



**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

**Submitted on:**  
**(COB Stamp)**

**Department Name:** County Health  
**Department No.:** 041  
**Agenda Date:** October 7, 2025  
**Placement:** Administrative Agenda  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No

**Vote Required:** 4/5

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director: Mouhanad Hammami, County Health  
Contact: Paola Hurtado, Division Chief of Primary Care and Family Health  
**SUBJECT:** Accept one-time funding from CenCal Health to support Diabetic Retinopathy Screening in Santa Barbara

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Signed by:

*Mouhanad Hammami*  
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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 and authorize the Director of the County Health Department (CHD) to accept an award of \$12,000 as one-time funding from CenCal Health to support the CHD's Diabetic Retinopathy Screening efforts at the Franklin Health Care Center;
- b) Approve and authorize the Chair of the Board to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (Attachment A) between CenCal Health and the Santa Barbara County Health Department for the purpose of offering a Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Program at the Franklin Health Care Center;
- c) Approve budget revision request No. 0010452 (Attachment B) for acceptance of \$12,000 from CenCal Health to support Diabetic Retinopathy Screening at the Franklin Health Care Center; and
- d) Determine that the proposed actions do not constitute a "Project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines, because it consists of organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda to authorize the Director of the County Health Department to accept an award of \$12,000 as a one-time funding opportunity for the purchase of a retinal screening camera. This equipment will enable CHD to provide preventive eyecare for patients with diabetes, thereby reducing the risk of progression to diabetic eye disease. This initiative supports the CHD's Diabetic Retinopathy Screening efforts at the Franklin Health Care Center in Santa Barbara.

**Discussion:**

CHD will use the funds to support the implementation of this service for patients at the Franklin Health Care Center, as well as those referred by the Carpinteria and Santa Barbara Health Care Centers. Across the three CHD Health Care Centers, there are over 1,200 patients diagnosed with diabetic retinopathy who require annual retinal screening exams. Of the 1,200 patients, 150 have been diagnosed with diabetic retinopathy, which requires ongoing screening and care.

According to the American Diabetes Association, the combination of regular eye examinations, appropriate referral, and timely treatment leads to the best visual outcomes. Approval of the recommended items will enable CHD to provide preventive eyecare for patients with diabetes, thereby reducing the risk of progression to diabetic eye disease.

**Background:**

The Lompoc and Santa Maria Health Care Centers have been providing retinopathy screening services since 2017 and 2020, respectively. Combined, they conduct 160 patient visits per year, with the Lompoc Health Care Center providing the highest number of screenings among the two sites.

Diabetic retinopathy is an eye condition that affects individuals with diabetes and can lead to vision loss and blindness. Early detection and treatment of diabetic retinopathy is 94% effective in preventing vision impairment, yet it remains the most common cause of blindness among working age adults in the US. It is most common among those who do not effectively manage their blood sugar levels. High blood sugar can damage the walls of the small blood vessels in the eye, altering their structure and function. These vessels may thicken, leak, develop clots, become occluded, or form balloon-like defects known as microaneurysms.

Most people with diabetic retinopathy do not experience symptoms until the disease is very advanced, at which point it is often too late to prevent vision loss. Early screening is crucial, as doctors can take measures to protect the eyes before any damage occurs. Digital retinal imaging is a test that can be performed in primary care settings. During the test, a medical assistant captures images of the eye using a specialized camera. These images are then sent to an eye specialist, who examines them for signs of disease.

CenCal Health has recognized the success of the program in Lompoc and Santa Maria and has expressed one-time financial support for its expansion at the Franklin Health Care Center in Santa Barbara, aiming to serve the high volume of Medi-Cal members who need this service. CenCal Health has committed \$12,000 to fund the purchase of a retinal screening camera.

**Performance Measure:**

The performance will be monitored for implementation and utilization by CHD's Performance Improvement Coordinator (PIC). The PIC will implement workflows to ensure that patients diagnosed with diabetes are scheduled for retinopathy screenings in a timely manner and appropriate referrals to optometry for normal results and ophthalmology for abnormal results. The performance results will be evaluated monthly to maximize utilization of the Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Program.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Authorizing the Director of County Health to accept one-time funding of \$12,000 from CenCal Health, along with the approval of Budget Revision #0010452 will enable County Health to purchase a retinal camera for the Franklin Health Care Center. This camera will be used to screen Franklin Health Care Center patients for diabetic retinopathy, as well as patients referred by the Santa Barbara and Carpinteria Health Care Centers. The cost of the camera is \$15,000. The CenCal funding will be used to pay \$12,000 of the cost.

The department was able to utilize savings experienced in another program and reduce Services and Supplies to pay the remaining \$3,000 of the cost for the camera.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

Funding Source	FY 2025-2026	Total
State	\$12,000	<b>\$12,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>

**Special Instructions:**

Please execute two original MOUs between CHD and CenCal Health and retain one original MOU and one Minute Order for pick up by the department. Please email the PHD Contracts Unit at [phdcu@sbcphd.org](mailto:phdcu@sbcphd.org).when available for pick up.

**Attachments:**

**Attachment A** – CenCal Health Memorandum of Understanding

**Attachment B** – CenCal Retinopathy Budget Revision #0010452

**Contact Information:**

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