Agenda Report

November 10, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Public Safety Committee (November 9, 2026)

FROM: Department of Public Health

SUBJECT: **AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR $389,958 IN GRANT FUNDS WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (CDPH) FOR THREE YEARS AND RECOGNIZE AND APPROPRIATE $129,986 TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2027 PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT (BHSA) – POPULATION BASED PREVENTION PROGRAM.**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the proposed actions herein are not a "project" subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 21065 and within the meaning of Section 15378(b);

2. Authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement with the California Department of Public Health to accept and administer $389,958 in BHSA grant funding to expand coordination with behavioral health partners services through June 30, 2029; and

3. Amend the Fiscal Year 2027 Public Health Department operating budget by recognizing and appropriating $129,986 in the Health Fund (203) and increase the personnel allocation by 0.75 full-time equivalent ("FTE") limited term grant-funded position.

BACKGROUND:

Proposition 1, passed by California voters in March 2024, is a two-bill package that drives the statewide reform and expansion of California's behavioral health system. It includes the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) and the Behavioral Mental Health Infrastructure Bond. The BHSA modernizes the state's behavioral health care delivery system with a focus on serious mental health and substance abuse needs. It expands

treatment, housing, and workforce capacity. The BHSA also requires local health jurisdictions to elevate trends in behavioral health and coordinate and collaborate with current and potential new partners to raise awareness of behavioral health services and resources through community messaging.

To meet these objectives, CDPH is requiring all local health jurisdictions (LHJs) to complete the local community health needs assessment (CHNA) and community health improvement plan (CHIP) on a statewide, synchronized three-year cycle beginning in FY 2028-29. While the City of Pasadena already aligns with this cycle, CDPH is requiring all LHJs to complete their CHNA and CHIP in collaboration with behavioral health partners.

The purpose of the BHSA and the Bond Act is to build on California's broader efforts to reimagine and strengthen the entire behavioral health system—connecting services, expanding access, and improving outcomes for all Californians. For Pasadena, the BHSA funds will support:

1) Convening key stakeholders to enhance collaboration and coordination with behavioral health partners;
2) Development of a local Suicide Prevention Plan; and
3) Inclusion of BHSA partners in the CHNA and CHIP development process.

The Department requests authorization to accept and administer $389,958 in BHSA grant funding to expand coordination with behavioral health partners services through June 30, 2029. In addition, the Department recommends amending the FY 2027 Operating Budget by recognizing and appropriating to support outreach materials and personnel costs including a new, term-limited 0.75 FTE Management Analyst I. The Management Analyst I will be primarily responsible for convening community meetings, compiling behavioral health feedback, and co-publishing community health needs assessments. The remainder of the funding will support program supplies and expenses related to convening partners.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The proposed contract amendment aligns with the City Council's strategic plan goal to ensure public safety.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

CEQA excludes, from environmental review, actions that are not "projects" as defined by CEQA Guidelines Section 21065 and within the meaning of Section 15378. Sections 21065 and 15378 define a project as an action which may cause either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. Section 15378 excludes from the definition of "project" organizational or administrative governmental activities that do not result in physical changes to the environment. The actions proposed herein, authorizing the City Manager to execute all grant-related documents and amending the Public Health Department's operating budget, are organizational or administrative governmental activities that do not result in physical changes to the environment, and therefore are not a "project" as defined by CEQA. Since the actions are not a project subject to CEQA, no environmental document is required.

FISCAL IMPACT:

It is anticipated that the three-year grant award total of $389,958, with $129,986 received and spent in Fiscal Year 2027. If approved, the Department's Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget will be increased by $129,986 for project implementation. This action will increase the Department personnel allocation by 0.75 FTE for the Management Analyst I. No net impact on the unappropriated fund balance is anticipated. Remaining grant funding will be appropriated and recognized in the annual budget submission in future fiscal years.

Approval of the recommended action will amend the Public Health Department's Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget by recognizing and appropriating $129,986 in the Public Health Fund (Fund 203). This action will increase the Department personnel allocation by 0.75 FTE for the Management Analyst I. It is anticipated that the grant award of $129,986 will be received and spent in Fiscal Year 2027. Remaining grant funding will be recognized and appropriated in future annual budget submissions through the end of the grant term June 30, 2029.

Respectfully submitted,

MANUEL CARMONA, MPH, MPA
Director of Public Health

Prepared by:

Matthew Feaster, PhD, MPH
Division Manager
Department of Public Health

Approved by:

MATTHEW E. HAWKESWORTH
Interim City Manager