

July 25, 2023

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

Subject: Approval and Ratification of the Ventura County Public Health Department's (VCPH) Submission of an Application to the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) for Medical Reserve Corps. State, Territory, and Tribal Nations, Representative Organizations for Next Generation (MRC-STTRONG) Funding; Approval of, and Authorization for the VCPH Director or Designee to Accept Funding in the Amount of \$600,000 from ASPR for the MRC-STTRONG Award, Effective June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2025 and Sign Related Documents; Adoption of a Resolution Establishing One New Fixed-Term Full-Time Position, Effective August 6, 2023 (Recommendation No. 3 Requires 4/5ths Vote).

Recommendations:

It is recommended that your Board:

1. Approve, and ratify the Ventura County Public Health Department's submission of an application to the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) for Medical Reserve Corps. State, Territory, and Tribal Nations, Representative Organizations for Next Generation (MRC-STTRONG) Funding.
2. Approve, and authorize the VCPH Director or designee to accept funding in the amount of \$600,000 for the MRC STTRONG Award, effective June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2025, and sign any related agreements, subject to County Counsel review and approval.
3. Authorize the Auditor-Controller to process the necessary accounting transactions to revise appropriations and unanticipated revenues for Unit 3091 (Public Health – Emergency Medical Services), as follows for FY 2023-2024 (requires 4/5ths vote).

HCA – Public Health - Emergency Medical Services (Unit 3091)

INCREASE 3090-3091 Intergovernmental Revenue	\$600,000
INCREASE 3090-3091 Salaries and Benefits	\$303,590
INCREASE 3090-3091 Services and Supplies	\$296,410

4. Adopt the attached Resolution establishing the following one fixed-term full-time position allocated in Emergency Medical Services, Unit 3091, effective August 6, 2023.

Class Code	Classification Title	FTE	Range	Annual Salary
00623	Program Administrator II	1.0	\$36.04 - \$50.47	\$74,972.05 - \$104,971.17

Reason for Ratification:

Ventura County Public Health (VCPH) was notified of the opportunity for this award on April 11, 2023. The deadline for VCPH to submit the required application documents to ASPR was April 30, 2023. Due to the short timing to apply for this grant, CEO approval to apply was requested and received. Upon notification of grant award on June 8, 2023, this was the earliest opportunity to present to your Board.

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

Mandatory: No

Source of Funding: ASPR

Funding Match Required: None

Impact on Other Departments: None

Summary of Revenues and Costs:	<u>FY 2023-24</u>	<u>FY 2024-25</u>
Revenue:	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000
Costs:		
Direct	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000
Indirect-Dept.	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Indirect-County CAP	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Net Costs	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Recovered Indirect Costs	\$ -0-	\$ -0-

FY 2023-24 Budget Projection:

FY 2023-2024 Budget Projection for HCA-Public Health Emergency Medical Services, Unit 3091				
	Requested Budget	Requested Budget	Requested Budget	Estimated Savings (Deficit)
Appropriations	\$4,673,081	\$4,673,081	\$4,673,081	-0-
Revenue	\$3,937,378	\$3,937,378	\$3,937,378	-0-
Net Cost	\$735,703	\$735,703	\$735,703	-0-

Discussion:

ASPR is distributing \$50 million to 33 awardees in states and jurisdictions across the country over the next two years to strengthen the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) – focusing on emergency preparedness, response, and health equity needs. This competitive award through ASPR is funded from the American Rescue Plan Act and is known as the MRC-STTRONG award.

The County of Ventura has been awarded \$600,000 over the two-year grant period from June 1, 2023 to May 31, 2025. The VCPH Emergency Medical Services Division will utilize the MRC-STTRONG award to sustain, expand and equip its current MRC unit which will increase its response capability and capacity and will provide opportunities to assist with health equity gaps throughout Ventura County.

The requested fixed-term Program Administrator II position will be responsible for grant management and oversight, including completion of the required documentation, program deliverables, equipment purchases and volunteer management. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, approximately 60 volunteers from the Ventura County Medical Reserve Corps (VCMRC) volunteered over 12,000 hours, which provided a total U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) calculated economic value of \$454,638 to Ventura County. The funding provided by the MRC-STTRONG award will allow the VCMRC to continue and expand its efforts by focusing on the following programs: workforce growth initiatives in EMS / healthcare education (in partnership with HOSA--Future Health Professionals affiliated high schools), volunteer program sustainability (emergency staffing training, leadership training, paid staffing, disaster response, blood pressure / blood sugar education), expanding existing volunteer programs (development of mental health response unit, community outreach programs, diversifying volunteer recruitment), and promotional campaigns for new recruits.

This letter has been reviewed by County Counsel, the Auditor-Controller's Office, Human Resources, and the County Executive Office. If you have any questions regarding this item, please call Rigoberto Vargas at (805) 981-5101 or Steve Carroll at (805) 981-5301.



RIGOBERTO VARGAS
Public Health Director



BARRY ZIMMERMAN
Health Care Agency Director

Resolution
Exhibit 1 – ASPR Grant Funding Award Letter