



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:** November 7, 2023  
**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  
Contact Info: Paola Hurtado, Assistant Deputy Director (805) 805-698-2418  
Primary Care and Family Health  
**SUBJECT:** Bridge Access Program FY 23/24 & FY 24/25

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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 Public Health Department Director to accept and receive funding for the County's Federally Qualified Health Centers through the Health Resources and Services Administration Grant Award H8LCS51497-01-00 from the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Grants for New and Expanded Services Under the Health Center Program as funded through a sub-account in the Payment Management System (PMS) for the period of September 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024 in the amount of \$56,818 (Attachment A); and
- b) Approve and authorize Budget Revision BJE #0009362 in the amount of \$56,818 to establish appropriations for \$56,818 of unanticipated revenue from the Federal Government for Health Resources and Administration supplemental funding for personnel expenses supporting COVID-related activities (\$4,618) and COVID testing supplies (\$52,200) for FY 2023-24 and 2024-25 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 is exempt per CEQA Guideline section 15378(b)(4), since the recommended actions are government fiscal activities which do not involve 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 authorize the Public Health Department (PHD) to accept a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) from the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Grants for New and Expanded Services Under the Health Center Program for activities that supplement and do not supplant planned activities that are using other funds to support delivery of both COVID-19 vaccines and treatments.

**Background:**

Over the last two years, the federal government has implemented the largest adult vaccination program in U.S. history, with nearly 700 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines given to 270 million Americans. Due to the end of the federal government's Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19 in May 2023, free COVID-19 vaccinations and testing kits were discontinued, resulting in a gap in access to these resources for uninsured adults. In response to this change, the Federal Health and Human Services (HHS) Department announced the HHS Bridge Access Program for COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatments Program to maintain broad access to COVID-19 vaccines for millions of uninsured Americans.

The Bridge Access Program is a one-time funding opportunity for Fiscal Years 23/24 and 24/25 for health centers to continue essential COVID-19 related services and mitigate adverse impacts of COVID-19 on underserved populations as vaccines and therapeutics move to the commercial market.

The Bridge Access Program funding supports the following allowable activities:

- COVID-19 testing,
- COVID-19 vaccination,
- Community COVID-19 vaccination events,
- Personnel who support COVID-19-related services and care delivery,
- COVID-19 therapeutics,
- Patient support services (such as outreach, education, enrollment assistance, transportation, translation, and care coordination) to support COVID-19-related services; and

The Bridge Access Program funds will allow the PHD to purchase COVID-19 testing supplies to serve those without health coverage.

**Performance Measure:**

HRSA requires that PHD use the funds to assist patients in accessing vaccinations for COVID-19. PHD must budget and report on activities to HRSA on a periodic basis. Other than budget information and activities list, no specific performance measures are expected.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: No

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost</u>	<u>Annualized on-going cost</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General			
State			
Federal	\$ 56,818.00	\$ -	\$ 56,818.00
Fees			
Other:			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 56,818.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 56,818.00</b>

Approving and authorizing the Public Health Director to accept the HRSA Bridge Access Program grant will allow the Public Health Department to maintain and support COVID-19 testing and vaccination. The Health Center COVID Vaccine program ended in August 2023, and free COVID-19 vaccinations and testing kits were discontinued. This grant will fund COVID-19 testing supplies and staff to administer the testing. This budget revision request is necessary to establish appropriations of \$56,818 for the grant in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget.

This program is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$56,818 with 100 percent funded by HRSA. The contents of this Board Letter are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit HRSA.gov.

**Key Contract Risks:**

Multiple policies, procedures, and training are in place to minimize risks.

Any risks identified with this grant are reduced by the length of the grant period, no required commitment to a specific project, and the shared purpose of providing essential COVID-19-related services and mitigating adverse impacts of COVID-19 on underserved populations.

**Staffing Impacts:**

**Legal Positions:**

0

**FTEs:**

0

**Special Instructions:**

Please return an electronic copy of the Minute Order to the PHD Contracts Unit at [PHDGROUPContractsUnit@sbcpd.org](mailto:PHDGROUPContractsUnit@sbcpd.org)

**Attachments:**

- A. HRSA Notice of Grant Award H8LCS51497-01-00
- B. Budget Revision Request BJE #0009362

**Authored by:**

Paola Hurtado, Assistant Deputy Director, Public Health Department