

**Office of the County Auditor**  
**Auditor's Analysis**

**Council Bill No. 43-2021**

Introduced: June 7, 2021

Auditor: Edward Shulder

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Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact of this bill (as amended by Amendment 1) is an increase of \$43,461,781 in grant appropriations to provide pandemic support. This bill will increase the County's operating budget by this amount. Specifically, it will increase the budgets of the Departments of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and Finance by \$9,459,907 and 34,001,874, respectively. County revenues may increase to the extent that DHCD submits and is reimbursed by the Federal government for costs in administering grants it receives.

Purpose:

The purpose of this bill is to amend and increase the FY 2021 budget to receive various Federal grants in response to the COVID-19 pandemic described in more detail below.

Other Comments:

**Emergency Rental Assistance: \$7,702,895**

This grant will provide emergency rental assistance (including utilities) in addition to the \$9,735,056 previously received for this purpose. According to DHCD, it has granted funds totaling \$5,550,000 to its nonprofit partners to provide rental and utility assistance. As of May 31, 2021, these agencies have been reimbursed \$2,232,745 to serve 331 households. This grant allows for 10 percent in administrative expenses. The DHCD will determine hours spent administering this grant and submit this for reimbursement as June 30, 2021.

**HOME: \$1,757,012**

This provides assistance for the production or preservation of affordable housing including homelessness prevention, housing counseling, and similar services. The grant is administered by nonprofit partners in coordination with DHCD. Similar to the Emergency Rental Assistance grant, DHCD may recover 10 percent in administrative expenses and plans to submit costs for reimbursement at the end of FY 2021.

**FEMA Health Department: \$1,0343,712**

Received through the Howard County Health Department (HCHD), this grant will cover the payroll costs of County employees working at vaccination clinics for January through June 2021. Finance is in the process of compiling the related information.

**The Mobile Integrated Community Health: \$250,000**

The Mobile Integrated Community Health Grant received through HCHD reimburses the cost of providing on-call vaccination services by the Department of Fire & Rescue Services. The Department of Fire & Rescue Services provides vaccinations to County Residents who cannot visit a County site for a variety of reasons. The County will be reimbursed for costs through June 2021 not to exceed the grant amount.

**The American Rescue Plan Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds: \$31,630,732**

This amount represents the first payment to the County under this program. These funds can be used to support a variety of pandemic related issues including replacing lost revenue, supporting vital public services, retaining jobs, supporting economic stabilization, and making investments in infrastructure. The County has four years to spend these funds.

**The American Rescue Plan – Non-Profits-Local Government Program Grant: \$1,077,430**

This can be used to provide funds to local non-profits who show documented need. To the extent practical, these grant funds should go to non-profits who have not received funds through previous grant programs.

Although not specifically a result of this bill, DHCD requested a position in the FY 2022 budget to provide additional support for grant oversight. It estimated that grants received will increase from approximately \$2 million annually to over \$20 million in FY 2021. This position will increase DHCD expenditures by \$74,900 in FY 2022.