

AGENDA \_\_\_\_\_ August 4, 2020



Lori A. Cox  
Agency Director

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July 28, 2020

Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County Administration Building  
1221 Oak Street, Suite 536  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Board Members:

**SUBJECT:** DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PILOT STIPEND PROGRAM FOR COVID-19 POSITIVE INDIVIDUALS UNABLE TO WORK

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- A. Develop and implement a pilot stipend program for County residents who are unable to work due to contracting COVID-19 with the following parameters, not to exceed ten million (\$10,000,000.00):
  - a. The individual certifies that they have tested positive for COVID-19 and must isolate in their residence;
  - b. The individual certifies that they are currently not receiving unemployment benefits or paid sick leave;
  - c. The individual receives a one-time only lump sum payment of \$1,250.00; and
  - d. The individual is referred by the designated clinics in 5 high risk neighborhoods.
- B. Authorize the Social Services Director to implement the pilot stipend program in collaboration with the Health Care Services Agency (HCSA).
- C. Authorize the Auditor-Controller to serve as the fiscal agent of the pilot stipend program.
- D. Authorize the County Administrator's Office and Auditor-Controller to make any related budget adjustments.

**SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:**

On March 16, 2020, the County Public Health Officer issued a Shelter in Place Order ("Order") in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Order has subsequently been amended and currently has no

end date. The primary intent of the Order is for the County to slow the spread of COVID-19 and mitigate the impact on delivery of critical healthcare services.

A critical factor in the success of the Order is the ability of individuals who contract COVID-19 to safely isolate in their residence to stop the spread of the disease. Many County residents who test positive for COVID-19, especially hourly workers, will need assistance in order to isolate as they cannot afford the loss in wages. We expect many of these individuals in need of assistance will be part of the 'essential' workforce who are unable to work remotely and thus are at higher risk of contracting COVID-19.

On June 30, 2020, your Board approved HCSA's Two-Phase Expansion of Community-Based Case Investigation/Contact Tracing ("CI/CT"). Phase One, which was approved by your Board on July 14, 2020, included the execution of CI/CT emergency contracts with community medical providers (La Clinica de la Raza, Roots Community Health Center, West Oakland Health Center, and Tiburcio Vasquez) that are testing and/or providing services to communities most impacted by COVID-19. CI/CT involves interviewing positive COVID-19 cases and their contacts and providing residents with assistance in accessing community resources to support them during isolation and quarantine. The community medical providers are key links in the CI/CT expansion because they have the language and cultural capacity to meet the needs of the communities disproportionately affected by the pandemic, including monolingual communities. Vulnerable residents testing positive for COVID-19 will be connected to the pilot stipend program through HCSA's community medical provider network of CI/CT services.

The pilot stipend program will provide financial assistance to support workers who have contracted COVID-19 enabling them to isolate at home. The program will receive applications from individuals and will provide financial support for the 14-day isolation period. The participants will need to certify that they are a County resident, are presently not receiving any other compensation (via sick leave or unemployment), and have tested positive for COVID-19. The pilot stipend program will initially be limited to approximately 7,500 participants who are referred by HCSA's network of community medical providers of CI/CT services.

**SELECTION CRITERIA/PROCESS:**

*Not Applicable*

**FINANCING:**

The County will seek reimbursement from eligible State and federal funding sources available for COVID-19 response. Total program funds not to exceed \$10,000,000.00.

**VISION 2026 GOALS:**

The Stipend Program supports the 10X Goal of **Healthcare For All** in support of our Shared Vision of a **Thriving and Resilient Population**.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:



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Lori A. Cox

Agency Director