



Agenda Report

May 10, 2021

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Finance Committee (May 10, 2021)

FROM: Public Health Department

SUBJECT: RECOGNIZE AND APPROPRIATE \$1,222,000 TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET AND INCREASE THE DEPARTMENTAL PERSONNEL ALLOCATION BY 12.0 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT ("FTE") FOR THE COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY CAPACITY ("ELC") SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the proposed action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15060(c)(2), 15060(c)(3), and 15378, as the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment;
2. Authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with the County of Los Angeles to accept and administer federal grant funds on behalf of the City of Pasadena to expand epidemiology, surveillance, and testing capacity to combat COVID-19; and
3. Amend the Fiscal Year 2021 Public Health Department operating budget by recognizing and appropriating \$1,222,000 in Los Angeles County grant pass-through funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and increase the departmental personnel allocation by 12.0 new full-time equivalent ("FTE") limited-term grant-funded positions.

BACKGROUND:

Through the ELC for Infectious Diseases Cooperative Agreement established in 1995, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") distributes federal resources to state and local public health departments to strengthen the nation's infectious disease infrastructure. The CDC currently provides ELC funding to 50 states, 8 territories, and 6 of the nation's largest local health departments including Los Angeles County.

While prevention and control of diseases such as tuberculosis and HIV is funded through large categorical grants from the CDC, the ELC grant strengthens infrastructure for surveillance and response to infectious diseases in general, including emerging pathogens such as SARS-CoV-2.

Through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act 2021, the CDC awarded \$19.1 billion in supplemental ELC funding to grant recipients. Recognizing the need for regional investment, Los Angeles County issued ELC sub-awards to the City of Pasadena Public Health Department ("PPHD") and City of Long Beach Public Health Department. Los Angeles County awarded the PPHD \$8,263,037 through November 2023 to expand epidemiology, surveillance, and testing capacity to combat COVID-19. The PPHD recommends recognizing \$1,222,000 of the grant funding in FY 2021.

ELC funding may only support activities that complement, not duplicate, existing infectious disease efforts and programs with the intent of maximizing public health impact. The program will fund pandemic response efforts including investigation, surveillance, vaccine delivery and post-pandemic recovery trainings. System improvements will improve department ability to process, manage, analyze, use, and report public health data. The program will also improve infection prevention capacity and optimize COVID-19 diagnostic testing and reporting. To meet the objectives of the grant, PPHD requests an increase in personnel by 12.0 FTE limited-term positions including four (4) 1.0 FTE Public Health Nurses, two (2) 1.0 FTE Registered Nurses, five (5) 1.0 FTE Community Service Representatives III, and one (1) 1.0 FTE Management Analyst I.

The Department requests the following appropriations for the FY 2021 program budget:

Budget Category	Item(s)	Amount
Personnel	12.0 FTE	\$750,000
Other Contracted Services	Nursing Registry, Storage	\$402,000
Materials & Supplies	Office Supplies, Apparel	\$50,000
Printing Services	Flyers, promos, signage	\$20,000
TOTAL		\$1,222,000

Additionally, the Department will redeploy staff already budgeted in other public health programs to support this new grant. The recommended actions provides support for the Pasadena Public Health Department to add needed staff, advance systems, and establish practices that will enhance local capacity to identify, respond, and manage infectious disease control efforts for COVID-19 and other pathogens. This investment is expected to improve emerging infectious disease planning, preparedness and quality improvement from lessons learned during the COVID-19 response.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The proposed action is consistent with the City Council's strategic planning goal to ensure public health and safety by expanding access to COVID-19 testing, increasing infection control capacity, and improving systems needed to collect and report public health data.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The subject contract and appropriation of funds is not subject to CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c)(2), 15060(c)(3), and 15378. CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c)(2) states that an activity is not subject to CEQA if "The activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment." The proposed action consists of a contract and appropriation of funds. No direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment would result. Additionally, 15378(b)(2) states "Continuing administrative or maintenance activities, such as... personnel-related actions" are not a project. Under this definition, the proposed activity is not a CEQA "Project" and is, therefore, also not subject to CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c)(3).

FISCAL IMPACT:

It is anticipated that the grant award of \$1,222,000 will be received and spent in Fiscal Year 2021. Pending approval by the City Council, the Fiscal Year 2021 Public Health Department operating budget will be increased by \$1,222,000 for project implementation and the department personnel allocation will be increased by 12.0 FTE. No net impact to the unappropriated fund balance is anticipated. Remaining grant funding will be included in the annual budget submission in future fiscal years.

Respectfully submitted,



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