



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Public Health
Department No.: 041
For Agenda Of: March 15, 2022
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5ths

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD
Director Public Health Department
Contact Info: Timothy Watts, MPH 680-6942
Health Equity Coordinator, Public Health Department
SUBJECT: California Equitable Recovery Initiative (CERI) Grant to address COVID-19 and
Advance Health Equity; Salary Resolution Amendment

County Counsel Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management, Human Resources

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve, ratify and authorize the Director of Public Health to accept an award from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Award Number CERI-21-23-35 (Attachment A), in support of the California Equitable Recovery Initiative (CERI) being funded by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to address COVID-19 health disparities among populations at high-risk and underserved with a one-time funding amount of \$590,951 for the period of September 1, 2021 through May 31, 2023;
- b) Approve and authorize budget revision request No. 0008004 (Attachment B) in the amount of \$282,700 to establish appropriations in the Public Health Department budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22 for salaries and benefits and services and supplies funded from unanticipated revenue from CDPH;
- c) Adopt the attached Salary Resolution amendment (Attachment C), which allocates to the Public Health Department one (1) 1.0 FTE Health Educator (job class code 3910) and one (1) 1.0 FTE Health Education Associate (job class code 3903) effective March 21, 2022; and
- d) Determine that the recommended actions are not a "Project" with the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and are exempt per CEQA Guideline section 15378(b)(4),

since the recommended actions are the creation of governmental funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

These items are on the Agenda to authorize the Director of Public Health to accept an award of \$590,951 as a one-time California Equitable Recovery Initiative (CERI), funding opportunity to support the Public Health Department's (PHD) Health Equity efforts countywide. The Public Health Department will be using the funds to address health equity work, including COVID-19 related health disparities among underserved and high-risk populations, including racial and ethnic minority populations and rural communities. With the grant funding, PHD intends to increase its position allocations by adding two additional health equity staff: an additional Health Educator position and an additional Health Education Associate position.

Background:

Historically and contemporarily under-resourced communities suffer a disproportionate burden from negative health outcomes including disease, hospitalization, and death. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed longstanding inequities that have systematically undermined the physical, social, economic, and emotional health of racial and ethnic minority populations and other population groups that bear an incommensurate burden of illness from the virus that causes COVID-19. Health equity work aims to identify and mitigate or eliminate barriers to care, which has the potential to improve overall population health in Santa Barbara County.

Dedicated PHD Office of Health Equity staff not only execute projects, but also support and guide other departmental staff to incorporate health equity principals into their work. Examples of this work include expanding existing, or developing new mitigation and prevention resources and strategies to reduce COVID-19 related disparities among populations at higher risk for infection. Additionally, building, leveraging, and expanding infrastructure support for COVID-19 prevention and control among populations that are at higher risk and underserved. Upon approval of this item, staff will also work to mobilize partners and collaborators to advance health equity and address social determinants of health as they relate to health disparities among populations at higher risk for disease burden, and those that are underserved. Santa Barbara County has been awarded \$590,951 from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) through the California State Department of Public Health (CDPH) to support the hiring of 2.0 FTE additional health equity staff, consisting of a 1.0 FTE Health Educator and a 1.0 FTE Health Education Associate and for training materials and consultants to provide training of departmental staff in matters pertaining to increasing their ability to identify and address health inequities.

The CERI activities described herein are supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$590,951 with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS. The contents this Board Letter are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

Performance Measure:

PHD will provide progress reports to CDPH detailing the success of measurable objectives specified in the Department's approved Work Plan.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

The County would receive one-time funding of \$590,951 to support the ongoing health equity work in the County of Santa Barbara. These funds will be used to provide 1.0 FTE Health Educator and 1.0 FTE Health Education Associate for the Office of Health Equity and for materials and consultants to provide Department-wide trainings that equip staff with knowledge and skills to better address health inequities that exist in Santa Barbara County.

Budget Revision Request #0008004 will amend the Fiscal Year 2021-22 budget for \$282,700 to increase appropriations and revenue from this grant award and the difference is included in the FY 2022-2023 Recommended budget.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

Add 2 new

FTEs:

Add 2.0

Special Instructions:

Please email one (1) copy of the minute order and one (1) copy of the fully executed Salary Resolution to Tracy Rogers, Workforce Planning Analyst, Human Resources Department at trogers@countyofsb.org.

Attachments:

- A. CDPH CERI Grant Award Addressing Health Disparities Allocation Letter
- B. Budget Revision Request (BJE #0008004)
- C. Salary Resolution

Authored by:

Timothy Watts, MPH, Health Equity Coordinator