



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 28, 2022
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD
Director Public Health Department
Contact Info: Darrin Eisenbarth, Deputy Director of Administration
(805) 681-5173
SUBJECT: Public Health Workforce Development Supplemental Funding Allocation for
Projected Jurisdictional COVID-19 Response

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 Director of Public Health to accept an award of \$1,008,554 in Workforce Development Supplemental funding through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, to establish, expand, train, and sustain the public health workforce to support jurisdictional COVID-19 prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery initiatives. Funding for these activities is covered for the period beginning July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023 from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH); and
- b) Determine that the recommended action is not a "Project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and is exempt per CEQA Guideline section 15378(b)(5), since the recommended action is an organizational or administrative activity of the government that will not result in direct or indirect physical change in the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the Agenda to authorize the Public Health Director to accept an award of \$1,008,554 as a one-time Public Health Workforce Development funding opportunity through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, to support the Public Health Department's COVID-19 response activities for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023 (Attachment A). The Public Health Department will be using the funds for recruiting, hiring, and training personnel to support COVID-19 prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery initiatives, as part of the workforce development strategy.

Background:

The COVID-19 Pandemic highlighted the critical role of Public Health Systems and exposed gaps in its current state. A primary statutory responsibility of state and local public health is controlling and responding to communicable disease outbreaks. When COVID-19 first was detected in California, CDPH and Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs) began to issue public health orders; collect reportable disease data; investigate cases and conduct contact tracing; report information to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Governor, other state agencies, and LHJs; and issue guidance to health facilities, schools, businesses, and the general public. As the COVID-19 Pandemic took hold, however, the state's public health system quickly became overwhelmed. Generally, CDPH and LHJs did not have enough staff to respond – let alone maintain their other public health responsibilities simultaneously- and IT systems and public health lab capacity was quickly exceeded. In addition, state and local officials struggled with timely and consistent public health messaging and guidance, particularly in light of changing direction from the state and federal government. The pandemic also revealed that the state's approach to public health had not enabled the strategic planning that might have prepared the system for a crisis of this scale and breadth.

Santa Barbara County has been awarded \$1,008,554 from the California State Department of Public Health (CDPH) to support the hiring of 4.0 additional FTE positions: one (1) Strategic Communications Manager/Enterprise Leader-General, one (1) Assistant Deputy Director Administration/Enterprise Leader-General, one (1) Assistant HR Manager/Team-Project Leader-General, and one (1) Administrative Leader-General. These positions represent key roles identified as part of a staffing audit designed to assist LHJs in determining where best to invest in their workforce.

Performance Measure:

The Public Health Department will provide quarterly progress and fiscal reports to CDPH detailing the success of measurable objectives specified in the Department's workforce development strategies.

Contract Renewals and Performance Outcomes:

N/A

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

The County will receive one-time funding of \$1,008,554 to support the workforce development strategies and initiatives in the County of Santa Barbara. These funds will be used to provide 1.0 FTE Strategic Communications Manager/Enterprise Leader – General, (1) 1.0 FTE Assistant Deputy Director Administration/Enterprise Leader-General, (1) 1.0 FTE Assistant HR Manager/Team – Project Leader-General, and (1) 1.0 FTE Administrative Leader-General. These positions were included in PHD's Salary Resolution and presented to your Board during the FY22-23 Budget Hearings.

These funds are expected to be fully expended in Fiscal Year 2022 and the grant award has been included as part of the Public Health Department's submitted Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23.

Key Contract Risks:

Although the grant award reflects one-time funding, the State’s intent is to allow for LHJ to permanently hire to improve their infrastructure. The State has allocated in the coming budget, on-going funding to support these increases.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

0

FTEs:

0

Special Instructions:

N/A

Attachments:

A. Public Health Workforce Development Grant Award Allocation Letter

Authored by:

Darrin Eisenbarth, Deputy Director of Administration