PRINCE

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of Audits and Investigations

October 27, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert J. Williams, Jr.

Council Administrator

William M. Hunt

Deputy Council Administrator

THRU: Josh Hamlin

Senior Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

FROM: Warren E. Burris, Sr.

Senior Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

RE: Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement

CR-104-2021 FY 2020 Annual Action Plan Reallocation (DR-1)

<u>CR-104-2021</u> (proposed by: Council Chair Hawkins by Request of the County Executive; Introduced by: Council Members Hawkins, Turner, Davis, Dernoga, Ivey, Harrison, Franklin, Taveras and Glaros)

Assigned to Committee of the Whole (COW)

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE FISCAL YEAR ("FY") 2020 ANUUAL ACTION PLAN FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNIY DEVELOPMENT for the purpose of amending the Prince George's County Fiscal Year ("FY") 2020 Annual Action Plan for Housing and Community Development in order to allow for change in use of Emergency Solutions Grants COVID-19 ("ESG-CV") Program Funds, in the amount of Three Million Four Hundred Thousand Eight Hundred Ten dollars (\$3,400,810) from existing activities to an existing eligible activity.

Fiscal Summary

Direct Impact:

Expenditures: None as funds are being reprogrammed from FY2020 Annual Action Plan

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Revenues: None

Indirect Impact:

Likely Positive

Legislative Summary:

CR-104-2021, proposed by the County Executive and sponsored by Council Members Hawkins, Turner, Davis, Dernoga, Ivey, Harrison, Franklin, Taveras and Glaros, was introduced on September 28, 2021 and referred to the Committee of the Whole. The Public Hearing was held on October 26, 2021. CR-104-2021 seeks to reallocate \$3,400,810 of FY 2020 ESG Program Funds to support an existing eligible program activity in the Annual Action Plan.

Current Law/Background:

The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act, enacted March 27, 2020) and the US Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) awarded billions of CDBG Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds to the state CDBG and local governments to address the resource needs caused by the nationwide Coronavirus pandemic. There were three rounds of COVID-CV funding distributed by the federal government.

The County's Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has received COVID-CV funding to address the needs of the residents because of the pandemic and public emergency. Whereas the availability of these funds was not previously known nor anticipated, the DHCD must amend its Annual Action Plan to the Community Development Block Grant by adding program activities not originally funded or described in its FY 2020 Annual Action Plan.

In accordance with 24 CFR § 91.505, and pursuant to Prince George's County Code Section 15A-107, when amending its approved Consolidated Plan, CR-024-2019, DHCD must complete a Substantial Amendment that has to be approved by HUD. The jurisdiction shall amend its approved plan whenever it makes one of the following decisions:

- To make a change in its allocation priorities or a change in the method of distribution of funds:
- The addition of an eligible activity not originally funded or described in the Annual Action Plan; or
- A change in the location, description, regulatory reference, national objective citation, and status of an eligible activity originally described in the Annual Action Plan; or
- A change in the use of CDBG, HOME, Program Income, or ESG funds, exceeding \$250,000 from one existing activity to another existing eligible activity in any category within applicable program.

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Therefore, the FY 2020 Annual Action Plan of the five-year Consolidated Plan must be amended to included proposed activities for the ESG-CV funds received by DHCD that were not previously discussed or described in the Annual Action Plan.

Resource Personnel:

- DHCD Staff
- Council Administration

Discussion/Policy Analysis:

The source of the reprogrammed activity funding is found in Attachment A. The \$3,400,810 reprogrammed funds come from the five (5) eligible activities and are re-allocated to the Emergency Shelter Program. The funds came from Street Outreach (\$173,903), Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) (\$110,000), Rapid Re-Housing (\$3,619,000), Homeless Prevention (\$416,400), and ESG-CV Administration (\$149,519).

• Potential Benefits of Adopting CR-104-2021

Adoption of CR-104-2021 would provide assistance and resources needed to address concerns from the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 is a national pandemic that caused a disturbance in the County and residents' ability to go about normal work and daily activities. Due to the scope and size of the impact of the pandemic, the County still faces challenges in meeting the needs of the residents. These reprogrammed funds and changes in scope of services will assist in meeting the needs of the residents.

• Potential Costs of adopting CR-104-2021

Adoption of CR-104-2021 would represent no costs as the funds are being reprogrammed from FY 2020 Annual Action Plan (CR-024-2019).

Fiscal Impact:

Direct Impact

Adoption of CR-104-2021 would have no fiscal impact as the funds are being reprogrammed from FY 2020 Annual Action Plan (CR-024-2019).

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Indirect Impact

Adoption of CR-104-2021 may have a positive indirect fiscal impact through community resources and services to residents and businesses impacted by the public emergency.

Appropriated in the Current Fiscal Year Budget

No

Items for Committee Consideration:

✓ Consider discussion of the Rapid Re-Housing Program. The original budget was \$3,619,000 and this legislation re-allocates \$2,939,000. Since the program was budgeted at this level, were there issues and challenges in expending these funds and/or are there additional funds to address the Rapid Re-Housing concerns. This could be extremely important as the now that CDC moratorium has been lifted, there will be a challenge for many people to stay in their homes and Rapid Re-Housing will be instrumental in getting people quickly re-housed. We have already discussed that many people in the County have not received their Emergency Rental funds; therefore leaving them exposed and vulnerable for being removed from their homes.

Effective Date of Proposed Legislation:

The Resolution shall become effective as of the date of its adoption.

If you require additional information, or have questions about this fiscal impact statement, please reach me via phone or email.