



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: May 4, 2021
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD
Director Public Health Department
Contact Info: Matt Higgs, Program Manager
(805) 681-4920
SUBJECT: Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Enhancing Detection Expansion
allocation for COVID-19 Activities during January 15, 2020/2021 through July
1, 2022/2023

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 funding for expanding Epidemiology and Laboratory capacity for coronavirus response through the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021, P.L. 116-260, for the period of January 15, 2021, through July 31, 2023 in the amount of \$19,162,899 (Attachment A); and
- b) Approve and authorize Budget Revision BJE 0007480 in the amount of \$2,000,000 to establish appropriations for \$2,000,000 funded from unanticipated revenue from CDPH to increase Salaries and Benefits and Services and Supplies for FY 2020/2021 in the County's financial system (Attachment B); and
- c) Determine that the above recommended actions are not a "Project" with the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and are 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 an allocation from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Enhancing Detection Expansion (ELC) funding allocation (Attachment A).

This funding comes from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021, P.L. 116-260, to provide critical resources to local health departments in support of a broad range of COVID 19/SARS-CoV-2 testing and epidemiologic surveillance related activities. This allocation can be used for to increase response capacity and staffing levels during the coronavirus-related public health emergency; to support testing, vaccinations, and disease containment, and to lay the foundation for future public health surveillance.

Background:

The CDC, through CDPH, has made these awards available to Local Health Departments (LHD) as part of a historic U.S. response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. LHDs may use this award to build infrastructure to protect their communities by detecting coronavirus; preventing, vaccinating, testing for, and “boxing in” COVID-19, and to maintain or increase health capacity and staffing levels to continue to address the necessary public health surveillance beyond the federal emergency period. Since the Coronavirus crisis commenced, it was recognized that LHDs would need additional resources in assisting communities in addressing the disease and responding to the pandemic.

The awards span six different strategies that will better prepare LHDs to respond to the COVID-19, other emerging infections, and conditions of public health significance over at least the next 30 months and to prioritize and target resources to those most vulnerable. The awards will be used locally to help maintain or increase LHD capacity and staff by covering some costs associated with PHD vaccination response, isolation and quarantine, epidemiology staff salaries and benefits, SARS-CoV-2 testing, contact tracing, outreach to vulnerable populations, and enhancements to PHD electronic health information data collection and reporting.

Performance Measure:

CDPH requires that PHD develop and submit a work plan and a spend plan for the funds; PHD must report on progress, activities, and expenditures on a quarterly basis. Specific required performance measures will be automatically reported to the state because the PHD is using the state’s CalCONNECT platform for disease investigation and contact tracing.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

Approving and authorizing the Public Health Director to accept this allocation and the related Budget Revision Request will provide funding for the Department’s efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic by providing funding for testing costs, isolation and quarantine, contact tracing, vaccination response, and support the salaries and benefits for enhanced staffing for epidemiology.

Funding in the amount of \$4,790,724.75 which represents 25% of the total award has been advanced by CDPH and received by the PHD. Budget Revision Request 0007480 will amend the Fiscal Year 2020-21 adopted budget for the appropriation in the amount of \$2,000,000, which is the amount anticipated to be spent in the current fiscal year from these funds and the rest is recorded as deferred revenue that will be used in Fiscal Year 2021/2022 (Attachment B). The budget revision will add \$1,000,000 to Salaries and Benefits to cover the costs of enhanced extra help COVID-19 Unit and other response staffing and \$1,000,000 to services and supplies to cover costs for vaccination clinics, isolation and quarantine, contact tracing, and laboratory testing and indirect costs. It is anticipated that the \$2,000,000 will be braided with the use of previously awarded Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity funds and other funds to extend and cover the ongoing costs of public health response activities. If other funds from the

allocation are necessary for expenditures during Fiscal Year 2021/2022, we will return to your Board with a Budget Revision at that time.

This action will not result in the need for any additional facilities.

Key Contract Risks:

N/A

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

1

FTEs:

1

Special Instructions:

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

Attachments:

- A. CDPH COVID-19 ELC Enhancing Detection Expansion Funding Allocation Letter
- B. Budget Revision Request #0007480

Authored by:

Matt Higgs, Program Manager Public Health Department