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*Setting the Standard in Health Care Excellence*

May 21, 2024

Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

**Subject: Approval and Ratification of the Director of Public Health's Application for and Acceptance of the AB102 Public Health Microbiologist Training Fellowship Award in the Amount of \$105,000 from the California Department of Public Health, Center for Laboratory Sciences, Effective January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026; Approval of, and Authorization for the Director of Public Health to Sign Related Documents (Recommendation No. 3 Requires 4/5ths Vote)**

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that your Board:

1. Approve and ratify, the Director of Public Health's application and acceptance of the AB102 Public Health Microbiologist (PHM) Training Fellowship Award related to the Public Health Equity and Readiness Opportunity (HERO) Initiative, in the amount of \$105,000 from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Center for Laboratory Sciences (CLS).
2. Approve and authorize the Director of Public Health or designee to sign, the award agreement and related documents with CDPH and CLS, including any future amendments to the agreement making corrections, clarifications, technical changes, and other modifications, provided that the changes are consistent with the original purpose of the agreements, and do not result in additional costs to the County, subject to County Counsel review and approval.
3. Authorize the Auditor-Controller to process the necessary accounting transactions to Unit 3111 to adjust the appropriations and unanticipated revenue as follows for FY 2023-2024 (requires 4/5ths vote).

**HCA - Public Health- Vital Records and Laboratory, Unit 3111**

INCREASE 3100-3111	Intergovernmental Revenue	\$105,000
INCREASE 3100-3111	Salaries and Benefits	\$ 52,140
INCREASE 3100-3111	Services and Supplies	\$ 52,860

**Fiscal/Mandates Impact:****Mandatory:** No**Source of Funding:** CDPH**Funding Match Required:** None**Impact on Other Departments:** None

Summary of Revenues and Costs:	<b><u>FY 2023-24</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2024-25</u></b>
Revenue:	\$ 52,500	\$ 52,500
Costs:		
Direct	\$ 46,475	\$ 46,475
Indirect-Dept.	\$ 6,025	\$ 6,025
Indirect-County CAP	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Net Costs	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Recovered Indirect Costs	\$ -0-	\$ -0-

**FY 2023-2024 Budget Projections:**

<b>FY 2023-2024 Current Budget for HCA - Public Health Lab and Vital Records, Unit 3111</b>				
	<b>Adopted Budget</b>	<b>Adjusted Budget</b>	<b>Projected Actuals</b>	<b>Estimated Savings/ (Deficit)</b>
Appropriations	\$2,855,449	\$2,976,982	\$3,139,631	(\$162,649)
Revenue	\$2,327,069	\$2,327,069	\$2,757,264	\$430,195
Net Cost	\$528,380	\$649,913	\$382,367	\$267,546

**Reason for Ratification:**

Due to the timing of notification by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Center for Laboratory Services (CLS), the department did not have sufficient time to request your Board's approval prior to submitting an application for, and subsequent letter of intent, to timely accept, these funds.

**Strategic Plan:**

The item presented in this Board letter aligns with the Healthy, Safe, and Resilient strategic priority of the County Strategic Plan as it is designed to meet the goal of providing high-quality, reliable, and timely public health laboratory services.

**Discussion:**

Assembly Bill No. 102 Budget Act of 2023 signed by California Governor Gavin Newsom supports increased funding for training a larger number of PHM Trainees in California. The California Department of Public Health is committed to working to expand this training collaboratively with the California Association of Public Health Lab Directors (CAPHLD), California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) and the County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC) to implement the HERO Initiative. The CDPH has awarded \$105,000 to the Ventura County Public Health Laboratory (VCPHL) for the AB 102 PHM Training Fellowship to support education and training for two PHM trainees for fiscal years 2024-2026.

VCPHL supports the Ventura County Public Health Communicable Disease Program and Ventura County area hospitals in performing high-complexity testing of patient samples for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), sexually transmitted diseases, and other reportable diseases as required by California law. VCPHL and the state have experienced critical shortages in licensed PHMs in recent years. The scope of work associated with this funding is to support the education, training, and preparation of the PHM trainees to become licensed and assume technical positions in the Public Health laboratory. This funding will include funding for travel to training sessions at the CDPH or other designated labs, books and study materials, and assistance with travel to the test site and license fees. The state allocation to Ventura County is \$105,000 to be used over the period of January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026. VCPHL is working with CDPH to develop the official grant agreement.

This letter has been reviewed by County Counsel, the Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Executive Office. If you have any questions regarding this item, please call Rigoberto Vargas at (805) 981-5101.

  
RIGOBERTO VARGAS  
Public Health Director

  
BARRY ZIMMERMAN  
Health Care Agency Director

Attachment:  
Exhibit 1 – 4/4/24 CDPH NOA