



**Sharon Strauss**  
**Executive Director**

**The mission of the Montgomery County Community Action Agency is to advance social and economic mobility among communities and neighbors through services, partnerships, and advocacy using an equity lens**

# Montgomery County Community Action Agency

**Overview:** Small staff, highly engaged, supporting HHS' Covid Response

- **Partners:** (Contracts): 50+ local non-profit partners
- **“TESS”** Takoma East Silver Spring Community Action Center:
  - 750+ per month; Virtual + on-site emergency assistance.
  - 2Gen/Whole Family: adding opportunity coach + parent support
- **Head Start:** CAA is the grantee (MCPS is the Delegate).
- Openings NOW and 21-22 SY.
- New MMF partnership, the BASICS, launched in Gaithersburg
- **VITA:** Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, EITC and taxpayer education
  - Free tax help, “VIRTUAL VITA”
- **Community Active Board:** Governance for CAA and Head Start
  - Active, independent advocacy with low-income people
- **Resources:** Community Needs Assessment, Faces of Poverty, Self-Sufficiency Standard



A vibrant, stylized illustration of a town square. In the foreground, a large, ornate fountain with a green top and a colorful base (red, yellow, blue) is the central focus. Behind it, a white building with a yellow roof and several windows stands on a green lawn. The background is filled with various colorful patterns and shapes, suggesting a lively community environment.

## **Community Partners**

### *Contract Monitoring + Support*

31 Nonprofits with 51 Contracts

- Legal
- Social Services
- Emergency Food, Utilities, and Clothing
- Employment & Training
- Youth Development
- Community Engagement

# The Basics

An initiative with MMF, serving parents and caregivers of children age 0-5 in zip code 20877

MCPS and Pre-K and Head Start programs at Emory Grove, Summit Hall, Washington Grove, Gaithersburg, and South Lake Elementary Schools Identity, Inc. Sheppard Pratt (formerly Family Services, Inc.); Montgomery County Public Libraries; Department of Health and Human Service, Early Childhood Services; Montgomery County Infants and Toddlers Program; HOC, Fatherhood Initiative; City of Gaithersburg; Department of Recreation



Maximize Love,  
Manage Stress



Talk, Sing,  
Point



Count, Group  
and Compare



Explore through  
movement and play



Read and  
Discuss Stories

**Head Start /  
Pre-Kindergarten  
Programs**  
**FREE PRESCHOOL**  
for 4 Year Olds from  
Income-Eligible Households

**Register Online!**  
[montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org)  
Search "Head Start"

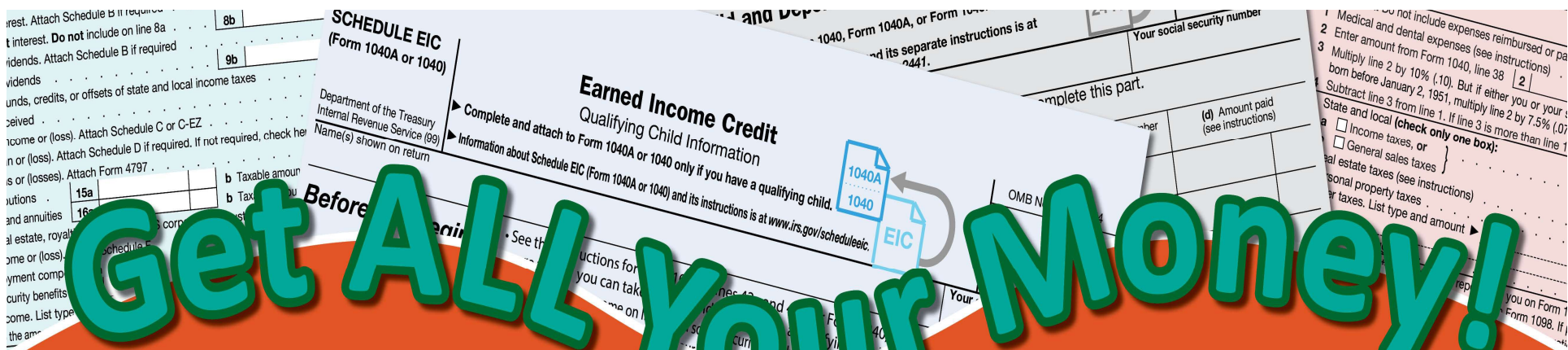


**240-740-4530  
or MC311**  
TTY Users Dial 711, MD Relay



[basicsmocomd@gmail.com](mailto:basicsmocomd@gmail.com)

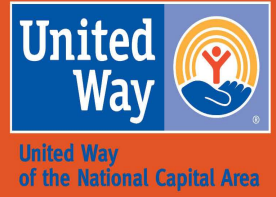
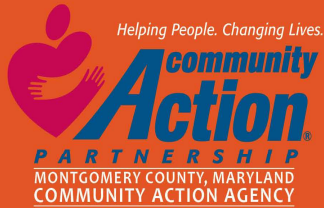




# Get ALL Your Money!



Claim Your  
Earned Income Tax Credit!  
[montgomerycountymd.gov/CASHBACK](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/CASHBACK)



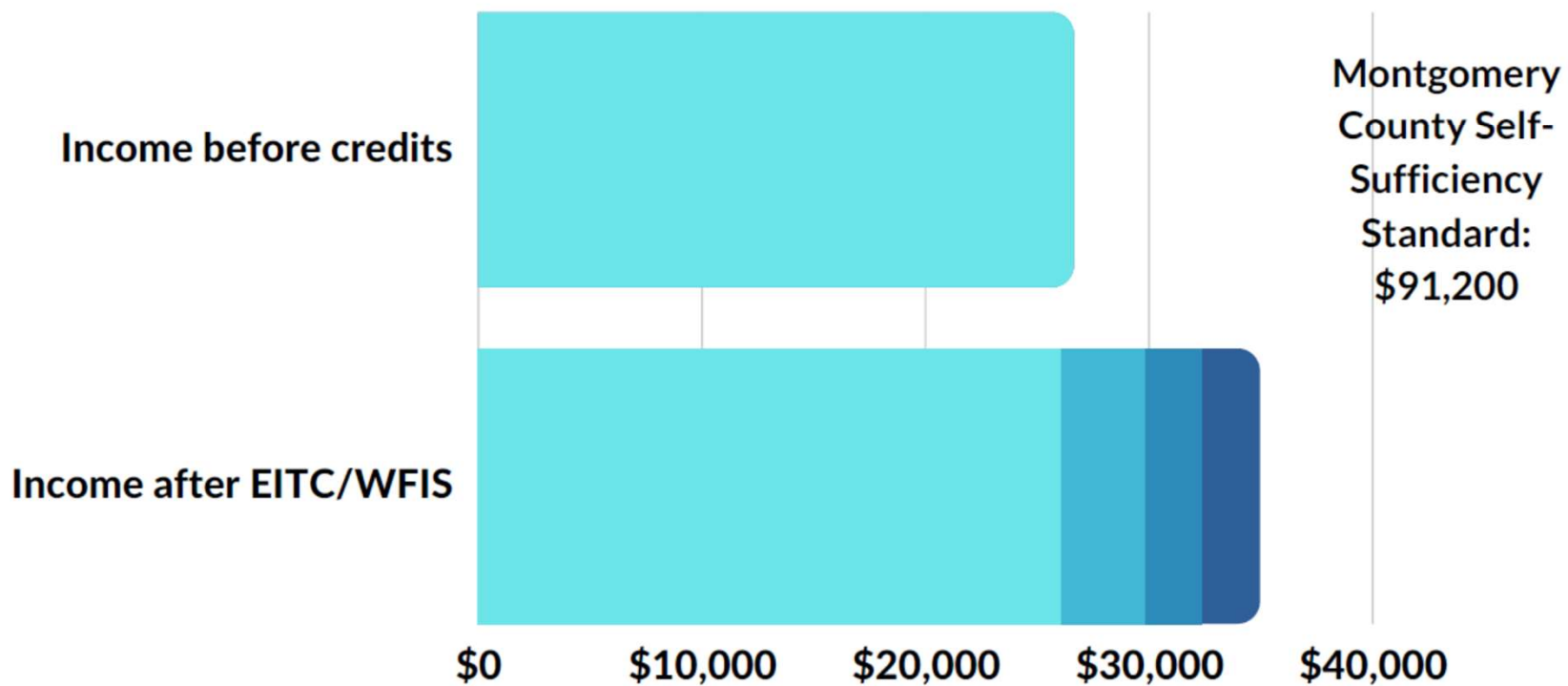
# Maryland Relief Act Updates

MORE economic assistance to low-income families and small businesses. MAJOR expansions of the state EITC for tax years 2020 through 2022.

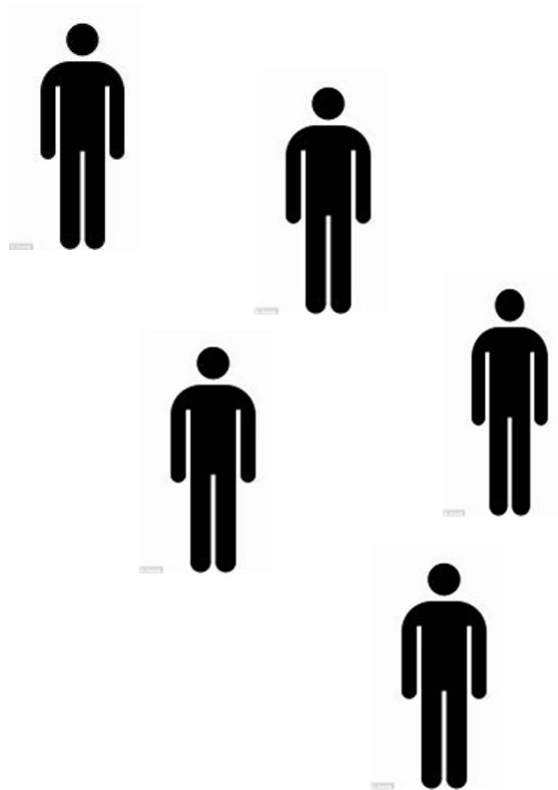
- *Increases the refundable portion of Maryland's EITC for tax returns including dependents to 45% of the federal credit, up from 28%. This is expected to increase the average credit to about \$1,100, affecting about 45,000 Montgomery households.*
- *Increases the refundable portion of the EITC for filers not claiming dependents on their taxes to 100%, or a max of \$530. This will increase the average benefit from about \$75 to \$375, affecting about 21,000 Montgomery residents.*
- *A second bill expands the EITC to include all immigrant taxpayers filing with ITINs. About 5,300 Montgomery households pay taxes using an ITIN and meet EITC income and eligibility.*

# Montgomery's County's Working Family Income Supplement

Example: Married couple, 2 kids



# CSBG CARES: *NAVIGATORS*



5 Navigators serving Hubs, hired through Athena

Multilingual, culturally competent staff receive intensive training

Use the eICM to assess needs, initiate applications, provide referrals to assure access to public and private resources

Connections with HHS and trusted community groups/non-profits enhance access to assure equity, better serving diverse/hard-to-reach communities

*Supported by a Project Coordinator*



## CSBG CARES:

**\$250K in Rental Assistance  
through DHHS' Services to End  
and Prevent Homelessness**



*To serve an estimated  
63 households*

