

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 3

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE ACCEPTANCE OF PERINATAL EQUITY INITIATIVE
FUNDING FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
AND AUTHORIZE APPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE FUNDING
OPPORTUNITIES (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) has authorized the acceptance of California Department of Public Health Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Division Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Block Grant funding since Fiscal Year 1997-98. MCH Block Grant funding addresses health disparities in African-American birth outcomes by implementing the Black Infant Health (BIH) Program in San Diego County. The 2018-19 California State Budget Act established the California Perinatal Equity Initiative (PEI) to expand the BIH Program and improve birth outcomes and reduce mortality in Black infants through evidence-based interventions. Counties that implement BIH Programs were eligible to receive PEI funding. On June 27, 2023 (3), the Board approved acceptance of the PEI allocation in the amount of \$484,310 for the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

Today's item requests the Board to authorize acceptance of the PEI grant allocation of \$484,310 for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. Additionally, today's item requests the Board authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, or designee, to apply for additional funds to help improve health equity for San Diego County residents.

Today's actions support the County of San Diego 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 improving access to quality healthcare for mothers, infants, children, adolescents, and families.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Waive Board Policy B-29, Fees, Grants, and 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 \$484,310 in grant funds from the California Department of Public Health, Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Division for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, for the Perinatal Equity Initiative grant, and authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, to execute all required grant documents, 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, or designee, to apply for additional funding opportunities that address improving health equity for San Diego County residents.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Infant mortality is an important indicator of overall population health. It is a product of social well-being, disease rates, access to healthcare, economic development, and general living conditions. Prematurity and low birthweight are among the leading causes of infant death and are also associated with illness and disability in survivors. National average data from 2019 to 2021 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates that the African-American infant mortality rates are much higher than all other race/ethnic groups. Additionally, data from the California Department of Public Health, from 2000 through 2021, suggests that the African-American infant mortality rates in San Diego County were two to five times higher than the White infant mortality rates. Many factors are responsible for this gap, including institutional racism, class oppression, and gender discrimination, which have trickled down to negatively influence social determinants of health such as job security, availability of healthy food, transportation, and quality education in this population.

The County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services agency, Public Health Services administers the Black Infant Health (BIH) Program and the Perinatal Equity Initiative (PEI) to reduce perinatal morbidity and mortality among disadvantaged populations. These programs work to address inequities in maternal and infant health outcomes and ensure access to quality prenatal and postpartum health care and community resources through individual, family, and group-based support. Both programs also host Community Advisory Board meetings that are attended by stakeholders, health care professionals and providers, as well as community residents, with lived experience. Attendees offer guidance and insight into the needs of families served by the programs.

The BIH Program provides culturally appropriate support services and resources to African-American women and their families throughout the county to address health disparities and improve the birth outcomes noted above. The PEI, therefore, complements programs and services and supports eligible local health jurisdictions in the implementation of evidence-based interventions that reduce racial health disparities in birth outcomes among African-American women. For example, through the BIH Program, 313 African-American women were able to participate in client centered and empowering group sessions and/or received case management where they increased their knowledge on developing life skills, reducing stress, and strengthening social support.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's proposed actions support the County of San Diego (County) Sustainability Goal #1 to engage the community; Sustainability Goal #2 to provide just and equitable access; and Sustainability Goal #4 to protect the health and well-being of everyone in the region. This will be done by ensuring vulnerable populations in all communities are given access to resources provided by the Black Infant Health (BIH) Program and the Perinatal Equity Initiative (PEI), which promote the overall health and well-being of those disproportionately impacted. The County Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services continues to engage with and seek community input through the BIH Advisory Board, PEI Community Advisory Board, and the Family Support Connection collaborative.

FISCAL IMPACT

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 \$560,282 and revenue of \$484,310 in FY 2024-25. The funding source is the Perinatal Equity Initiative grant from 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 \$75,972 for FY 2024-25.

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 cost 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