



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 12, 2024  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** 4/5

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Mouhanad Hammami, Director,  
Director(s) Public Health Department (805) 681-5102  
Contact Info: Rynn Schumacher, Deputy Director, (805) 681-5435

**SUBJECT:** California Strengthening Public Health Initiative Funding Allocation

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management, CEO Budget

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve, ratify, and authorize the Director of Public Health, or designee, to make certifications and to accept Award No. CASPHI0035 for \$866,749 in California Strengthening Public Health Initiative (CASPHI) funding through the State's spending plan for Public Health Infrastructure Investment. Funding for these activities is covered for the period beginning December 1, 2022 through November 30, 2027 from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH); and
- b) Approve and authorize Budget Revision BJE 0009159 in the amount of \$173,350 to establish appropriations for \$173,350 of unanticipated revenue from California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to fund strengthening public health infrastructure investment for FY 2023-2024 in the County's financial system (Attachment B); and
- c) 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:**

This item is on the Agenda to request your Board to authorize the Public Health Director to accept an allocation of \$866,749 in California Strengthening Public Health Initiative (CASPHI) funding allocation through the State’s spending plan for Public Health Infrastructure Investment. Funding is provided to address strengthening public health infrastructure and advancing capacity to address equity.

**Background:**

The COVID-19 pandemic is the largest and most pervasive public health emergency in recent California history. California Department of Public Health and Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs), such as the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department (PHD), were required to simultaneously maintain core responsibilities and engage in an emergency response at a scale never experienced before. While California's COVID-19 response has been successful across several measures, it has also exposed new challenges and illuminated opportunities for the County to be more equitable in emergency response strategies, and its pursuit of health equity.

These challenges are particularly pressing, given increases in the number and severity of different types of emergencies, communicable disease outbreaks, and rising rates of chronic health conditions in an aging population; the public health infrastructure is eroding and threatening the public's health. This is coupled with the fact that in the last decade, funding for public health departments has dropped nationally by sixteen (16) percent and public health departments have lost roughly one quarter of their workforce over the same period.

PHD will use CASPHI funds to hire one (1) FTE with the goal of the position is to

- create and implement a plan for embedding health equity into emergency response functions for the department,
- work with departmental and program leadership to adopt the embedding health equity into emergency response planning,
- create and adopt a strategic communications plan for emergencies, conduct a self-assessment for capacity to address health inequities with a dedicated emergency response component,
- support the Central Coast Capacity Building Collaborative for Community Health Workers and Promotores as a crucial component of strategic communications,
- support growth in the department’s capacity to address health inequities internally and externally,
- and train staff on best practice (e.g., contracting and procurement, language justice, strategic communications, health equity-focused policy support, etc.) to better equip the department and county in mitigating health inequities in the event of future emergencies.

**Performance Measure:**

PHD will provide quarterly semi-annual progress reports on objective progress to CDPH as well as semi-annual expenditure and hiring reports. Reporting includes progress on Strategic Communications Plan, Department Self-Assessment, and Completion of training cohort.

**Contract Renewals and Performance Outcomes:**

N/A

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: No, BJE 0009159 requested for authorization to establish FY 23-24 budget.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b>Funding Sources</b>	<b>Current FY Cost:</b>	<b>Annualized On-going Cost:</b>	<b>Total One-Time Project Cost</b>
General Fund			
State			
Federal	\$ 173,350.00	\$ 173,350.00	
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 173,350.00	\$ 173,350.00	\$ -

**Narrative:**

The CASPHI award letter was received in February 2023, after budgets had been completed for FY 2023-2024. It is a five-year award retroactive to December 1, 2022. There were no expenses for December 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. The annual amount is \$173,350 for a total of \$866,749 (see Attachment A funding letter; funded thru November 30, 2027).

Budget Revision Request #0009159 will amend the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget for \$173,350 to increase salaries and benefits and services and supplies appropriation and revenue from this grant award.

This program is supported by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$866,749 with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS. The contents 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.

**Key Contract Risks:**

Funding is conditional as all recipients are required to have a minimum of 1.0 FTE of staff capacity with roles and responsibilities dedicated to advancing health equity and/or eliminating health disparities. Public Health has employed a fulltime Healthcare Coordinator in the Office of Health Equity since January 25, 2021 and plans to hire one (1) additional FTE within the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department’s Equity, Wellness, Promotion, and Prevention program. Although this grant award reflects one-time funding, the FTE created will be supported in future years through already identified funding sources, such as state grant funding from Futures of Public Health.

**Staffing Impacts:**

<b>Legal Positions:</b>	<b>FTEs:</b>
0	0

**Special Instructions:**

Please execute one (1) Minute Order for pick up by the department. Please email the PHD Contracts Unit at [PHDGROUPContractsUnit@sbcphd.org](mailto:PHDGROUPContractsUnit@sbcphd.org) when available for pick up.

**Attachments:**

- A. CASPHI Allocation Letter Award Number: CASPHI0035
- B. CASPHI Acknowledgement of Allocation Letter
- C. Budget Journal Entry Number BJE-0009159

**Authored by:**

Timothy Watts, Office of Health Equity, Health Equity Coordinator