+ community members; and
- Use a racial equity lens in providing services.

D. Eligible Organizations

Applicants must meet all of the following conditions:

- The organization must be a Federal 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status organization or a collaboration between two or more organizations with this status;
- The organization must be currently registered and in Good Standing with the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT);
- The organization's principal place of business must be located in Montgomery County; if a national or regional organization, it must have a location in Montgomery County through which it provides related services;
- All activities and expenditures under this grant program must be provided in Montgomery County; and
- Current Montgomery County contract or grant award winners must be current on all reporting obligations for other awards and those reports must reflect substantial progress towards the goals of their awards.

Proposed expenses must be for a new activity, expansion of existing activities (that is not already County funded), or a combination of both. County funding cannot be used to supplant other funding for already planned activities.

E. Award Amounts and Duration

Award sizes will vary with a minimum award of \$50,000 and a maximum award of \$75,000. The grant will be awarded for up to a one year (12 month) performance period). Programs must be run and be evaluated during this period. The County may choose to provide a multi-year award, up to a maximum of three (3) years, with future fiscal year funding contingent on satisfactory program performance and Council appropriations. This Grant Program does not commit Montgomery County to make an award.

F. Application Review & Awards

Office of Grants Management uses an independent review panel that will submit recommendations for funding. The review panel is composed of neutral, qualified individuals from Montgomery County Government selected for their experiences in

the grant program's subject area, grants administration, and project management. The panel members will review and score applicant proposals based on the criteria outlined in this program and submit recommendations for awards. Final decisions will be made based on the scores and such other factors and considerations as the County deems relevant at the time of award, which may include: updated consideration of how well the applicant has performed on prior programs; and the input and expert opinion of grant administrators with prior experience with applicants and relevant department and office Directors.

G. Award Notification

Award notification letters are expected to be released roughly one month after the application deadline via email. For successful applicants, the Grant Agreement will contain funding restrictions; programmatic, administrative, and policy requirements; reporting documents including total budget along with the amount of grant funding for the program; and payment terms.

H. Submission Guidelines

The **ONLY** method to submit an application is through SM Apply online portal. Applicants requiring an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodation should contact the Office of Grants Management to discuss alternative submission options.

Applications are due no later than Monday February 16, 2023 at 10:00 AM. All applications will be recorded upon receipt. Applications received after the deadline will be disqualified and will not be forwarded to the Review Panel for funding considerations. Any additions or deletions to an application, unless requested by the funding agency will not be accepted after the deadline. Applications with incomplete, illegible, or corrupted files or digital material will not be considered.

The grant application will be available through the Montgomery County Office of Grants Management - Grants Application Platform through the links posted on the first page of this document. Once the applicant clicks on the link, they will be prompted to create a SM Apply account, select the FY23 UCP Grant Program, and then will be able to access the grant application.

I. Information Session

A FY23 UCP Grant Program Information Session will be held on **Friday February 17, 2023 from 1:30 to 3:00 PM**. [Potential applicants may participate in the MS Teams Live event or view its recording by clicking here.](#) The meeting link and event recording have also been posted on the application for this program linked on the first page of this document.

J. Contact Person:

Rafael Pumarejo Murphy, Director
Office of Grants Management
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Rafael.murphy@montgomerycountymd.gov

K. Terms and Conditions

- County reserves the right to accept or deny any or all applications if the County determines it is in the best interest of the County to do so. The County shall notify the applicant if it rejects that applicant's proposal. The County reserves the right to suspend or terminate an outstanding Grant Program.
- The County reserves the right to issue addenda and/or amendments subsequent to the posting of a Grant Program, or to rescind the Grant Program.
- The County shall not be liable for any costs incurred in the preparation of applications in response to the Grant Program. Applicant agrees that all costs incurred in developing the application are the applicant's sole responsibility.
- The County may conduct pre-award on-site visits or request additional information to verify information submitted in the application and to determine if the applicant's facilities are appropriate for the services proposed.
- The County may enter into negotiations with an applicant and adopt a firm funding amount or other revisions for the applicant's proposal that may result from negotiations. The County shall provide the citations to the statute and implementing regulations that authorize the grant or sub-grant; all applicable federal, State, and County regulations; payment provisions identifying how the grantee will be paid for performing under the award; reporting requirements, including programmatic, financial and any special reports required by federal, state, or County law and/or the granting department; and compliance conditions that must be met by the grantee. If there are any conflicts between the terms and conditions of the Grant Program and any applicable federal, State, or County law or regulation, or any ambiguity related thereto, then the provisions of the applicable law or regulation shall control and it shall be the responsibility of the applicant to ensure compliance.

SECTION II – SCORING OF APPLICATIONS

Scoring Criteria

Applicant's proposal submissions will be reviewed against the following criteria with a maximum score of 100 points.

Criterion A: Soundness of the Proposal (20 points)

- The proposal, if funded, will result in the accomplishment of their stated goals;
- Applicant clearly demonstrates the effectiveness of their proposed activities/expenses in accomplishing their stated goals;
- The implementation plan within the proposal is realistic and achievable based on the proposed time requirements; and
- Applicant has contingency plans for altered operations in case of lower than requested funding amounts.

Criterion B: Program Goals, Objectives and Services (20 points)

- The proposal's goals are in line with the overall goals of the FY23 UCP Grants Program;
- The proposed activities/expenses are clearly defined and linked to both the proposal specific goals and that of the overall FY23 UCP Grants Program; and
- In line with the priorities for the FY23 UCO Grants Program, the proposal:
 - Has been submitted by nonprofit organizations based in an underserved community within Montgomery County, has a mission focused on serving this community, and has limited or no FY23 funding from the County;
 - Demonstrate a strong understanding of their target community's needs and an effective program strategy to effectively meet these needs;
 - Will provide services, advocacy, or other support to the target community that is not already funded by other County resources;
 - Will provide technically, culturally, and/or linguistically proficient services to the target community; and
 - Demonstrate a broad base of impact through their proposal to the target community.

Criterion C: Program Evaluation (10 points)

- Applicant demonstrates in their Performance Plan a clear process to measure/evaluate its program; and
- The chosen KPI's/metrics, milestones, and/or other evaluation methods are relevant and realistic measures for the proposal's goals.

Criterion D: Organizational Capability and Relevant Experience (20 points)

- Applicant demonstrates the use of a racial equity lens in both its overall operations and within this specific proposal;
- Applicant demonstrates the cultural, linguistic, and/or technical proficiency to work with their target community in the context of the proposed project; and
- Applicant demonstrates competencies, qualifications, and/or past experiences to serve or advocate for the target community in the context of the proposed project.

Criterion E: Sound Fiscal Management and Budget (10 points)

- Applicant demonstrates sound fiscal management;
- Applicant's budget with budget justification is reasonable and realistic to achieve stated goals within the proposal;
- Applicant will be able to submit a budget which reflects compliance with audit and other administrative requirements; and
- Where applicable, the applicant previously received a County award grant, it managed the funds transparently and responsibly for the award's intended purposes.

Criterion F: Community Outreach (20 points)

- Applicant demonstrates a strong relationship with their target community; and
- Applicant demonstrates the ability to perform outreach within their target community to promote, engage, and/or connect community members with the proposed project.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Those persons scoring the proposals will confirm that they have no conflicts of interest.
- Neither the County Executive nor any elected official will be involved in the scoring of grants or determining winners and amounts of awards.
- Scores and award amounts are non-appealable.
- Scorers' comments and the scores themselves are deliberative and privileged and will not be released. However, winners will be announced publicly, and successful grant applications and award letters may be subject to release (with redactions as allowed by law).
- County officials may decline to debrief with unsuccessful applicants why their proposal was not granted, or their funding request was not granted in full.

SECTION III – CERTIFICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGMENTS, AND ASSURANCES

The applicant shall complete and return the Certifications, Acknowledgements, and Assurances listed with the application submission provided in the Application Certification section of the application in SM Apply online portal. The specific items in this section are listed below:

Montgomery County Ethics Questions

Note that individuals employed by partner agencies such as Montgomery College, Montgomery County Public Schools, and WorkSource Montgomery do not count as Montgomery County Government employees for the purpose of this Grant Program. If you are unsure if a position applies please contact the Office of Grants Management for clarification.

Does your organization employ current employees or contractors of the Montgomery County Government? This applies for employees that are paid by your organization but are also paid by Montgomery County Government.

Does your organization's Board of Directors include current employees or contractors of the Montgomery County Government? This applies to volunteer board of director positions.

If you answered yes to either question, please describe the employee(s) role and function as it applies to your nonprofit organization. Answering “yes” to either questions does **not** exclude your organization from being eligible to apply. Instead, we would like to receive this information upfront so that we can allow adequate time for the Ethics Commission to review.

Acknowledgements Agreed to by All Applicants

- ✓ Applicant acknowledges that this grant application may not be revised or altered after submission.
- ✓ Applicant acknowledges that if funding is awarded, the organization will enter into a non-competitive contract or grant with the County.
- ✓ Applicant acknowledges that awards may not be distributed as a lump sum, but may be reimbursed or provided on a fixed schedule after sufficient documentation is submitted to the administering County agency.
- ✓ Applicant acknowledges that any funds submitted for reimbursement must be spent **AFTER** the contract is finalized and a Notice to Proceed is secured.
- ✓ Applicant has cited in this application all individuals affiliated with the organization and this program who are employed by Montgomery County.

Assurances Agreed to by All Applicants

If the grant is awarded, the applicant assures that:

- ✓ The applicant will administer all awarded funds through this PBM Program.
- ✓ Funds received will be used solely for the documented activities within the submitted proposal.
- ✓ The applicant has read and will conform to the program guidelines and any other conditions imposed by the County in connection with the grant.
- ✓ The applicant organization intends to comply with the Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, indicating that no person will be excluded from participation or be denied the benefits of any program, activity or service on the basis of race, sex, sexual preference, color, religion, ancestry, age, national origin, or handicap. The applicant further agrees to make every attempt to ensure that the program is accessible to persons with disabilities.
- ✓ Please note that applications are subject to the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA) (found at Md. Code Ann., State Gov't., §10-611 through -628 (MPIA) and the County must comply with the disclosure requirements of the MPIA when a request for documents is received.
- ✓ The applicant understand that all grantees that receive awards under this Grant Program must show proof of insurance prior to receiving the funds., when requested, must be able to show proof of all insurance coverage required by law.
- ✓ The applicant agrees that any time before final payment and three (3) years thereafter, the County may have the grantee's expenditure statements and source documentation audited.
- ✓ If there are any changes that need to be made to the grant application after submittal or if the organization ceases operations or becomes a subsidiary of another organization, you have the responsibility of notifying the appropriate County administrator.
- ✓ The filing of this application is made by the undersigned individual, officially authorized to represent the applicant organization by its governing board.
- ✓ I hereby certify that information submitted in the grant application is a true and correct statement of facts. I, as a designated legal representative of the Organization, further certify that this Organization shall abide by and be subject to all applicable Federal, State and Local laws and regulations pertaining to any subsequent grant that may be issued.

SECTION IV – APPLICATION DETAILS

Applicants are required to follow the content requirements and submission instructions listed within the online application platform and this Program Details document. Please submit your proposal, as broken out by each of the Task, by filling out the data fields or uploading documents where applicable. Uploaded documents should have clearly titled sections and sub-sections. **Applications will be considered incomplete if any part of any section is missing.**

A. Program Summary

This section of the application should provide the reader with:

- The legal name of the organization as registered with the Maryland State Department of Assessment and Taxation (SDAT);
- Your organization’s mission statement;
- Your organization’s website (optional);
- Contact Information for the organization’s proposal point-of-contact (POC) and the application signatory;
- The name/title of the proposed program;
- Overview of proposed program;
- The requested amount of funding from Montgomery County (between \$50,000 and \$75,000);
- The total cost (includes funding from all sources, if applicable) for the proposed program.

B. Strategy Narrative

The proposal’s Strategy Narrative should answer the following questions within a document of up to three (3) pages. The Strategy Narrative should be uploaded as an attachment, (pdf preferred) within the application platform. If an organization prefers, they may submit their strategy narrative in an alternative format such as a video or audio recording. Because of upload size limits, please post your videos to Youtube or a similar platform and provide a hyperlink to the video within your application. The submission will still need to address the questions below. If a question below does not apply to your proposal, please indicate that it is not applicable within the Strategy Narrative.

- Please describe the underserved community your organization targets and explain your relationship to this community. Why is your organization uniquely suited to have a positive impact on this community?
- What is the issue or need within your target community that this proposal will address?
- How will the proposed project address this issue or need? Please explain in as much detail as necessary.

- What are your organization’s current capabilities to implement the proposed project? Please note your capacity, including human and financial resources, to implement projects as well as past experience.
- What is your organization’s capability to implement this project in a culturally, linguistically, and/or technically proficient way for the target community?
- Overall, how will the requested funding have a positive impact on your organization and target community?
- If a collaboration is being proposed, what work have your organization previously done together? What skills, experience, capabilities, and/or connections does each organization bring to the partnership? How will the roles and responsibilities under the project be separated by organization?

C. Program Budget

The budget for this proposal should contain detailed itemized cost information for all proposed expenses. The Program Budget will be uploaded as an attachment to the application, preferably in MS Excel format. When developing their budget, applicants may propose a multi-year budget of up to three (3) years in length with an estimated inflationary increase for each year. Please also include the value of any cost-shares such as donations, other grants received, and in-kind or pro bono services that you anticipate being donated and that are related to this proposal.

Program Budgets should also include an up to 15% rate for indirect costs. Indirect costs may include general administrative costs such as: legal, accounting, liability insurance, audits, and the like. The grant program does not require a standard budget template so applications should use whatever format meets the basic requirements, provides sufficient detail, and provides the best overview of expected costs under the proposed program.

If applying as a collaboration, please include the appropriate division of budget between the two or more organizations that are applying and include the justification for the allocation.

In addition to other limitations set in this program, program funds cannot be used:

- For lobbying;
- To cover any expenses made prior to the grant award;
- To supplant (replace) funds from other grant sources; or
- To provide services that wholly occur outside of Montgomery County.

D. Budget Narrative/Justification

In addition to a Program Budget, the proposal must include a Budget Narrative/Justification, two (2) page limit, that briefly describes the proposed expenditures. The Program Budget/Narrative Justification will be uploaded as an attachment, pdf format preferred, within the application platform. If an organization wishes to include quotes or back up for prices listed in the budget, they may upload these items in the Other Supporting Materials section of the application.

In addition to including the purpose of an expenditure and an explanation of how costs were calculated, applicants should also address the following, if applicable:

- Applicants should briefly describe their fiscal and grant management practices such as how finances are managed within the organization, what accounting practices they use, and how they track expenses across different grant awards.
- Please briefly outline the source of any cost-share identified in the Program Budget.
- Please specify how your project would be affected if total funding awarded were less than the amount requested. State whether your project could be completed with a smaller amount, and how your projected outcomes would be affected by any funding reduction.
- If your organization does work regionally, please provide us with information to reassure us that the Montgomery County funds will not simply enable you to shift current, non-County monies to operations outside the County but rather will allow you to add to or expand your work on behalf of services in Montgomery County.

E. Program Work Plan/Timeline

This section should outline the implementation schedule of the proposed program over a maximum 12-month grant performance period plus up to two additional outyears if the applicant is seeking multi-year funding. The Program Work Plan/Timeline should have a three (3) page limit and will be uploaded as a pdf attachment within the application platform.

The implementation schedule over the performance period should list:

- The program's objectives and related activities;
- Timeline for implementation and completion; and
- Responsible staff.

The performance period may assume specific start and completion date or cover a generic period of time. The final performance period for an award will be contingent on when the actual grant agreement is signed by all parties. Due to the time needed to review applications and finalize grant awards, proposed programs should not assume a start date earlier than April 1, 2023.

F. Performance Plan

The Performance Plan outlines how you will measure success for your proposed program. This section must include any relevant Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)/metrics, and/or milestones. The Performance Plan should have a one (1) page limit and will be uploaded as a pdf attachment within the application platform. Organizations should expect at least semi-annual financial and performance reporting requirements as a condition of the grant. The performance report will match the

proposed Performance Plan as well as brief general narrative reports on the program's performance.

This program does not require any specific metrics or milestones and organizations are given full flexibility to develop a Performance Plan that fits their proposed strategy.

- **KPI's/metrics:** Provide an outline of the metrics to be collected, targets for each metric, and the data collection method for each metric.
- **Milestones:** List the specific milestone to be achieved, a target date to achieve it, and the impact achieving it will have on the organization.
- **Qualitative/Other Evaluation:** Outline any qualitative or other evaluation methods the program will be using.

As an optional set of metrics, applicants are encouraged to set targets and a collection method for demographic information on the population to be served; as feasible and without impacting the program outcomes.

G. Supporting Documents to be Uploaded

- Most recent IRS 990 Form
- IRS tax-exempt determination letter for nonprofit organizations
- Proof of Maryland SDAT Registration and Good Standing (print screen of organization's SDAT registration page is ideal)
- Current Board list with names and affiliation
- Collaborative partner materials, if applicable
- Program Related Materials (optional)
- Other Supporting Materials (optional)