

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2022**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 11**

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE ACCEPTANCE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY CAPACITY STRENGTHENING HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS/ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE PROGRAM CAPACITY GRANT ALLOCATION (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

The County of San Diego (County) has been a leader in infectious disease control within California and across the United States. The preparation for and response to communicable disease events, outbreaks, and emerging infectious disease threats remains a high priority for the County. The emergence of COVID-19 in 2020 was the largest infectious disease outbreak in recent history. To continue efforts to test and identify future outbreaks of infectious diseases, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) released the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Strengthening Healthcare-Associated Infections/Antimicrobial Resistance Program (SHARP) grant funding.

This ELC SHARP grant funding will support the expansion of Antimicrobial Resistance (AR) surveillance in California, via screening and testing activities for antibiotic resistant organisms, such as Carbapenem-Resistant Organisms, multi-drug resistant *Candida auris*, a yeast that can cause healthcare-associated infections with a high mortality rate in immunocompromised patients and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, the bacterium which causes the sexually transmitted disease gonorrhea. In addition, this funding will support testing of these organisms by Whole Genome Sequencing, which provides a very precise DNA fingerprint that can help link cases to one another, allowing an outbreak to be detected and solved sooner.

On May 26, 2022, the County Public Health Laboratory received a notification of award from CDPH for \$343,781 in one-time funding for the ELC SHARP, for the term June 1, 2022 through July 31, 2024. Today's action requests the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) to authorize acceptance of \$343,781 in ELC SHARP grant funding from CDPH. Additionally, today's action requests the Board authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency to apply for additional funding opportunities, if available, to support strengthening HAI/AR Program capacity and testing services.

Today's actions support the County's vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, specifically those communities and populations in San Diego County that have been historically left behind as well as our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities. This will be accomplished by ensuring the local health department can continue to ably improve the health and well-being of San Diego County residents through enhanced and increased testing, prevention, and intervention to interrupt transmission of disease.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Authorize the acceptance of \$343,781 from the California Department of Public Health, for the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Strengthening Healthcare-Associated Infections/Antimicrobial Resistance Program grant allocation for the period of June 1, 2022 through July 31, 2024, and authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, or designee, to execute all required grant documents, upon receipt, including any annual extensions, amendments, or revisions that do not materially impact or alter the services or funding level.
2. Authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, to apply for additional funding opportunity announcements, if available, to support Strengthening Healthcare-Associated Infections/Antimicrobial Resistance Program capacity and testing services.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Laboratory (PHL) continually monitors changes to laboratory and testing processes and advancements from technology to testing analysis in order to continue providing the best possible service, in both efficiency and effectiveness, to our communities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data show that there is a link to health disparities and inequalities across a wide range of diseases, behavioral risk factors, environmental exposures, social determinants, and health-care access by sex, race and ethnicity, income, education, disability status, and other social characteristics. By continuing to apply for and receive grant funding such as the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Strengthening Healthcare-Associated Infections/Antimicrobial Resistance Program, the County PHL can acquire additional equipment and supplies to increase testing capabilities and response times to provide critical information of outbreaks to the most vulnerable communities.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The proposed action aligns with the County of San Diego's (County) Sustainability Goals to strive for County programs, operations, and contracts that reflect the County's values and priorities, including equity and sustainability, protecting health and well-being, reduce pollution and waste by lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and striving to become a zero-waste region. The Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Healthcare-Associated Infections/Antimicrobial Resistance Program grant will provide additional funding to support the Public Health Laboratory with capacity and testing services aimed to detect and prevent illnesses. Testing and identification will improve the overall health of communities, reduce the demand of associated care services, while increasing effectiveness of care providers and lowering operating costs of facilities, thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions and waste generated within the care sector. Since climate change and air pollution are direct threats to human health, the reduction of pollution, which can negatively impact human health is also considered a preventative healthcare measure.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are not included in the Fiscal Year 2022-24 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in costs and revenues of \$149,042 in Fiscal Year 2022-23 and will result in costs and revenue of \$194,739 in Fiscal Year 2023-24. The funding source is the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Strengthening Healthcare-Associated Infections/Antimicrobial Resistance Program grant from the California Department of Public Health. Funds for this program will use existing appropriations and be incorporated into future Operational Plans as needed. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Desmond, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Fletcher, Desmond

State of California)  
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



**Signed**  
**by** Andrew Potter