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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: May 10, 2022

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Jill Blake**

SUBJECT: Resolution approving Grant Agreement Number 21-10572 with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), California Sexually Transmitted Disease Branch STD Program Management for funding to conduct activities necessary to expand, train, and sustain a response-ready disease intervention specialist (DIS) workforce in the maximum amount of \$563,350 for the term of July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025 and directing the Auditor-Controller to amend the Health and Human Services Agency Public Health Department's Budget for Fiscal Year 2021/22. (4/5THS VOTE REQUIRED)

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: This agreement provides one-time State funds through the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Funding availability in subsequent fiscal years will be determined by satisfactory recipient performance and is subject to the availability of appropriated funds and federal award. After the initial allocation, these funds will be made available to support the DIS workforce development on a calendar year basis through December 31, 2025. The amount of annual funding was allocated through a non-competitive formula using the United States Census Community Resilience Estimates. A budget amendment is required for FY 21/22 and is included with this item (4/5 vote required). There are no County General Fund dollars required in the Agreement.

BACKGROUND:

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Sexually Transmitted Disease Control Branch (STDCB) on December 30, 2021 announced the availability of approximately \$10 million in Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Federal Funds starting in fiscal year (FY) 2021-22 for the support of governmental public health response to COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

This funding opportunity is made possible through a federal grant award the CDC has issued through a supplement to PS19-1901, Strengthening STD Prevention and Control for Health Departments (STD PCHD), Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) #93.977.

The CDC DIS Workforce Development Funding is part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The goal of the investment is to support 21st century outbreak response needs by:

1. Expanding and enhancing frontline public health staff
2. Conducting DIS workforce training and skills building
3. Building organizational capacity for outbreak response
4. Evaluating and improving recruitment, training, and outbreak response efforts

For the first year, the DIS Workforce funding will be distributed as a supplement to the STD PCHD grant and is available to view at PS19-1901: STD Prevention and Control for Health Departments (STD PCHD). Funding will be allocated to fifty-nine (59) local health jurisdictions (LHJ) and an additional \$250,000 to fund local tribal governments. CDPH/STDCB included the following factors in the allocation model with the hierarchy of need consistent for all counties:

- The grant requires that funds be allocated to LHJs using the US Census Community Resilience Estimates (details about what is included is available) or the Social Vulnerability Index. CDPH/STDCB used the Community Resilience Estimates since that is what CDC used to distribute the funds to states. There is an expectation that the most vulnerable communities will be supported, rather than focusing on morbidity.
- This information was presented, and approval was provided by California Conference of Local Health Officers and County Health Executives Association of California.
- As outlined in Exhibit A1, CDPH/STDCB has allocated \$250,000 per year to Tribal governments and \$9,804,356 per year to 59 LHJs.
- San Francisco and Los Angeles (excluding Berkeley, Long Beach and Pasadena) counties are funded independently by CDC and not included in these allocations. Census tracts belonging to City health jurisdictions are not included in the county-level estimates.
- Local deliverables with these funds will include activities related to disease investigation, including contact tracing, case investigation, linkage to care, and partner services. Hiring frontline DIS and DIS supervisors is the priority of these funds but there will be some flexibility regarding other support staff (e.g., triage clerk) or activities (e.g., phlebotomy training).
- According to the 2018 Infrastructure Survey of local STD programs, the average salary of DIS, including DIS Supervisors, ranges between \$38,048 and \$131,418.

The annual allocation for Nevada County is \$112,670 and will be used to support Public Health's DIS workforce operations. Although the first year performance period stated July 1, 2021, the allocation and Standard Agreement was only recently received from the State and therefore only recently available to bring before the Board for official action.

Item Initiated and Approved by: Jill Blake, MPA, Director of Public Health