

FY25 OLO Work Program

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Project #1

Funding of Arts Venues in Montgomery County

Principal Agency: County Government

Montgomery County is fortunate to be home to numerous venues that provide residents easy access to music, drama, and other artistic endeavors. Venues such as the BlackRock Center for the Arts in Germantown, the Olney Theater Center, the Fillmore in Downtown Silver Spring, and the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater in Rockville provide County residents with important social, cultural, and economically beneficial resources. The County Government itself owns eight arts venues that are operated by nonprofit organizations (with a ninth venue in development).

Before and since the COVID-19 pandemic, arts venues facing financial difficulties have sought direct County funding to avoid closure. The Council is interested in better understanding the economic situation of arts venues in the County.

To the extent available, OLO will compile data on the financial situation of County arts venues, including the eight venues owned by the County. OLO will seek data from IRS 990 federal tax data, from County Government departments that support these venues (e.g., DGS), and from the nonprofit organizations that operate venues. To the extent possible, OLO will compile data from these organizations from IRS tax filings between 2018 and 2023 to examine how organizations fared during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to data in federal tax forms and to the extent relevant and available, OLO may seek data on:

- Attendance;
- Revenues;
- Bookings; and
- Other key metrics.

OLO will also compile data on nonprofit arts organizations in the County that have received or requested supplemental direct funding from the County Government since 2018 (beyond typical funding provided by the County Government on an annual basis, e.g., funding from the Arts & Humanities Council), including the nature and amount of funding sought or received.

OLO will work with Council central staff to identify other arts organizations, in addition to the organizations that operate County-owned venues, that will be analyzed in this report.

Project #2

Availability of Inpatient Behavioral Health Services for Youth in Montgomery County

Principal Agencies: Department of Health and Human Services

Behavioral health care refers to the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of mental health and substance use disorders, life stressors and crises, and stress-related physical symptoms. The United States is experiencing a significant shortage of available and accessible behavioral healthcare services.

These shortages result in extensive reports of emergency department boarding – holding admitted patients in emergency departments until an inpatient bed is available. This shortage extends to available services for youth. The County Council is interested in better understanding the landscape for behavioral healthcare services for youth in the County.

This OLO report will summarize data on the availability of inpatient behavioral healthcare services for children and adolescents in the County, including the types of public and private facilities available and the availability of services to treat co-occurring disorders. To the extent possible, the report will also summarize data on whether/where County youth find available inpatient behavioral healthcare services if they are not able to find availability in Montgomery County.

Project #3

Best Practices in Budgeting

Principal Agency: County Government

Montgomery County Government currently uses a line-item budgeting process – primarily examining marginal additions and changes to the budget each year. This OLO project will look at resources and research on government budgeting processes to identify and describe best practices. OLO will also look at the budget processes of other similarly sized and organized local governments (e.g., elected legislative branch and elected executive) to identify similarities and differences between their practices and Montgomery County’s practices.

Project #4

Comprehensive Budget Reviews

Principal Agencies: Montgomery County Government

Following the FY25 budget discussions and action, Councilmembers expressed a strong desire for a more comprehensive review of agency and department operating budgets. In response to this, OLO, in partnership with Council Central Staff, will undertake a limited number of more detailed annual budget reviews to assist Council operating budget decision-making. These budget reviews may, among other things, include:

- A detailed breakdown of the major operating budget cost components for the organization;
- A presentation of personnel and operating costs allocated by program or function;
- A description of multi-year spending trends and the major factors that drive spending changes;
- A discussion of the use of performance measures and their relationship to funding decisions; and
- A description of the legislative mandates and governance structures that influence how the organization allocates resources.

While it is not possible to do a comprehensive analysis of all budgets every year, OLO and Council Central Staff hope this becomes an annual collaboration with the goal of rotating through different budgets over time. The specific departments and/or programs/functions to be examined will be decided annually based on input from Councilmembers. For FY26, it is anticipated that OLO will assist Council Central Staff in an analysis of the MCPS operating budget.

Project #5

Council Education and Engagement Resource for BIPOC Youth

Principal Agencies: Montgomery County Government

In 2023, OLO and LIO staff participated in the Center for Urban Pedagogy's Design for Civic Change program with a cohort of government staff from jurisdictions throughout the country. Design for Civic Change is a six month professional development program on community-engaged design that provides training on the principles of inclusive and equitable community engagement.

Since the conclusion of the program, OLO and LIO are continuing to work on a resource to help young people in the County understand the County Council, the local legislative process, and how they can influence what happens in the Council. BIPOC youth and youth-serving organizations will be centered in the project to develop a resource that embeds principles of equitable community engagement and advances RESJ.

Project #6

Crisis Response: Similarities and Differences Among Responders

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Government

In Montgomery County, an individual experiencing a mental health crisis may reach out to a number of different entities for help. Depending on an individual's knowledge of Montgomery County's emergency network, an individual in crisis may call the Emergency Call Center (911), The Crisis Center, 311, 988 and others. State law requires that every public safety answering point use standards-based protocols to respond to callers.

The County Council is interested in understanding what response an individual would get depending on which entity they call in the emergency network. This OLO project will examine and report on the established protocols that each entity uses when responding to specific examples of mental health calls. The review will look at similarities and differences in protocols for call-takers' verbal responses (e.g., questions asked, directions given) and action steps taken in a given scenario. Additionally, recognizing that emergency call-takers are often overwhelmed with calls for service, Councilmembers would also like understand the protocols used by each entity to prioritize individual cases in times of heavy request volume.

Project #7

Design for Life Programs

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Government

Design for Life refers to designing places of living in a way that allows for aging and/or disable individuals to comfortably remain in their homes for as long as possible. Design for Life considers changes that often occur as people age – such as balance issues, reduced vision, decreased mobility, or reduced mental capabilities – and designing living spaces to accommodate those changes. The concepts are based on the principles of universal design or creating spaces that are safe and comfortable for individuals of any age.

Design examples range from making doorways wide enough to support movement from room to room including for people with assisted mobility needs; to adding lighting such as night lights in bedrooms and walkways and in typically unlit places such as closets; to changing door handles, installing grab bars and handrails, or lowering shelves to make activities of daily living easier.

The Council is interested in better understanding the types of successful programs in other jurisdictions that assist individuals in making home improvements that allow them to stay in their homes. This OLO project will examine approaches and programs that other jurisdictions are using to successfully facilitate residents' and developers'/builders' Design for Life efforts.

Project #8

Federal Green Financing

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Government

The federal government provides a range of financing programs and other opportunities for investment in clean energy available to local governments and communities. Opportunities include funding in areas such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy storage, and other clean energy infrastructure. The Council is interested in better understanding the range of opportunities available for green financing. This OLO project will examine the range of opportunities available to the County for federal green financing, information on what steps other jurisdictions are taking to successfully access federal green financing, and opportunities to access or expand green financing working with the Montgomery County Green Bank.

Project #9

Requirements in Functional Master Plans

Principal Agencies: Montgomery County Government, Montgomery County Planning Department

The Planning Department develops functional master plans for issues that span more than one geographic area in the County, such as bicycle infrastructure, water resources, and transit corridors. These master plans impact the design of development projects throughout the County.

For this project, OLO will work with Planning Department staff to analyze and identify whether functional master plans have conflicting provisions that may be at odds with each other, leading to unexpected or potentially undesirable outcomes. OLO will further examine whether the master plans include reconciliation mechanisms that allow reviewers flexibility to triage/prioritize/analyze situations involving competing master plan provisions. Based on the findings, the report will include recommendations of how to resolve conflicting provisions in functional master plans.

Project #10

Long-Range Capital Planning in County Government Departments

Principal Agencies: Montgomery County Government

Long-range capital planning involves projecting population growth, movement, and needs to prioritize and plan for needed infrastructure in coming decades. The process of long-range planning allows a jurisdiction to proactively assess and financially plan for its future needs, including infrastructure replacement and renovation, and can help guide decision-making and next steps if infrastructure fails or if unexpected collaborative opportunities arise.

The process of long-range planning provides opportunities for:

- Understanding projected population growth;
- Strategic thinking regarding future service delivery;
- Incorporating new technologies into service deployment and delivery; and
- Community engagement.

The Council is interested in better understanding past and current long-range capital planning efforts in County Government departments. The report will include an assessment of commonly associated capital needs, like transportation and utilities, but it will also examine the extent of long-range planning in County Government departments for public safety, recreation and libraries, health and human services, housing and community development, and environment.

Project #11

OLO Report to Assess Updates Needed to Public Campaign Financing Law

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Government

In 2014, Montgomery County enacted Bill 16-14 to establish the Public Election Fund, the County's public campaign financing law. After each subsequent election, the County identified additional changes to enhance the law, amending the law in 2018 and 2020.

Bill 16-14 was the first law of its type in the Washington Metropolitan region and in Maryland. Public financing has evened the playing field for many first-time and other diverse candidates. The law limits public funds per candidate for either the primary election or the general election to a maximum of \$750,000 for a County Executive candidate, \$250,000 for a Council at-large candidate, and \$125,000 for a district Council candidate.

The Council is interested in understanding the impacts and effectiveness of the public campaign financing law. This OLO report will:

- Summarize data on use of the public campaign finance law since its initiation;
- Provide research on other public financing laws from jurisdictions around the country and summarize available information on best practices; and
- Identify any relevant amendments the Council should consider in updating the law.

In addition, in order to address inflation, the Council has taken steps to update existing legislation and to incorporate into pending legislation provisions that allow legally established funding amounts to change based on changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Examples include the recordation tax, the senior property tax credit, and the tree canopy conservation account.

The Council would like OLO to analyze the potential fiscal impacts of tying the amount of public financing available to candidates to the CPI and to make recommendations on whether the Council should consider amending the law to do so.

Project #12

Innovative and Best Practices in Government Business Incubators

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Government

Government-run business incubators are programs established by governments to nurture the growth of young businesses in a jurisdiction. Business incubators often provide nascent businesses assistance that can include:

- Office space and equipment;
- Support services such as business, legal, and accounting;
- Mentorship opportunities; and
- Help with access to funding (e.g., government, venture capital, etc.).

Montgomery County has three incubator Innovation Centers – in Germantown (life sciences focus), Rockville (MedTech and other HighTech focus), and Silver Spring (all industries).

The Council is interested in the work of the County's business incubators and in learning more about best and cutting edge practices for government business incubators. With the goal of identifying potential improvements to operation of and outcomes for the County's business incubators, this OLO report will include:

- Data on the County Government's business incubators, resources, operations, use and outcomes;
- A review of literature on best practices for operating successful business incubators; and
- Examples of innovative practices in other jurisdictions' business incubators.

Project #13

Montgomery County Public Schools Budget Equity Project

Principal Agencies: MCPS, Office of Management and Budget, Montgomery County Government

To improve the Council's understanding of how MCPS expends its resources to "ensure every dollar is put to the best use to serve the greatest needs in our schools", this OLO project will describe budget trends by school level and student subgroup (e.g., race, ethnicity, service groups). OLO would work closely with central Council and MCPS staff to understand and describe program budgets for general education, compensatory education, ESOL programs and special education. This project will also describe anticipated demographic trends impacting enrollment, and Blueprint for Maryland and Maintenance of Effort requirements. Indicators that could be tracked for this project include:

- Staffing trends by student subgroup;
- Enrollment by student subgroup;
- Per pupil expenditures by student type and subgroup;
- Per school expenditures by program type; and
- Blueprint for Maryland's Future requirements.

Project #14

Elective Offerings in MCPS Middle Schools and High Schools

Principal Agencies: MCPS

Montgomery County operates 40 middle schools and 26 high schools, which offer an amazingly broad range of courses to students. High School graduation requirements include approximately four credits for elective courses, which include world languages and can include courses in areas such as music, communications, STEM, justice and law, history, economics, and physical education. Students may begin taking elective classes for high school credit while in middle school.

World language and other elective offerings vary significantly from school to school and students may not have access to a desired foreign language or other type of elective in their home school. While students may be able to arrange to take coursework at another school, requiring transportation between MCPS campuses during the school day, logistical difficulties oftentimes make that option very difficult and/or not feasible.

For example, some middle schools allow students to begin taking foreign language in 6th grade while others require students to wait until 7th grade to begin studying a foreign language. In addition, some middle schools offer only two levels of a foreign language. If a student began taking a language in 6th grade at a middle school that only offered two levels of the language, the student as an 8th grader would be required to travel to a high school to take the third level or would have to choose to not take the third level at all in the 8th grade year.

Councilmembers are interested in better understanding how MCPS funds and makes decisions about which schools will offer which options for elective coursework in middle and high schools. While language is used as an example in this description, this OLO report will examine the range of elective coursework offered in MCPS schools.

Project #15

Non-Competitive Contracts

Principal agencies: Montgomery County Government

Montgomery County Government routinely uses non-competitive contracts to provide direct services to residents through nonprofit partners. County law states that the County can award a contract:

[W]ithout competition if the Chief Administrative Officer makes a written determination that the contract award serves a public purpose and:

- (1) there is only one source for the required goods, service, or construction which can meet the minimum valid needs of the County, including timeliness of performance;
- (2) the contract is in connection with potential or pending litigation, condemnation, or collective bargaining;
- (3) a proposed contractor or subcontractor has been specifically identified in a grant accepted by the County; or
- (4) a proposed contractor has been identified in an appropriation resolution approved by the Council.¹

The Council's annual resolution approving of and making appropriations for the County Government's operating budget includes Section G, which lists entities designated for a non-competitive contract in the upcoming fiscal year, the purpose of the contract, and the maximum amount that may be awarded to each entity. Section G typically includes hundreds of identified contracts, the majority of which are managed by the Department of Health and Human Services.

The County Council is interested in better understanding the process(es) and time related to developing and implementing non-competitive contracts and, if possible, identifying potential opportunities to improve the processes. Accordingly, this OLO report will review:

- Data on the County Government's non-competitive contracts and contract trends;
- The County Government's non-competitive contract process(es), including how the County identifies, negotiates, drafts, approves, executes, and manages non-competitive contracts;
- The process(es) used to initiate new or amend existing contracts during the fiscal year; and
- Whether and under what circumstance the County deviates from its normal procedures and processes for non-competitive contracts.

The report will also review whether the Executive Branch periodically reviews non-competitive contracts to be competitively bid and, if so, the processes involved. The review will include trend data on the

¹ Montgomery County Code § 11B-14(a).

number of non-competitive contracts that have subsequently been put out for bid compared to the number that are routinely renewed from year-to-year.

Project #16

Tax Breaks

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Government

Montgomery County provides a number of tax breaks to its residents, businesses and other entities in order to advance various policy goals. These take the form of tax credits, tax deferrals, and tax exemptions. The Department of Finance publishes a significant amount of data about these tax breaks annually in its *Tax Expenditure Report*. The data in the *Tax Expenditure Report* typically document the amount a tax break costs in lost revenue to the County, the number of recipients of each tax break, and information on the history of the tax break.

This OLO report will provide an in-depth summary of the use of these various tax breaks over time, a discussion of who benefits from them and, if possible, a historical summary of each tax break and the arguments made in support of their initial passage. Additionally, OLO will examine the “take up” rate of these various tax breaks (the percentage of people/businesses eligible a tax break that actually use it) and, where possible, analyze whether a tax break has advanced the policy goals for which it was initially created.

Project #17

Chronic Absenteeism/Truancy in MCPS

Principal Agencies: Montgomery County Public Schools

On September 23, 2023, the White House released a briefing on Chronic Absenteeism in schools. The report states:

In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, one study found that the number of public school students who are chronically absent—meaning they miss at least 10 percent of days in a school year, whether excused or unexcused—has nearly doubled, from about 15 percent in the 2018-2019 school year to around 30 percent in 2021-2022. These large increases in absenteeism are widespread: every state for which data were available in this study saw significant increases in rates of chronic absenteeism between the 2018-2019 and 2021-2022 school years. Disparities in levels of chronic absenteeism across racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic lines also widened.²

The County Council wants to better understand how chronic absenteeism and truancy have impacted Montgomery County Public Schools. This OLO report will examine absenteeism and truancy in Montgomery County with a particular focus on changes since the pandemic. Additionally, it will examine programs and procedures that are in place to try to limit chronic absenteeism in Montgomery County. Finally, this report will explore efforts made by other jurisdictions to prevent chronic absenteeism and truancy in their jurisdictions.

² [“Chronic Absenteeism and Disrupted Learning Require an All-Hands-on-Deck Approach,”](#) The White House (Sept. 23, 2023).

Project #18

Availability of Youth Behavioral Health Treatment Programs

Principal Agencies: Montgomery County Government, MCPS

This report follows the Council's interest in youth behavioral health and access to services. Project #4 on OLO's FY24 work program asked OLO to summarize data on the availability of inpatient behavioral health services for youth in the County, including both public and private facilities. This OLO report will focus on 1) describing publicly funded behavioral health treatment programs for youth (e.g., HHS, MCPS, Corrections); and 2) assessing the availability of private behavioral health treatment providers in the County through a survey of providers. Among other things, the report will examine whether and how County-led and MCPS-led treatment programs interact and/or work together and whether there are obvious gaps in the treatment systems.

Project #19

Assignments as Needed

Principal Agencies: All

The needs of Montgomery County residents are constantly changing and as such the Office of Legislative Oversight has left room in its Work Plan for supplementals as requested by Councilmembers when needed.

FY25 OLO Work Program Projects Ongoing

Project #20

Staff Support for the Council's Audit Function

Principal Agency: All County-funded agencies

Council Resolution 16-826, adopted January 27, 2009, calls upon the Council's Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee "to continue to strengthen the Council's independent review and oversight of the County's financial reporting, management control, and audit activities." When performing these functions, the GO Committee meets as the Council's Audit Committee, with the Council President and Vice President serving as ex-officio voting members. The resolution requires the GO Committee to meet as the Council's Audit Committee at least four times a year.

Council Resolution 16-826 assigns the Office of Legislative Oversight the responsibility to coordinate staff support for the GO Committee when it meets as the Audit Committee. During FY25, the Committee is scheduled to receive regular updates from the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and the Office of Internal Audit (OIA), discuss relevant OIG and/or OIA reports, submit an end-of-year report to the Council, receive a report from the County's external auditor on the results from the audit of the FY24 financial statements, and address other issues as needed.

As directed by the Council resolution, OLO will ensure that the Committee receives "assistance from the Council staff, the Office of the Inspector General, Executive Branch and other County agency staff, and contractors with appropriate expertise" in carrying out its "oversight of financial reporting and risk assessment."

Project #21

Management of the Council's Independent Audit Contracts

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Government

Section 315 of the County Charter requires the Council to contract with a certified public accountant to perform an annual independent audit of the County Government's financial statements. The Council also contracts for the annual audit of the financial statements of the employee retirement plans and the Montgomery County Union Employees Deferred Compensation Plan.

Since 1991, the Council has assigned the Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) the responsibility to act as the Council's contract administrator and provide support to the Council during the period of audit engagement. OLO carries out these responsibilities with oversight and guidance from the Council's Audit Committee. The Audit Committee consists of the members of the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee (GO), with the Council President and Vice President serving as *ex officio* voting members.

The FY25 Independent Financial Audit NDA funds the independent audits of the FY24 financial statements issued by the County Government, the employee retirement plans, the consolidated retiree benefits trust, and the Montgomery County Union Employees Deferred Compensation Plan. FY25 is the first year of the Council's latest contract with SB & Company to provide audit services.

Project #22

Climate Assessments

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Government

Since January 1, 2023, the Office of Legislative Oversight is required to prepare a climate assessment for each new bill introduced by the Council. Per the requirements of Bill 3-22, the climate assessments evaluate the “potential positive or negative effects, if any, of the bill upon climate change,” which includes greenhouse gas emissions and community resilience.

Each assessment includes the following sections:

- Summary of the bill’s impact on the County’s contribution to addressing climate change, including impacts on greenhouse gas emissions and community resilience;
- Description of the bill;
- The sources of information, assumptions, and methodologies used;
- Quantitative or qualitative evaluations of the identified effects upon greenhouse gas emissions and community resilience; and
- Works cited.

Further, for bills that are anticipated to have a negative impact on the County’s contribution to addressing climate change, OLO is required to identify amendments or other recommendations that would reduce or eliminate any anticipated negative effects of a bill.

In FY25, OLO will continue producing a climate assessment for each new bill introduced by the Council.

Project #23

Economic Impact Statements

Principal Agency: All County-funded agencies

Since March 1, 2020 the Office of Legislative Oversight has been required to prepare an economic statement for each new bill introduced by the Council. Per the requirements of Bill 10-19, the economic impact statements evaluate the “costs and/or benefits to private organizations and individuals in the County attributable to a change in the law.”

Each statement includes the following sections:

- Summary of the bill’s impact on private organizations and residents in the County and its overall impact on the County economy;
- Description of the bill;
- Discussion on the sources of information, assumptions and methodologies used to arrive at the estimates and conclusions made in the analysis;
- Description of the variables that could affect the economic impact of the bill;
- Analysis of the costs and benefits of the bill for businesses and residents, focusing particularly on eight outcomes—workforce, taxation policy, property values, incomes, business operating costs, capital investment from the private sector, economic development, and competitiveness;
- Questions related to the economic impacts of the bill for Councilmembers to consider; and
- Works cited.

In FY25, OLO will continue producing an economic impact statement for each new bill introduced by the Council.

Project #24

Minimum Wage: Economic Indicators

Principal Agency: OLO

On November 7, 2017, the County Council passed Bill 28-17 (Sec. 27-20A) "Human Rights and Civil Liberties -- County Minimum Wage" which required that the minimum wage in Montgomery County for all employers reach \$15.00 by the year 2024. Additionally, the bill required that the minimum wage increase with inflation unless the County Director of Finance determines that certain economic conditions have not been met.

To ensure that businesses in Montgomery County and the County economy as a whole are not adversely impacted by the County's minimum wage increases, Bill 28-17 also required that the Office of Legislative Oversight "provide to the Council, by January 31 of each year, a report containing data related to the implementation of the County minimum wage and the local economy." The Council did not specify the variables to be included in this annual report.

OLO Report 2019-1 (released January 15, 2019) identified and reported on 17 high-level economic indicators and compared the County with the performance of nine surrounding jurisdictions to serve as a benchmark for future years. The report offered guidance about how to interpret the meaning of changes in these indicators as related to the County's minimum wage law and described the relationship between the variables and other factors affecting the County's economy. This project was last updated in January 2024.

The OLO report due in January 2025 will review and update these economic indicators.

Project #25

Employee Compensation in the FY26 Operating Budget

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Government

During Spring of 2025, OLO staff will team with Central Council staff to prepare analyses for Committee and Council work sessions on employee compensation matters in the FY26 operating budget. This project is similar to OLO's operating budget-related assignment in recent years.

Project #26

Racial Equity and Social Justice Impact Statements for Zoning Text Amendments

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Planning Board

In 2020, the County Council passed amendments to the Racial Equity and Social Justice Act requiring the Director of the Office of Legislative Oversight to complete Racial Equity and Social Justice Impact Statements (RESJIS) for all proposed zoning text amendments. Further, Bill 44-20 requires the completion of these RESJIS within 21 days of ZTA introduction and the development of an equity tool to conduct the RESJ ZTA impact assessments. OLO assumed these responsibilities on August 1, 2021.

Since September of 2021, OLO has been producing RESJIS on ZTA's that assess their anticipated impact on racial and social inequities impacting residents of color and low-income communities in Montgomery County. When warranted, the RESJ ZTA impact statements describe the intersection between the ZTA proposed and race, data on racial and social inequities, and proposed amendments for advancing racial equity and social justice.

Project #27

Racial Equity and Social Justice Policy Handbook, Part 2

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Government

A RESJ Policy Handbook describing research-informed policies and practices for reducing racial and ethnic disparities could inform OLO's racial equity impact assessments and the County's overall efforts to establish and implement racially equitable policies and practices. Relying on research and subject matter experts, this second part of the RESJ Policy Handbook project would identify best practices for narrowing racial and ethnic inequities in three policy areas: (a) PreK-12 Education and Child Well-Being; (b) Health; and (c) Public Safety. Each handbook chapter will also describe the intersection between the policy area and race, and local data on disparities in the policy area by race, ethnicity, and income.

Project #28

Racial Equity and Social Justice Impact Statements for Bills

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Government

In 2019, the County Council passed the Racial Equity and Social Justice Act requiring the Director of the Office of Legislative Oversight to complete Racial Equity and Social Justice Impact Statements (RESJIS) for all proposed legislation within 21 days of introduction. The RESJ Act also required OLO to develop a tool to apply a racial equity and social justice lens in the development and review of proposed legislation. OLO assumed these responsibilities on August 1, 2020. OLO will continue to produce RESJISs that assess the impact of proposed legislation on racial and social inequities impacting Black, Indigenous, and Other People of Color (BIPOC) and low-income communities in Montgomery County. When warranted, RESJISs will describe the intersection between the proposed policy and race, data on racial and social inequities, and proposed amendments for advancing racial equity and social justice.

Project #29

Revenue Estimating Group

Principal Agency: Montgomery County Government

Bill 6-21, Finance - Revenue Estimating Group – Established, enacted by the County Council on March 16, 2021, amended the County Code to establish the Revenue Estimating Group. The duties of the Group include regularly reviewing and analyzing revenue attainment; developing revenue forecasts; developing a methodology to forecast revenue; and providing quarterly reports on revenue projections to the County Executive and the County Council. As stipulated in Bill 6-21, membership in the Revenue Estimating Group must include one or more representatives from the Office of Legislative Oversight. OLO staff will participate in the work of the Revenue Estimating Group as required by the County Code.