OGM August Community Forum

August 4, 2025

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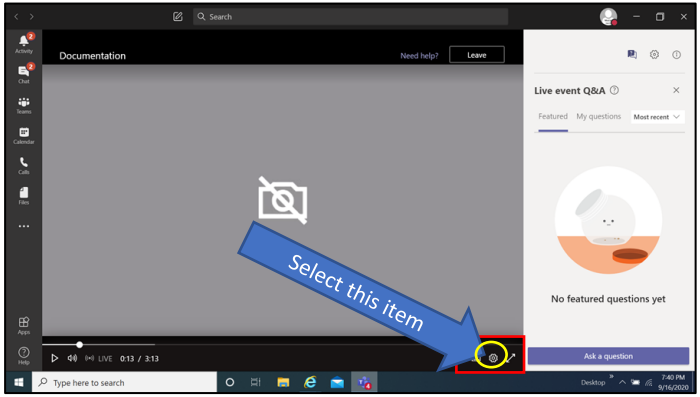

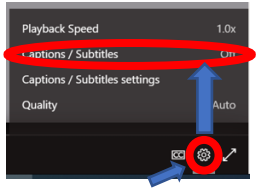

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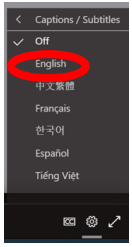


You then select the language of choice

It will then display the language chosen

Disclaimer

The translations provided in this application use what is referred to as mechanical translation technology. Although this method of translation is very effective and provides a high rate of accuracy it is NOT 100% word for word accurate. Things that may affect it are the quality of the microphone used and potentially a person speaking that may have an accent.

Montgomery County Office of
Grants Management

August 2025 Community Forum

August 4, 2025

Who is OGM?

In coordination with the Office of Procurement, Office of Management and Budget, and Department of Finance, OGM develops countywide policies and procedures regarding grants management that are consistent with the County's racial equity and social justice goals.

OGM has two areas of focus:

Incoming Grants

We empower Montgomery County Government's executive branch by leveraging federal, State, and private grants.

Strategically using grants to supplement County tax dollars, enables the expansion of both new and existing programs and service. This enhances the County's ability to serve its residents more effectively and efficiently without raising taxes.

Outgoing Grants

We foster positive community impact through the administration of competitive grants programs and issuing grant agreements that align with County priorities and enrich the lives of County residents.

The Outgoing Grants team prioritizes the success of grant applicants and awardees by delivering guidance, applicant training resources, and thorough information on compliance requirements. Together, we strive to empower initiatives that drive meaningful change and enhance the well-being of our community.

Community Forum Agenda

- OGM Updates
- Grant Advisory Workgroup
- FY26 Grant Programs Overview
- Special Topic: **Understanding the County Grant Approval Cycle**
- Q&A

OGM Updates - Administration

- **Welcome Greg!** - OGM is excited to welcome Greg Weissman as our second Outgoing Grants Program Manager II.
- **Federal Budget Landscape –** Spending a significant amount of time on understanding evolving federal landscape resulting in delays in launches to grant programs. Download **OGM's July 31, 2025 presentation to nonprofits** and a **timeline of federal impacts with best practice recommendations**.
- **FY25 Grant Programs** – Closed out all FY25 Grant Programs successfully with no funds expiring. Grant programs without expiring funds faced delays.
- **Restarted OGM Community Forums, Forecast, and Newsletter –** With FY crunch behind MCG, OGM will be consistently updating these products.

OGM Updates - Website/Tool Changes

- **Grant Program Forecast is now a website, not a download -** Based on stakeholder feedback, added a **Grant Program Forecast website** and tab on home page.
- **Resources for Awardees page:** Reorganized page with reporting Templates for NTAMS, UCP, and Other OGM Administered Awards. Contact your Grant Monitor for reporting guidance for other grant programs
- **Renewals and Reporting –** Launched renewal and reporting modules for previous grant program recipients.
- **Scheduling Multi-Year Award Renewals -** Starting with FY26 the renewal schedule and links for multi-year grant program awards will be posted on the Grant Program Forecast and Newsletter

Advisory Workgroup on Strategic Planning for County Grants

The workgroup's goal is to recommend strategies to:

- Develop a proposed strategic plan for the Community Grants program;
- Make recommendations for resolving and transition the Community Grants Legacy awards; and
- Develop proposed criteria and process for the annual Cost Sharing: CIP grants program.

- Held **second meeting on July 30, 2025** to discuss recommendations for Cost Sharing Capital Grants, Grant Program Standardization, and Grant Data
- **Next meeting date and time TBD**; open to public
- More information, meeting minutes, and resources can be found on the **Advisory Workgroup website.**

Outstanding Grant Program Updates

- **FY25 Grant Programs:** All applicants to the final round of FY25 Grant Programs have been sent Notification Letters detailing the results of these competitions. Lists of award winners have been posted on the **updated OGM Grant Program Results page**.
- **FY26 School-Based Food Assistance Grant Program:** The application window closed on July 14, 2025. The 15 applications submitted that passed Administrative Review are currently undergoing technical reviews by subject matter experts and are expected to be complete by the week of August 6th.

Currently Open FY26 Grant Programs

- **FY26 Healthy Communities Fund (HCF) Grants Program**: *Opened August 1, 2025 and closes August 29, 2025.* The Asian American Health Initiative, part of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Community Affairs, and the Office of Grants Management (OGM) are soliciting grant applications from qualified 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) nonprofit organizations to administer culturally and linguistically appropriate programs and services that improve the health and wellness of Montgomery County residents with a particular focus on Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with other community organizations to ensure a coordinated, community-driven approach that maximizes resources.
- **FY26 Food Recovery Network Coordination Grant Program**: Opened July 21, 2025 and closes August 18, 2025. The Office of Food Systems Resilience (OFSR) and the Office of Grants Management (OGM) are soliciting grant applications for the County's FY26 Food Recovery Coordination Grant Program to support the design, implementation, and ongoing coordination of a centralized Montgomery County Food Recovery Network (FRN) that improves operational efficiency at the organizational and network levels, leverages new resources, and boosts collaboration across the network of food recovery operators. A single grant for a total of $125,000 will be made available to fund one award to an eligible non-profit organization that demonstrates experience in coordinating community partners and does not directly distribute recovered food.

Currently Open FY26 Multi-Year Renewals

- **FY26 Community Grant Award Renewal**: Organizations with a current (FY25) Community Grant multi-year award should have received a Notification Letter in mid-May from the Office of Grants Management informing them of this opportunity, directing them to the appropriate module, and providing detailed instructions on how to submit their proposal.
- **FY26 Legacy Grant Award Renewal (aka Bridge Grants)**: Organizations with a current (FY24 or FY25) Legacy Grant (aka Bridge Grants) award should have received a Notification Letter in mid-May from the Office of Grants Management informing them of this opportunity, directing them to the appropriate module, and providing detailed instructions on how to submit their proposal.
- **FY25 Underserved Communities Project (UCP) Grant Award Program Renewal:** Awards are currently being finalized and are expected to be sent to grantees for final review/signature by the week of August 4th.

- If you have any questions, please contact OGM at grants@montgomerycountymd.gov.

August FY26 Grant Program Forecast (1 of 2)

- **FY25 Nonprofit Incubators Grants Program:** *(Anticipated launch in Early August, 2025).* The goal of this grant program is to compete out funds to nonprofit providers for the administration of Nonprofit Incubators serving nonprofits throughout the County. OGM seeks innovative proposals that explore administrative shared serves, micro-grants administrative needs, common workspaces, as well as sustained coaching, mentoring, and community building for incubator participants. $1 million is available for this grant program with OGM anticipating 2-3 multi-year awards ranging from $300,000 to $500,000 per year.
- **FY26 Cost Sharing Capital Grants (CSCG) Program - Stage Two**: *(Anticipated re-launch in Early August 2025)* OGM is soliciting grant applications from qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations seeking to implement capital projects that help provide access to resources, direct services, historical preservation, cultural enrichment, and/or other benefits to Montgomery County residents. The FY26 competition will again be **limited only to projects that have an existing State capital award for the same project. Applicants that missed Stage One will still be able to submit an application** so long as they meet all other eligibility conditions. The application structure and requirements will not change significantly from **the FY25 CSCG Grant Program**.
- **FY26 Community Food Assistance Grant Program:** *(Anticipated Launch: Early August 2025)*: The FY26 Community Food Assistance Grant Program will solicit applications from food assistance provider organizations to support the 1) purchase and/or ***(new in FY26)*** recovery and 2) distribution of shelf-stable, fresh food, and/or prepared meals to Montgomery County residents on at least a monthly basis in zip-codes throughout the County. This program will increase access to locally sourced, culturally relevant food options among residents experiencing food insecurity.

August FY26 Grant Program Forecast (2 of 2)

- **FY25 Community Projects Fund Administration Grant Program:** *(Anticipated launch in late August 2025)* The goal of this grant program is to compete out to a nonprofit provider the administration of the Community Project Fund pool of resources. The award winner will also be responsible for providing coaching, mentoring, and sustained technical assistance to small, emerging, and volunteer led nonprofit applicants and award winners for this pool of resources. $1.2 million is available for this grant program and OGM anticipates making a single award to one partner.
- **FY25 Nonprofit Technical Assistance and Management Support Grants Program:** *(Anticipated launch in late August 2025)* The goal of this grant program is to compete out funds to nonprofit providers for the administration of Nonprofit Incubators serving nonprofits throughout the County. OGM will seek innovative proposals that help prepare County nonprofits to independently and successfully apply for win, implement, and comply with County, other local jurisdiction, private, State, and federal awards. This award may include a sub-granting component. $2 million is available for this grant program with OGM anticipating 4-5 multi-year awards ranging from $300,000 to $500,000 per year. Portions of this funding pool may be integrated into the FY25 Nonprofit Incubator and FY24 Community Projects Fund Administration Grant Programs.

September FY26 Grant Program Forecast

- **FY26 Local Food Aggregation Grant Program:** *(Anticipated launch in early September 2025)* Multi-year grant opportunity awarding $550,000 in year-one for operating and build-out costs to establish an aggregation facility for locally produced food, with the goal of helping to meet current and future wholesale and institutional market demand for these products.
- **FY26 Nonprofit Security Grant Program:** *Estimated launch in late September 2025.* The Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEMHS) is soliciting grant applications from nonprofit or faith-based organizations located in Montgomery County that are at a high risk of experiencing hate crimes. Funding may be awarded to augment costs for security personnel, planning, training, or security cameras. 6, see the **FY25 Nonprofit Security Grant Program NOFO** for information on last year's competition.

Spring FY26 Grant Program Forecast

- **FY26 Food as Medicine Grant Program:** *(Anticipated launch Spring 2026)* $750,000 of funding for innovative programs that connect pediatric patients experiencing diet-related disease and food insecurity to nutritious food assistance and education. While changes may be made in FY26, see the **FY25 Food as Medicine Grant Program application page** for information on last year's competition.

TBD FY26 Grant Program Forecast

- **Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund Grant Program:** Bill 4-24 "Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund Commission – Established," allows a portion of cannabis tax revenue to be directed to Montgomery County communities most harmed by the so-called War On Drugs. Through this grant program the County will support community-based initiatives intended to benefit low-income communities and that serve disproportionately impacted areas of the County. Total awards are estimated at $1 million. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is supporting the commission as they develop this grant program.
- **FY26 Emerging Business District Grant Program:** *The launch date for this grant program is still under consideration.* The Community Engagement Cluster (CEC) is soliciting grant applications under the County's FY 2026 Emerging Business Districts Grants Program, which aims to establish Business Improvement Districts or Urban District Corporations within Montgomery County by subsidizing the formation and support of non-profit commercial district management entities to conduct place making, place management, branding, and economic development activities in a designated neighborhood. While changes may be made in FY26, see the **FY25 Emerging Business District Grant Program application page** for information on last year's competition.
- **FY26 Place-Based Management Grants Program:** *The launch date for this grant program is still under consideration.* The Community Engagement Cluster (CEC) will solicit grant applications from qualified organizations providing direct services that support economic growth and revitalization strategies and services across the County's commercial corridors. While changes may be made in FY26, see the **FY25 Place-Based Management Grants Program application page** for information on last year's competition.

Understanding the County's Grant Approval Cycle

"Why does it take so long for my grant to get signed?"

Grant Competition Stage 7: Notification Stage

- After the CAO returns an approved award list, **OGM and departments focus on notifying all applicants of the results and pivoting to developing grant agreements with award winners**
- OGM and departments develop draft Notification Letter templates for both award recipients and unsuccessful applicants
- Award Notification Letters include detailed next steps instructions and multi-year award confirmation
- Sometimes a third Notification Letter is developed for partial award winners or applicants who need to modify their proposal in some way for the grant
- OGM integrates data from Euna to populate the Notification Letters and departments perform a quality check before distribution
- OGM (or sometimes departments) transmit the Notification Letters first to award winners and then unsuccessful applicants via email and soon Euna too.
- **This stage ends when the list of award winners is publicly posted. Grant approval is a different cycle.**

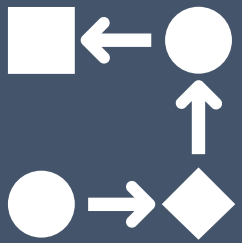
Grant Approval Stage 1: Grant Agreement Compilation

- **OGM begins compiling application documents into grant agreements**
- For partial or changed awards from proposals, Recipient can upload revised proposal info to reflect actual award.
- Download application data and merges into grant agreement template(s)
- Download attachments (i.e. budgets) and compiles into single pdfs
- Quality Check of mail merges of data and compilation of materials
- Transmits package to department Grant Monitors for review and approval
- **Transmits full grant agreements to Recipient for review and signature**

Grant Approval Stage 2: Recipient Review

- **Recipient reviews full grant agreement**
- Recipient can raise questions, issues, and/or propose changes
- These are negotiated with Department, OGM, and possibly the Office of the County Attorney
- Depending on the request, changes may be made.
- **Recipient signs and returns the full grant agreement, OGM cannot accept just the signature page.**
- Signed grant agreement's via email are most common but OGM accepts other methods (i.e. mail or drop off)

Grant Approval Stage 3: Administrative Procedure (AP) 2-4



- **OGM submits the Recipient signed grant agreement, and supporting documents, into the AP 2-4 platform for Office of the County Attorney (OCA) review and signature**
- OCA reviews full grant agreement for form and legality
- They may identify problems and request/require changes to grant agreement
- Also need proof of:
  - Council/CAO approval of award
  - Funding availability from the Office of Management and Budget
- **OCA signs and returns to OGM**

Grant Approval Stage 4: Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Review and Approval

- **OGM transmits the Recipient and OCA signed grant agreement, along with supporting documents, to the CAO for his review and signature**
- CAO grant agreements can, and usually are, signed by someone the CAO has designated authority to sign
- Grants under $100,000 can be, and almost always are, signed by the OGM Director
- Grants at $100,000 or more are almost always signed by another designee with more authority
- CAO, or designee, may identify problems and request/require changes to grant agreement; though this is very rare
- **CAO signs and returns to OGM grant agreement**
- Recipient can now start implementation

Grant Approval Stage 5: Direct Purchase Order (DPO) Creation

- **After CAO (or designee) signature, OGM (or sometimes the department) submits a request for a DPO to the Department of Finance**
- The request includes the grant agreement and all back up documents
- A DPO encumbers (commits) the funds to a specific grant agreement and allows charges to be made against it.
- The County cannot distribute a funds for a grant without a DPO.
- The Department of Finance conducts a **thorough, independent** review of all materials and the grant agreement
- If issues are found, they must be corrected and a new DPO request submitted.
- **The approved DPO and grant agreement are then transmitted to the recipient**
- Recipient can submit requests for payment as determined in the grant agreement

Grant Approval Stage 6: Euna Clean Up

- **OGM "moves" awarded applications in Euna from the Application module to Award module; unlocking new functionality**
- OGM staff upload grant agreement, DPO, and other key documents to application/award
- As applicable, OGM gives Grant Monitor and Grant Administrator access to the award
- Recipient automatically has access and can provide new accounts access as well, or shift ownership of award
- Recipient can submit progress reports, financial reports, and requests for amendment
- Some Departments (OFSR) use their own reporting platforms
- **Recipient implements award with Department monitors overseeing award.**

Typical Delays in the Grant Approval Process

Recipients

- **SDAT Good Standing -** can't legally move forward without SDAT Good Standing
- **Organization Turnover -** can't reach anyone in the organization to move grant forward
- **Not Following Instructions -** can't process submissions until they are in compliance

MCG

- **Staff Capacity** – competing projects and tasks delaying processing, reviews, and/or approvals (thank you CE and Council for an OGM Lawyer!)
- **High Award Volume** – limited number of awards can be reviewed in a given day even if a priority
- **Back Up Documentation Delays** – Support documents not collated on time or correctly

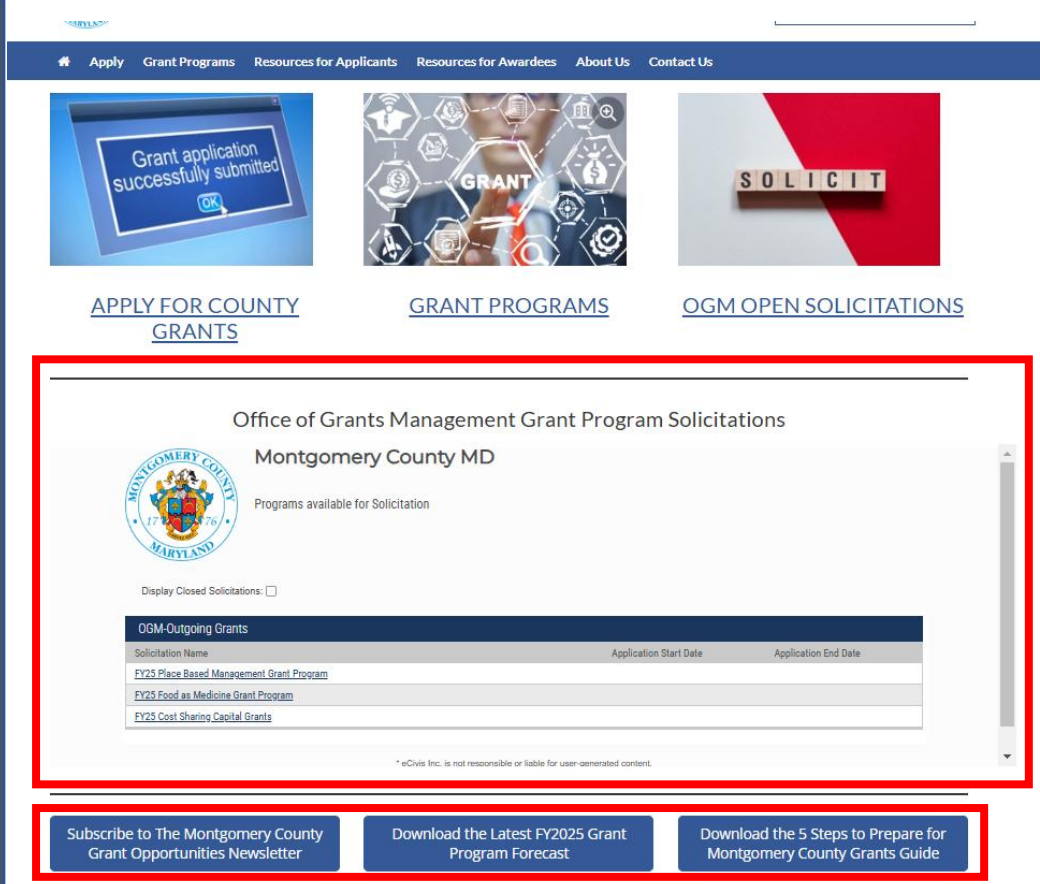
Why is there such a long process to review and approve grants/DPOs?

Peter Bang

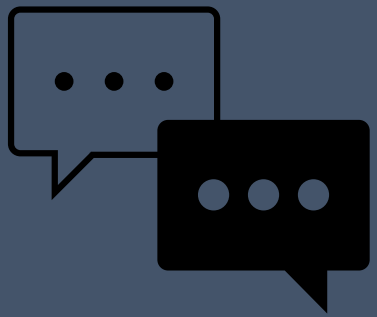
- MCG employee found guilty in 2017 of stealing $7 million from the County
- Led to a series of reforms and new processes in County government to prevent this from happening again
  - Washington Post Article #1
  - Washington Post Article #2
  - Washington Post Article #3
  - Bethesda Beat Article
  - OIG Report on Incident
  - Follow Up OIG Report
  - Forensic Report on Incident
  - Leggat Admin Press Release Outlining New Policy Requirements
- **Oversight and due diligence important for stewardship tax-funded grants**

Restructured OGM Homepage

- Euna Grants listing embedded in homepage
- Key resource links emphasized in buttons



OGM Communication Tools

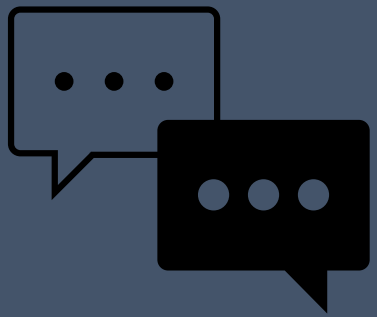


Websites

- **OGM County Website** - information site with resources, links, and other useful information https://montgomerycountymd.gov/ogm/
- Euna Grants (eCivis) – OGM's **NEW** grants management platform https://portal.ecivis.com/#/login

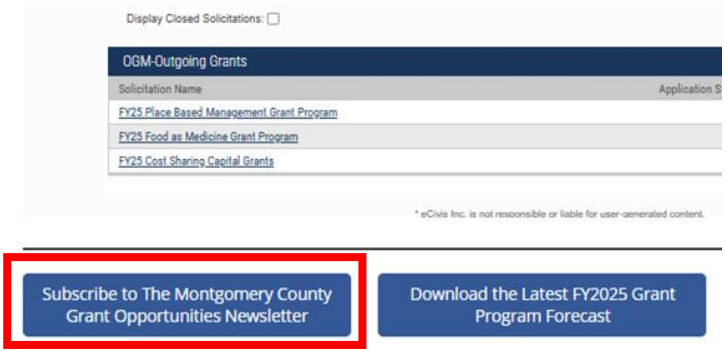
OGM will STOP sending mass emails from Outlook as these do not reliably reach recipients

OGM Communication Tools



Montgomery County Grant Opportunities Newsletter

- Short-term, actionable, and FIRM County CGPs as well as updates on closed CGPs and other events
- Goal is to give partners a clear, reliable, and consistent view of County opportunities
- Will also include updates on closed (but not awarded) grant programs, non-County grant opportunities, and grant related events
- Updated and sent weekly on Tuesday or Wednesdays with special bulletins as necessary



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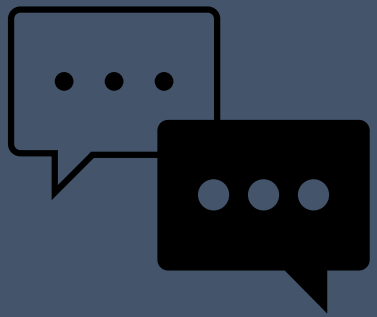
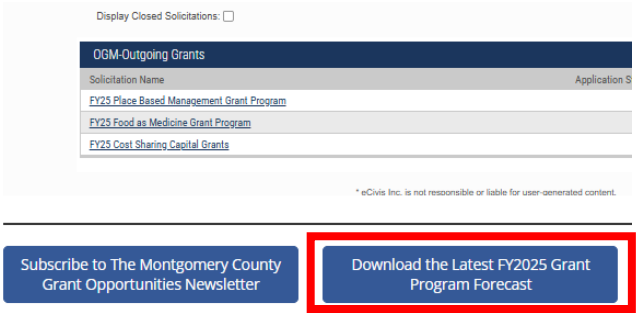


FY25 & 26 Grant Program Forecast

- Medium to long-term projection of upcoming County competitive grant programs (CGPs)
- Goal is to allow partners and OGM to predict and plan for future opportunities
- Living document that is subject to change as departments develop new grant programs
- New items and details posted as they firm up
- Reviewed, updated (if necessary), and reposted weekly to the same link
- **Will be converted to new html page on our website**



Euna Grants (eCivis) Applicant User Guides

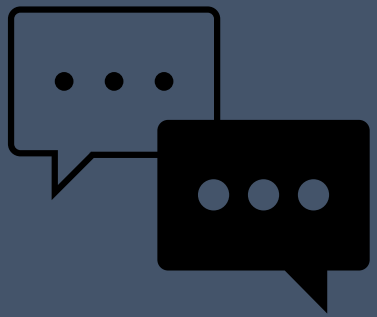
Create a Euna Grants (eCivis) profile at https://portal.ecivis.com/#/login

- A on-demand **training video** covers both how to set up a new Euna Grants profile.
- **Training video slide deck** can be downloaded with useful hyperlinks.

Download the following User Guides:

- **Logging into Your eCivis Portal Account**
- **Reviewing and Submitting your application**
- **Transfer Application Ownership**
- **Guide for Applicants**, including budget assistance

OGM Email Contact Changes



Pre Award OGM Contact

For questions on…

- **Upcoming, open, and closed grant programs**
- **Issues with Euna Grants**
- **Feedback sessions on submitted applications**

Email grants@montgomerycountymd.gov
(Address now monitored by 3 OGM staff)

Post Award OGM Contact

For questions on…

- **Status of County grant agreement approvals and Direct Purchase Orders (DPOs)**
- **How to submit payments and check their status**

Email grantsadministration@montgomerycountymd.gov
(Address now monitored by 3 OGM staff)

Your questions for OGM…

?

Please type your question into the MS Teams "Q&A" Bubble

What future topics do you want to see? Grant agreement structure? Grant approval cycle?

Please email us any future questions or ideas at grants@montgomerycountymd.gov