

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2024**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 3**

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE ACCEPTANCE OF HIV SERVICES GRANT FUNDING AND APPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES  
(DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) has authorized grants and agreements with the United States Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to provide care and treatment services to persons living with HIV for over three decades. These funding sources include the *Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009* (RWTEA) Part A, the RWTEA Part A Minority AIDS Initiative, and the *Ending the HIV Epidemic: A plan for America- Ryan White HIV/ AIDS Program Parts A and B*.

*Ryan White HIV/ AIDS Treatment Extension Act (RWTEA) Part A and RWTEA Part A Minority AIDS Initiative Funding*

Awarded annually, the RWTEA Part A and the RWTEA Part A Minority AIDS Initiative comprise the single largest federal funding source for HIV services received by the County of San Diego (County). The County received notice of a grant award on May 15, 2024, by HRSA. The RWTEA Part A funding is \$11,313,642 and the RWTEA Part A Minority AIDS Initiative funding is \$784,859, for a total of \$12,098,501 for the period of March 1, 2024, through February 28, 2025. This funding will continue to support medical treatment, mental health treatment, substance use disorder treatment, temporary housing assistance, and other critical services for persons living with HIV.

*Ending the HIV Epidemic Funding*

In 2020, HRSA created a new funding source, *Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America - Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Parts A and B*, in response to the introduction of the federal Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative. Initial Board action, April 7, 2020 (6), authorized the acceptance of \$5,000,000 in grant funds and subsequent Board action, November 15, 2022 (7), authorized the acceptance of an additional \$1,667,400 in grant funds. Both initial and subsequent Board action authorized funding through February 28, 2025. On May 14, 2024, the County received notice from HRSA that an additional \$2,559,215 was awarded for the period of March 1, 2024 through February 28, 2025 and the County has exceeded the amount authorized in prior Board Actions. This funding supports and is utilized for programs and services related to community engagement and leadership development for persons living with HIV, linkage and retention in HIV care, low barrier medical care, and housing supports.

Today's action requests the Board to approve and authorize acceptance of \$11,313,642, \$784,859, and \$2,559,215, respectively in RWTEA Part A, RWTEA Part A Minority AIDS Initiative, and Ending the HIV Epidemic funding to support HIV care and treatment activities.

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 as well as our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities. This will be accomplished through education, prevention, and intervention to interrupt transmission of disease in the region. This item also supports the County Getting to Zero initiative by planning and allocating resources dedicated to services for residents who are vulnerable to or living with HIV.

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Waive Board Policy B-29, Fees, Grant, 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 \$11,313,642 and \$784,859 in grant funds from the United States Health Resources and Services Administration for the period of March 1, 2024 through February 28, 2025 for Ryan White Part A and Ryan White Part A Minority AIDS Initiative respectively, 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 and/or revisions thereto that do not materially impact or alter the services or funding level.
3. Authorize the acceptance of an additional \$2,559,215 in grant funds from the United States Health Resources and Services Administration for the period of March 1, 2024 through February 28, 2025 for Ending the HIV Epidemic, 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 and/or revisions thereto that do not materially impact or alter the services or funding level.
4. Authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, or designee, to apply for any additional funding opportunity announcements, if available, to address the prevention, testing, care and treatment needs of those impacted by HIV.

## **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

In San Diego County in 2023, gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men comprise 48% of recent HIV diagnoses and 70% of persons living with HIV. HIV has disproportionately impacted some of San Diego County's most vulnerable residents, who include Black and Hispanic communities, gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men. Local surveillance data from 2023 demonstrated that Blacks comprise less than 6% of the county population but comprise 13% of recent HIV diagnoses. Hispanics comprise 35% of the county population yet comprise 53% of recent HIV diagnoses. Because of the disproportionate impacts of HIV among communities of color, community engagement efforts have been utilized to plan and provide services that address issues such as stigma, medical mistrust and access to care.

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services works in partnership with the HIV Planning Group, an official advisory board to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors to address the needs of persons living with HIV, particularly those with disproportionate impact, as described above. The HIV Planning Group is comprised of people living with HIV, service providers, subject matter experts, HHSA designees, community members and designees from each

supervisory district. The HIV Planning Group conducts needs assessments of system capacity and capabilities every three years. This includes engaging with different impacted communities through focus groups. These engagement efforts play an impactful role in informing decisions and ensuring resources are effectively and equitably distributed to serve the needs of those most impacted by HIV in San Diego County. The last needs assessment was conducted in 2021 and the results led to service changes as a result of COVID-19, including temporary housing, transportation and food services. The next needs assessment is currently being conducted.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

By increasing capacity and services aimed to prevent, identify, and treat HIV, the proposed action aligns with the County of San Diego (County) Sustainability Goal #2 to provide just and equitable access to County services and resources, and Sustainability Goal #4 to protect the health and well-being of San Diego residents. Testing and identification of those unaware of their HIV status, and treatment of HIV will improve the overall health of communities and reduce the demand of associated care services, while increasing effectiveness of care providers and lowering operating costs.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

#### ***Recommendation #2: Authorize acceptance of Ryan White Treatment Extension Act (RWTEA) Part A and RWTEA Part A Minority AIDS Initiative funding***

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-26 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in estimated costs of \$12,268,293 and revenue of \$12,098,501 in FY 2024-25. The funding source for this grant is the United States Health Resources and Services Administration. A waiver of Board Policy B-29 is requested because the funding does not offset all costs. These unrecovered costs are estimated to be \$169,792. The funding source for these costs will be existing Realignment. The public benefit for providing these services far outweighs the costs. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

#### ***Recommendation #3: Authorize acceptance of Ending the HIV Epidemic funding***

Funds for this request are partially included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-26 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in estimated costs of \$2,650,793 and revenue of \$2,559,215. The funding source for this grant is the United States Health Resources and Services Administration. A waiver of Board Policy B-29 is requested because the funding does not offset all costs. These unrecovered costs are estimated to be \$91,578. The funding source for these costs will be existing Realignment. The public benefit for providing these services far outweighs the 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 Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

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

AUGUST 27, 2024