



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NORA VARGAS
First District

JOEL ANDERSON
Second District

TERRA LAWSON-REMER
Third District

VACANT
Fourth District

JIM DESMOND
Fifth District

DATE: August 29, 2023

05

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT

AUTHORIZE ACCEPTANCE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING ALLOCATION (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

The California Budget Act of 2022 for budget year 2022-2023, (Health and Safety Code 101320, 101320.3, and 101320.5) provided for Future of Public Health funding to local health jurisdictions for public health workforce and infrastructure. On August 30, 2022 (4), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) authorized acceptance of \$14,356,108 in funding from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. The CDPH is allocating \$14,356,108 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24, and annual funding of \$14,356,108 through FY 2025-26, for a total of \$43,068,324. This funding is intended to strengthen public health capacity and preparedness to respond to future emergencies throughout California communities by developing and strengthening California's public health workforce. As communities across California are seeing increases in the number and severity of emergencies, communicable disease outbreaks, and rising rates of chronic health conditions in an aging population, a robust public health infrastructure is needed now more than ever.

Today's action seeks Board approval for acceptance of the Future of Public Health funding allocation. Additionally, today's action would authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency to apply for additional funding opportunities to further develop and strengthen the public health workforce.

Today's actions support the County of San Diego's vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, specifically those communities and populations in San Diego County that have been historically left behind as well as our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities. This will be accomplished by ensuring the local health department can continue to improve the health and well-being of San Diego County residents.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Authorize the acceptance of \$43,068,324 in funds from the California Department of Public Health Future of Public Health funding allocation for the period of July 1, 2023

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through June 30, 2026, to strengthen public health capacity and preparedness to respond to future emergencies, and authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, to execute all required grant documents, upon receipt, including any extensions, amendments, and/or revisions thereto that do not materially impact or alter the services or funding level.

2. Authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency to apply for any additional funding opportunity announcements, if available, to further develop and strengthen the public health workforce.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today’s actions advance equity through a data-driven population health approach. Set by statute, the methodology used to allocate the Future of Public Health funding grant included an appropriation provided to the local health jurisdiction proportionally based on 2019 population data, poverty data, and population of Black/African American/Latinx/or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. Additionally, as the County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services (PHS) continues to increase its workforce infrastructure, it is important that employees hired through this grant reflect the community it serves, as having a diverse and wide spectrum of ideas, backgrounds and skills will help PHS better meet the service needs currently and into the future. As of May 2023, of the positions funded through the Future of Public Health funding, 43.0% of staff are Asian, 29.1% Hispanic/Latinx, 6.3% Black/African American, and 2.5% Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander. This ensures services provided to residents are representative of San Diego County’s diverse demographics.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today’s action supports the County of San Diego’s (County) Sustainability Goal #1 to collaborate with stakeholders to foster inclusive and sustainable communities by providing leadership and investing in community-centered approaches to advocate for communities that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. Additionally, today’s actions support Sustainability Goal #2 to provide just and equitable access to services, and Sustainability Goal #4 to protect health and well-being of everyone in the region by sustaining the capacity of the County Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services to support the region during public health emergencies or infectious disease outbreaks.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, today’s actions will result in annual costs and revenue of \$14,356,108 for FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25, for a total of \$43,068,324 from FY 2023-24 through FY 2025-26. The funding source is the California Department of Public Health Future of Public Health funding allocation. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

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ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT

The Health Services Advisory Board reviewed this item on June 6, 2023, and recommended approval of the recommendations.

BACKGROUND

In the United States, the public health system is dedicated to disease prevention and health promotion through federal, State, and local agencies and departments that track and predict emerging and persistent threats, respond to health risks and events, and promote health through education, intervention, and policymaking. It also identifies and addresses health disparities. The COVID-19 pandemic accentuated the disparities and gaps in the United States public health infrastructure and demonstrated the critical importance of a robust public health system for future public health emergencies. The United States has suffered more COVID-19 deaths overall than any other country in the world, with disproportionate impacts on people of color and low-income communities.

A robust United States public health system depends on multiple factors, some of which include sufficient and sustained funding, expanded preparedness for future public health emergencies, and a diverse, well-trained, and supported workforce. The California Budget Act of 2022 allocated \$200.4 million annually to local health jurisdictions to develop and strengthen the public health workforce and infrastructure, referred to as the Future of Public Health funding. On August 30, 2022 (4), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) approved acceptance of the first allocation of Future of Public Health funding in the amount of \$14,356,108 for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. This funding is considered ongoing and part of the baseline State budget. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is allocating \$43,068,324 to the County of San Diego (County) for three years through June 30, 2026.

This funding is intended for investment in local health departments across six foundational governmental public health services necessary to effectively address future challenges:

- A diversified workforce empowered to build an equitable, efficient, and effective future public health system;
- A ready and sustainable public health infrastructure that can rapidly identify hazards and deploy;
- Expanded data access and interoperability to enable data driven decision making and advanced analytics to explain, predict, and prevent disease spread;
- A holistic partnership network, engaged to support State and local governmental public health efforts;
- A proactive, personalized, and highly coordinated communication strategy and operations; and
- Comprehensive community health improvement strategy that emphasizes life course approach, resiliency, equity, and prevention.

The methodology used to allocate the Future of Public Health funding grant included an appropriation provided to the local health jurisdiction proportionally based on 2019 population data, poverty data, and population of Black/African-American/Latinx/or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. The funding requires at least 70% of funds are allocated to supporting the hiring of

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permanent County staff. The remainder of the funds are to be used for equipment, supplies, and other administrative purposes such as operational costs. The Future of Public Health funding for Fiscal Year 2022-23 provided the County Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services (PHS) with the ability to sustain 95 existing Full Time Equivalent positions. These positions support ongoing COVID-19 and other infectious disease response activities, health equity and promotion activities, nursing workforce, and more. This funding also requires PHS to continue to inform its decision making with the Community Health Assessment, Community Health Improvement Plan, and the PHS Strategic Plan, as well as with evaluation and metrics, including measurement and evaluation of the process and outcome of hiring permanent staff. If today's action is approved, a memorandum to the Board will be presented in 2023 to provide an update on the state of the public health, strategy, and program outcomes and other health data outcomes, which is a requirement of CDPH for funding acceptance.

Today's action seeks authorization to accept \$14,356,108 annually for a total of \$43,068,324 in CDPH Future of Public Health funding allocation for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026, and to authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Director, to execute all required allocation award documents, upon receipt. Additionally, today's action would authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency to apply for any additional funding opportunity announcements, if available, to further develop and strengthen the public health workforce.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN

Today's proposed actions support the Equity (Health) and Community (Quality of Life) initiatives in the County of San Diego's 2023 – 2028 Strategic Plan by ensuring that San Diego County is able to respond to future emergencies by developing and strengthening the public health workforce.

Respectfully submitted,



HELEN N. ROBBINS-MEYER
Interim Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT(S)

N/A