



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:** June 18, 2024  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Tme:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Mouhanad Hammami, Director  
Director Public Health Department (805) 681-5102  
Contact Info: Jack Mohr, MA (805) 698-4118  
Manager, Equity, Wellness, Promotion, and Prevention  
Public Health Department  
**SUBJECT:** California Equitable Recovery Initiative (CERI) Grant to address COVID-19  
and Advance Health Equity during FYs 2024/2025 through 2025/2026

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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 and receive a three-year extension to the award from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Award Number CERI-21-23-35 (Attachment A), in support of the California Equitable Recovery Initiative (CERI) being funded by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to address COVID-19 health disparities without change in the one-time funding amount of \$590,951 for the revised end date of May 31, 2026;
- 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 the creation of governmental funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which does 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 authorize the Public Health Department to extend the term of a previously accepted funding allocation from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). The California Equitable Recovery Initiative (CERI) was accepted by your board on March 15, 2022. The one-time funding amount of \$590,951 has been extended for three years through to the new date of May 31, 2026.

The funding comes for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to support the Public Health Department's (PHD) health equity efforts countywide.

This allocation provides integral resources to local health jurisdictions in support of a broad range of COVID 19/SARS-CoV-2 response and recovery related activities. These allocations can be used for increase response capacity and staffing levels during the coronavirus-related public health emergency, to provide support for increased testing and disease containment, and to lay the foundation for future public health surveillance. The PHD will be using the funds to address health equity work, including COVID-19 related health disparities among underserved and high-risk populations, including racial and ethnic minority populations and rural communities.

**Background:**

The CDC, through CDPH, has made funds available to Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs) as part of a historic U.S. response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. PHD has used this award to build infrastructure to protect the community by using health equity-focused and community-driven strategies in preventing, testing for, and vaccinating against COVID-19 and related comorbidity factors that exacerbate negative health outcomes related to COVID-19 infections. PHD will utilize the funding extension to maintain, or increase, capacity and staffing to continue to address the necessary public health surveillance beyond the federal emergency period. Since the Coronavirus emergency response began, it was identified that LHJs would need additional resources in assisting communities in addressing the disease and responding to the pandemic.

Historically and contemporarily under-resourced communities suffer a disproportionate burden from negative health outcomes including disease, hospitalization, and death. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed longstanding inequities that have systematically undermined the physical, social, economic, and emotional health of racial and ethnic minority populations and other population groups that bear an incommensurate burden of illness from the virus that causes COVID-19. Health equity work aims to identify and mitigate or eliminate barriers to care, which has the potential to improve overall population health in Santa Barbara County. These funds will be used for materials and consultants to provide PHD trainings that equip staff with knowledge and skills to better address health inequities that exist in Santa Barbara County.

Dedicated PHD Office of Health Equity staff not only execute projects, but also support and guide other departmental staff to incorporate health equity principals into their work. Examples of this work include expanding existing, or developing new mitigation and prevention resources and strategies to reduce COVID-19 related disparities among populations at higher risk for infection. Additionally, building, leveraging, and expanding infrastructure support for COVID-19 prevention and control among populations that are at higher risk and underserved.

The CERI activities described herein are supported by the CDC and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$590,951 with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS.

**Performance Measure:**

PHD will provide progress reports to CDPH detailing the success of measurable objectives specified in the PHD already CDPH-approved Work Plan.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

	Sept 1, 2021	June 1, 2022	June 1, 2023	June 1, 2024	June 1, 2025	Total
	May 31, 2022	May 31, 2023	May 31, 2024	May 31, 2025	May 31, 2026	Allocation
Original Contract	\$ 590,951					\$ 590,951
Actuals/Projections	\$ 105,051	\$ 97,960	\$ 220,600	\$ 161,900	\$ 5,440	\$ 590,951

Approving, ratifying, and authorizing the Public Health Department to accept and receive an extension on the existing one-time funding of \$590,951 will allow continued ongoing health equity work in the County of Santa Barbara. There are no changes to the dollar amounts of the award and the anticipated amount of FY 2024-25 spending appropriation has been included in the Public Health Recommended FY 2024-25 Budget.

**Staffing Impacts:**

**Legal Positions:**  
0

**FTEs:**  
0

**Special Instructions:**

Please email one (1) copy of the minute order to PHD GROUP Contracts Unit at [phdcu@sbcphd.org](mailto:phdcu@sbcphd.org)

**Attachments:**

- A. September 3, 2021 Original Allocation Letter
- B. First No Cost Extension Letter
- C. Second No Cost Extension Letter

**Authored by:**

Timothy Watts, MPH, Health Equity Coordinator