



**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: 5/20/08
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Elliot Schulman, MD, MPH, Director and Health Officer
Director Public Health Department
Contact Info: Anne Patterson, RD, MPH, 681-5279

SUBJECT: Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Program Revenue Contract Amendment

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes No N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes No N/A

Other Concurrence:

As to form: Yes No N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

Approve and authorize the Public Health Director to execute Amendment A03 to the revenue agreement #05-45796, with the California Department of Public Health WIC Supplemental Nutrition Program to increase the WIC budget for the period of October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008 in an amount not to exceed \$78,810, increasing the total contract amount from \$7,285,380 to \$7,364,190.

Summary Text:

The Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program is a 100% federally funded program for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding and non-breastfeeding post-partum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, which administers the WIC program at the federal level, is providing an inflationary adjustment to states, due to the rising costs of providing services.

The State WIC Program is providing additional funds to local programs to reflect the growth in the number of participants statewide. In Santa Barbara County, we are seeing an increase in low-income women and children in requesting WIC assistance. The base grant adjustments will be on-going, and will be included in the new three year contract for FFYs 2009-2011.

In addition to adjustments to cover the increased costs of operating the WIC program, the increase in funding also requires a new local agency function: to coordinate vendor support activities. The WIC

food package is changing for the first time in the program's 35 year history. It will include a greater variety of healthy foods, in alignment with current nutrition guidelines.

The funding will enable Santa Barbara County WIC to hire a Registered Dietitian to work with State staff, county grocers, local agency staff and WIC participants to ensure that the appropriate communication, education and training occurs for successful implementation of the food package transition. Without this funding we would not be able to provide this new, required function. The amendment will also fund a .5 Registered Dietitian to complete counseling with WIC participants regarding meeting their nutritional needs. This funding is built into the base amount provided by the federal government to the local government and will be included in the next three year contract beginning in October of 2008.

This is not a mandated program. Receipt of these funds obligates the County to comply with requirements under Federal Title VII, Agriculture USDA, Chapter II, Part 246, Public Law 94-105. The Federal Regulations specify that local agencies have competent staff and the capability to perform WIC certification procedures, refer clients to health care services, provide nutrition education, implement a food delivery system, and maintain accurate programmatic and fiscal records.

Background:

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is a federally funded program that provides nutritious food (via prescriptive checks), nutrition assessment and education, breastfeeding promotion and support, and referrals to health care to high-risk, low-income women and children up to the age of five. Applicants must earn less than 185% of the federal poverty level in order to be income eligible for services.

The purpose of the WIC Program is to prevent poor birth outcomes, such as infant mortality and low birth weight, and to improve the nutrition and health of participants. Multiple scientific studies have shown WIC to be a cost-effective and positive public health intervention.

Participants receive nutrition and breastfeeding education and monthly food instruments (coupons) for specific foods purchased at local markets of their choice. Foods include milk, cheese, eggs, iron-rich cereals, beans, peanut butter, juice and infant formula. WIC services are offered countywide, through sites at Public Health Department offices and other community sites. WIC clinics are located in Carpinteria, Santa Barbara, Solvang, Lompoc, Guadalupe, Cuyama, and at two sites in Santa Maria. The number of individuals who participate in the Santa Barbara County WIC Program is 16,275 per month.

WIC is an optional federal program funded through the California Department of Public Health. This program has been operational in Santa Barbara County since 1975 and operates on the Federal Fiscal Year, October 1 through September 30.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Executing this Agreement does not change the use of the County's General Fund resources. For Fiscal Year 2007-08, \$2,120,000 is included in the Public Health Department's adopted budget submission in the Nutrition Services Cost Center listed on page D-190 of the County's Operating Plan. A budget revision increasing revenues and expenditures will be submitted if it is deemed necessary. At this time the program is anticipating some cost savings and therefore does not require a budget revision to

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increase program appropriation. Additional staff to provide these services will be within our current budgeted FTE's.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

0

FTEs:

0

Special Instructions:

Please return an electronic copy of the Minute Order to the PHD Contracts Unit at PHDRES.ContractsUnit@sbcphd.org.

Authored by: Anne Patterson, MPH