



Sequoia Healthcare District Response to COVID-19: Committed to Supporting the Health and Safety of All District Residents

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San Mateo County Board of Supervisors Meeting

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Role of Sequoia Healthcare District

The District is in a unique position to meet many of the unprecedented and unexpected challenges resulting from COVID-19

- Quick access to dollars
 - Relationships and connections
 - Financial flexibility
 - Deep understanding of local community
- District resources deployed strategically will help fill gaps identified by San Mateo County and our core health agency service partners.



Background

- On March 18 the District Board approved \$3 million in emergency aid to benefit our community in both the short- and long-term
- COVID-19 pandemic is heavily impacting the nonprofit service providers we support in San Mateo County, many of whom serve the most vulnerable populations in our area
- Funds will be provided in the form of grants and loans to our non-profit partners to address the impact of COVID-19, allowing them to continue to provide critical health safety net services at a time our community needs them most



4 Main Strategies

1. Allow current grantees to repurpose programmatic grants for general operations and extend reporting deadlines
2. Provide flexible funding assistance to agencies that serve the most at-risk populations
3. Offer no-interest loans to support partner agencies with substantial hardship
4. Continue to support school staff funded by SHD's [Healthy Schools Initiative](#), including school nurses, wellness coordinators, PE+ coaches, and mental health specialists



Strategy 1

Allow current grantees to use currently specified programmatic grants for general operating purposes and extend the grant reporting deadline to August

- While many programs on hold to combat the spread of the novel coronavirus, dollars are desperately needed to support organizational operations. Dollars available for use immediately
- The last thing nonprofit grantees need to be spending staff time on at this point is reporting requirements when they could be helping San Mateo County residents.
- To maintain accountability, grantees complete brief application to inform the District how funds would be re-allocated, requires approval and a 3-month and 6- month brief report
- District staff will remain accessible for questions and to provide approval for specific purchases and alternate funding requests along the way



Strategy 2

Provide additional funding assistance to our core partners that serve our most at-risk residents. This is in the form of grants, up to \$50,000 per agency – with a maximum of \$500,000 across the fund

- In emergency situations, flexible funds are especially essential, able to be used for general operations and to purchase equipment and supplies.
- These agencies are providing services that reduce the spread of illnesses, and supporting their work is beneficial for the long-term health of both the agencies and the clients they serve every day.
- May help reduce the long-term negative financial impact on organization
- Should align with other funding sources and approaches



Strategy 3

Provide no-interest emergency loans to our grantees

- The loans, the higher of \$25,000 or 15% of an agency's annual operating budget, will help keep staff employed and ensure that these donation-reliant organizations can continue operating
- May help keep organizations viable prior to ability to fundraise and re-coup financial and programmatic losses.



Strategy 4

Continue to pay salaries for school staff funded by SHD's [Healthy Schools Initiative](#), including school nurses, wellness coordinators, PE+ coaches, and mental health specialists

- Maintains the integrity of our funding commitment to schools and staff positions key to our Healthy Schools Initiative
- Would help assure key staffing position remain intact, whereby reducing layoffs and onboarding costs of re-hiring and re-training
- Will not further contribute to economic crises for these impacted individuals and their families



Assure best practices

- Align with what's needed and to be agile and adaptable
- Plan to respond to changing circumstances
- Keep attention on innovative and efficient approaches
- SHD has and continues to pursue both proactive and responsive approaches

