



**Testimony to the Montgomery County Council on the FY 2023 Budget**  
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**April 20, 2022**

Hello Council President, Vice President, and Councilmembers. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to testify on behalf of Nonprofit Montgomery's almost 200 member organizations and its collective impact initiative, Montgomery Moving Forward.

Nonprofit Montgomery is proud of the partnership we have built with County government, and the work we are doing, with your help, to strengthen the county's nonprofits through training, technical assistance, convening and information sharing. We look forward to working with the new grants office to increase the resources going to nonprofits, especially to those community-based nonprofits with small budgets and minimal staff who are often found in the communities with the greatest needs and the least money.

We greatly appreciate the County Executive's decision to incorporate a 6% across the board increase in all nonprofit contracts and grants in his FY 2023 budget. And we persist in our request to the Council to include an overall 10% increase. This is not an "inflationary increase". Our costs for health insurance, tech, labor, food—just about everything—have risen significantly more than the national 8.5% rate of inflation. This increase will allow us to build the backend support for the extraordinary effort we have put in over the past two years, and that we must maintain to meet the continued high level of demand from community members. It will allow us to pay more competitive salaries, a necessity in the current labor market. And it is an important equity measure, as the starvation budgets of many nonprofits mean few or no benefits for workers performing frontline services.

During this budget process, you will hear from many organizations about the specific needs they see and how they are responding. Nonprofits are innovative, resourceful, and committed to the residents of Montgomery County, but they can't run on fumes. We ask that you add an additional 4% to the budget, for a one-time 10% increase, so that we can do the work Montgomery County residents rely on.

Thank you.