



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:** December 7, 2021  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Tme:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD  
Director Public Health Department  
Contact Info: Dana Gamble, LCSW 681-5171  
Deputy Director, Primary Care & Family Health  
**SUBJECT:** Health Resources and Services Administration Grant to Support Health Center  
Renovation Projects (#C8ECS43754)

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**County Counsel Concurrence:**

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 a grant award for the County's Federally Qualified Health Centers through the Health Resources and Services Administration Grant Award C8ECS43754 from the American Rescue Plan Act Health Center Infrastructure Support Program for the period of September 15, 2021 through September 14, 2024 in the amount of \$540,424 (Attachment A); and
- b) Determine that the recommended action is 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 action is a government fiscal activity which does 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 American Rescue Plan Act to support health care renovation projects. This award will strengthen the County's primary health care infrastructure and further advance health equity and health outcomes in medically underserved communities.

**Background:**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through HRSA, has made this award available to Federally Qualified Health Centers as part of HRSA's ongoing support during the COVID-

19 pandemic. The Public Health Department's (PHD) health centers were eligible for these funds as they serve medically underserved and other vulnerable populations and communities, which have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and other health conditions. These renovations will ensure that the communities served will have more equitable access to high-quality primary health care. More than 88 percent of the PHD health center patients are individuals or families living at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines and nearly 82 percent are racial/ethnic minorities. The PHD will use this funding during the next fiscal year and beyond for COVID-19-related capital needs such as, renovating existing facilities, and enhancing response to pandemics.

The PHD serves a critical role by providing access to health care for the uninsured and underinsured through a county-wide network of Health Care Centers (HCCs) and homeless shelter-based clinics. This grant award will facilitate two projects: 1) Renovation of existing space to build a pediatric medical practice serving patients without regard to ability to pay for people from birth to 18 years of age within the walls of the current Santa Maria Health Care Center; and, 2) Redesign of the patient check-in area at the Santa Barbara Health Care Center to better control the spread of COVID-19 and other contagions through permanent barriers and patient screening areas as well as installation other staff and patient safety measures.

**Santa Maria Pediatric Project** - Due to a shortage of pediatric service providers in the Santa Maria region in North County, the PHD has strategically planned for expansion in this area. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for improved infection control through facility design, improved air quality, greater HVAC capability, and overall facility resilience. The renovation is intended to convert an existing, large open space into three separate exam rooms, one separate office room, one support area with a Nurse and Medical Assistant station, and a storage space to accommodate "clean" and "dirty" areas. The new exam rooms will require sinks and all new individual spaces will require locked doors, LED light fixtures wired to switches, HVAC supply and return grilles, and fire alarms.

**Santa Barbara Front Office Renovation Project** - During the early phases of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was apparent that the Santa Barbara Health Care Center lacked the infrastructure design to be quickly and efficiently converted to serve the needs of infection control for this disease. The pandemic has emphasized how important it is to be ready for anything. The proposed project in Santa Barbara involves interior alterations to the existing lobby area. The renovation is intended to replace the current reception counter with a more secure reception configuration. In addition, the project will upgrade existing light fixtures to LED light fixtures, replace ceiling tiles that have deteriorated, and install IT infrastructure.

**Performance Measure:**

HRSA requires that PHD use the funds for COVID-19-related capital needs, by renovating and expanding existing facilities. PHD must budget, and report on activities to HRSA on a periodic basis. There are no specific performance measures other than how the funds are expended.

**Contract Renewals and Performance Outcomes:**

N/A

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: No

**Fiscal Analysis:**

At this time PHD is not seeking approval by the Board to make expenditures or to incur obligations because no work will begin until next fiscal year. Approving and authorizing the Public Health Director to accept this one-time funding allocation will allow future funding of COVID-19-related capital needs, by renovating and expanding existing facilities at the Santa Barbara and Santa Maria Health Care Centers. Funding made available through this opportunity will be not be used until Fiscal Year 2022/2023 and FY 2023/2024 and will be budgeted for use with the Department’s Recommended Budgets for those Fiscal Years.

This action is not anticipated to increase the need for any additional facilities.

**Key Contract Risks:**

NA

**Staffing Impacts:**

**Legal Positions:**

0

**FTEs:**

0

**Special Instructions:**

N/A

**Attachments:**

A. HRSA Notice of Grant Award C8ECS43754

**Authored by:**

Dana Gamble, LCSW Deputy Director, Public Health Department