

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2024**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 7**

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT FUNDING FOR TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL AND TREATMENT, AND REFUGEE HEALTH ASSESSMENT SERVICES, AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS MEDICATION, AND AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

The County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Tuberculosis Control and Refugee Health Branch (TBCRHB) operates programs including the Tuberculosis Control Program (TB Control Program) and Refugee Health Assessment Program (RHAP). The TB Control Program detects, mitigates, and prevents the spread of Tuberculosis (TB) in our community through treatment, case management, contact investigation and education, and is supported through a combination of federal, State, and local funding.

In addition to providing grant funding, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Tuberculosis Control Branch (CDPH TBCB) operates both a Medication Support Program and Drug Stockpile that distributes anti-TB medications to local TB programs at no cost. When CDPH TBCB purchases anti-TB medication that is due to expire in the same year, local TB programs are notified of the availability and requested to apply as soon as possible. Due to limited supply, the anti-TB medication donations are often reserved within days.

Additionally, grant funds from CDPH support the Refugee Health Assessment Program (RHAP) to provide newly arrived refugees, asylees, victims of trafficking, and other eligible entrants with culturally and linguistically appropriate health assessments, including follow-up and referrals for health conditions identified in the assessment process. The County contracts with community providers to complete comprehensive health assessments that focus on screening for and prevention of communicable and chronic diseases, assessments of immunization status for children and adults, mental health screenings, and referrals to health providers for further medical evaluation. Treatment for both communicable and chronic conditions occurs within the first three months of arrival. These efforts allow the County to monitor and evaluate the health statuses for refugee populations, and to promote the health of newcomers to our community. The County uses the data to develop prevention and intervention strategies, and to allocate resources to reduce disparities and prioritize health equity.

Today's action seeks Board authority to authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, upon receipt, to execute documents related to:

- The acceptance of TB Control Cooperative Grant funds from the CDC for the term January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, for approximately \$1,780,240.
- The acceptance of TB treatment and control grant funds from the CDPH for the term July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, for approximately \$890,885.
- The application for and acceptance of anti-TB medications from CDPH TBCB.
- The acceptance of the Refugee Health Assessment Program and Refugee Health Promotion Project grant funds from the CDPH for the term October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025, for approximately \$692,000.

- The application for additional TB control and treatment and refugee health assessment services funding opportunities.

This item supports the County 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. These efforts support our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities. This will be accomplished by building a better service delivery system to reduce the spread of disease and improve health outcomes in San Diego County.

## **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 approximately \$1,780,240 in grant funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the period of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, for tuberculosis control and treatment services, and authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, upon receipt, to execute all required grant documents, including any annual extensions, amendments and/or revisions that do not materially impact the services or funding level.
3. Authorize the acceptance of approximately \$890,885 in grant funds from the California Department of Public Health for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, for tuberculosis control and treatment services, and authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, upon receipt, to execute all required grant documents, including any annual extensions, amendments, and/or revisions that do not materially impact the services or funding level.
4. Authorize the application for and acceptance of anti-tuberculosis medication from the California Department of Public Health to support tuberculosis treatment, and authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, or their designee, to execute any related documents.
5. Authorize the acceptance of approximately \$692,000 in grant funds from the California Department of Public Health for the period of October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, for the Refugee Health Assessment Program and Refugee Health Promotion Project to provide refugee health assessment services, and authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, upon receipt, to execute all required grant documents, including any annual extensions, amendments, and/or revisions that do not materially impact the services or funding level.
6. Authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, to pursue future funding opportunities to support tuberculosis control and treatment and refugee health assessment services.

## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Tuberculosis Control and Refugee Health Branch programs, as well as the San Diego County Tuberculosis Elimination Initiative, focus on providing and expanding equitable access to healthcare. Examples include offering transportation services to medical appointments, housing for individuals experiencing homelessness while receiving Tuberculosis treatment, and free screening and treatment for uninsured and underserved populations.

Tuberculosis (TB) disproportionately impacts underserved communities, with high burden areas coinciding with southern and central geographic regions of San Diego County that receive low health equity scores. The majority of persons diagnosed with TB in San Diego County in 2023 were born outside the U.S. (66% of total cases). The highest proportion of new cases, regardless of birth country, occurred in Hispanics (51% of total cases), followed by Asian/Pacific Islanders (30% of total cases). Of the new TB cases born in the U.S., (34% of total cases), 66% of U.S.-born cases were Hispanic. Additional risk factors include drug use (19%), homelessness (13%), and incarceration (6%).

Data from the U.S. Refugee Admission Program indicates that 4,319 refugees arrived in California from October 1, 2023, through May 31, 2024. According to the California Department of Social Services Refugee Programs Bureau, San Diego is a designated refugee-impacted county. The Refugee Health Assessment Program (RHAP) provides culturally and linguistically-appropriate comprehensive health assessments not only to these newly arrived refugees but also Special Immigrant Visa holders, asylees, federally-certified victims of trafficking, and other eligible entrants. RHAP focuses on screening for and prevention of communicable diseases; early identification and diagnosis of chronic diseases and other important conditions; assessment of immunization status for children and adults; mental health screening; and referral to health providers for further medical evaluation, treatment, and follow-up. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022, a total of 1,759 eligible persons in San Diego County received a health assessment through RHAP, with 82% of those individuals completing the health assessment with 90 days of their arrival in the United States.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The proposed actions support the County of San Diego (County) Sustainability Goal #2, to provide just and equitable access to County services, particularly in the investment in the chronically underserved communities that are disproportionately impacted by tuberculosis (TB). These actions support Sustainability Goal #3 by transitioning to a green, carbon-free economy, by continuing to transition delivery of services to telehealth platforms whenever possible without sacrificing quality, and thereby decreasing vehicle mileage for clients and employees. Additionally, today's actions support Sustainability Goal #4, by protecting the health and well-being of everyone in the region, ensuring access to medical care for those with TB who need care, and providing newly arrived refugees, asylees, victims of trafficking, and other eligible entrants, with culturally and linguistically appropriate comprehensive health assessments.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

### **Recommendation #2: Authorize Acceptance of Approximately \$1,780,240 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2026 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in estimated costs of \$1,391,160 and estimated revenue of \$890,120 for FY 2024-25 and estimated costs of \$1,391,160 and estimated

revenue of \$890,120 for FY 2025-26. The funding source is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A waiver of Board Policy B-29 is requested because the funding does not offset all costs. These unrecovered costs are estimated to be \$501,040 annually in FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26. The funding source for these costs will be existing Realignment. The public benefit for providing these services far outweighs the B-29 unrecoverable costs. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

**Recommendation #3: Authorize Acceptance of Approximately \$890,885 from the California Department of Public Health**

Funds for this request are included in the FY 2024-2026 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in estimated costs of \$1,298,069 and estimated revenue of \$890,885 for FY 2024-25. The funding source is the California Department of Public Health. A waiver of Board Policy B-29 is requested because the funding does not offset all costs. These unrecovered costs are estimated to be \$407,184. The funding source for these costs will be existing Realignment. The public benefit for providing these services far outweighs the B-29 unrecoverable costs. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

**Recommendation #4: Authorize Application for and Acceptance of Anti-Tuberculosis Medication**

There is no fiscal impact related to this recommendation. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

**Recommendation #5: Authorize Acceptance of Approximately \$692,000 from the California Department of Public Health**

Funds for this request are included in the FY 2024-2026 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in estimated costs of \$544,735 and estimated revenue of \$519,000 for FY 2024-25 and estimated costs of \$181,578 and estimated revenue of \$173,000 for FY 2025-26. The funding source is the California Department of Public Health. A waiver of Board Policy B-29 is requested because the funding does not offset all costs. These unrecovered costs are estimated to be \$25,735 for FY 2024-25 and \$8,578 for FY 2025-26. The funding source for these costs will be existing Realignment. The public benefit for providing these services far outweighs the B-29 unrecoverable costs. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

**Recommendation #6: Authorize Pursuit of Future Funding Opportunities**

There is no fiscal impact related to this recommendation. 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 Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: Vargas

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

