

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2022**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 7**

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT ADDITIONAL HIV/AIDS GRANT FUNDING AND APPLY FOR FUTURE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

For over 30 years, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) has authorized grants and agreements with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to provide a variety of care and treatment services to persons living with HIV. Today's action requests Board authorization to accept additional funding from HRSA awarded under *Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America - Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Parts A and B*, in the amount of \$1,667,400 for period of March 1, 2020 through February 28, 2025.

*Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America - Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Parts A and B* was a new funding source in 2020 created by HRSA in response to the introduction of the federal End the HIV Epidemic initiative. The County of San Diego (County) was initially awarded a total of \$5,000,000 on April 7, 2020 (6). The County has received notice of increases totaling \$1,667,400 bringing the award to \$6,667,400 for the life of the grant. This funding supports and is utilized for programs and services related to community engagement and leadership development for persons living with HIV, linkage to and retention in HIV care, low barrier medical care and HIV molecular epidemiology, also known as Enhanced Data to Care.

This item supports 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 providing access to high-quality HIV care and treatment services that lead to improved physical and behavioral health. In addition, this item supports the County's Getting to Zero initiative by funding services that will help people living with HIV remain in care and achieve important health outcomes, including viral suppression. Research has demonstrated that persons living with HIV who have achieved viral suppression cannot transmit HIV to others sexually.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Waive Board Policy B-29, Fees, Grants, Revenue Contracts - Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery, which requires prior approval of grant applications and full-cost recovery of grants.
2. Authorize the acceptance of an additional \$1,667,400 in grant funds from the Health Resources and Services Administration for the period of March 1, 2020 through February 28, 2025, for *Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America - Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Parts A and B*, and authorize the Clerk of the Board to execute all required grant documents, upon receipt, including any annual extensions, amendments and/or revisions thereto that do not materially impact or alter the services or funding level.

3. Authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, to apply for additional funding opportunity announcements, if available, for HIV service-related resources.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Since the beginning of the epidemic, HIV has disproportionately impacted the most vulnerable residents. Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, for instance, are currently estimated to comprise less than 2% (LGBTQ+ Identification Rises to 5.6% in Latest U.S. Estimate, gallup.com) of the adult population, and yet they comprise 62% of recent HIV diagnoses and 71% of persons living with HIV. Moreover, in San Diego County, like much of the rest of the United States, HIV has disproportionately impacted Black and Hispanic communities. Blacks comprise less than 5% of the county's population but comprise 12% of recent HIV diagnoses. Hispanics comprise 34% of the population of the county yet comprise 48% of recent HIV diagnoses.

Since its inception in 1990, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act (formerly the Ryan White CARE Act) has focused on ensuring access to treatment and support services for the most vulnerable residents. Thus far during the last grant period (March 1, 2021- February 28, 2022), a total of 3,313 clients received services funded by Ryan White Part A in San Diego County. Of those clients, 54% (1,786) were Hispanic and 13% (423) were Black.

The success in reaching residents and communities most disproportionately impacted by HIV is due in large part to the HIV Planning Group, an official advisory board to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors that also has the legislative authority to allocate Ryan White Part A funding to respond to local needs as determined by review of epidemiologic data and extensive engagement to communities. In partnership with the HIV Planning Group, the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) conducts needs assessments every three years among persons living with or those vulnerable to HIV, assessments of system capacity and capabilities every three years, and focus groups with different communities annually. During Fiscal Years 2019-20 and 2020-21, the HIV Planning Group engaged a consultant to conduct a community engagement process to identify how policy, planning, and funding changes could further close the disproportionalities among Black, Hispanic, and transgender communities. The HIV Planning Group and HHSA are currently implementing the recommendations from the final report.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The proposed actions align with the County of San Diego's (County) Sustainability Goal #2 to provide just and equitable access and Sustainability Goal #4 to protect health and wellbeing. *HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America - Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Parts A and B* funding will provide support to the HIV, STD and Hepatitis Branch of County Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services by increasing capacity and services aimed to prevent, identify, and treat HIV. Testing, identification, and treatment 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.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2022-24 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, today’s actions will result in estimated costs of \$1,713,800 and revenue of \$1,667,400 in Fiscal Year 2022-23. The funding source is the federal *Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America - Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Parts A and B*, and Health Realignment. A waiver of Board Policy B-29 is requested because the funding does not offset all costs. These costs are estimated at \$46,400 for Fiscal Year 2022-23. The funding source for these costs will be existing Health Realignment allocated for these programs. The public benefit for providing these services far outweighs these costs. There will be no change in net General Fund cost 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, Fletcher, Desmond

ABSENT: Lawson-Remer

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