



County of San Mateo

Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Department: HEALTH

File #: 22-683

Board Meeting Date: 9/13/2022

Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Louise F. Rogers, Chief, San Mateo County Health
Marc Meulman, Director, Public Health, Policy and Planning

Subject: Acceptance of Award from the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Disease Supplemental Funding to Public Health Foundation Enterprises dba Heluna Health

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution authorizing the acceptance of an award from the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Disease Supplemental Funding to Public Health Foundation Enterprises dba Heluna Health, to commence on July 01, 2021, and term on September 30, 2023, in an amount not to exceed \$226,250.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, California is experiencing significant vacancy rates in clinical public health laboratories where many of these vacant positions remain unfilled after 60 days. These vacancies have been caused due to retirements before and during the pandemic, further increasing the shortage. The training and certifications required can be achieved after completion of an accredited program. However, there are also work experience opportunities where current laboratory directors train and guide prospective individuals in the field while they work on their accreditation.

In response, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has entered an agreement with Public Health Foundation Enterprises dba Heluna Health (Heluna) making Heluna the primary recipient of several Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Funds (including the ELC CARES, ELC Enhancing Detection, and ELC Enhancing Detection Expansion, and other COVID funds). Heluna administers the funding on behalf of CDPH.

Heluna is offering funding to the San Mateo County Public Health Laboratory in order to provide 12 months of laboratory director training to a LabAspire Fellow in the preparation for state certification exams.

DISCUSSION:

Funding from this award will reimburse the County for salary, benefits and conferences associated with the training and sponsoring of the LabAspire Fellow.

The resolution contains the County’s standard provisions allowing amendment of the County’s fiscal obligations by a maximum of \$25,000 (in aggregate).

The agreement and resolution have been reviewed and approved by the County Attorney as to form.

It is anticipated that one LabAspire Fellow will receive Public Health Lab Director certification.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE:

Measure	FY 2021-22 Actual	FY 2022-23 Estimated
Number of LabAspire Fellow(s) to receive Public Health Lab Director certification	1 Fellow	1 Fellow

FISCAL IMPACT:

The agreement shall commence on July 01, 2021, and term on September 30, 2023, in an amount not to exceed \$226,250. Funds in the amount of \$201,182 are included in the Public Health, Policy, and Planning FY 2022-23 Recommended Budget. Funds in the amount of \$25,068 will be included in the FY 2023-24 Projected Budget.

Since the County is receiving these funds and no matching funds are required, there is no Net County Cost associated with this agreement.