

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA**

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For the Agenda of:  
June 15, 2009

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Department of Health and Human Services

Subject: Report Back On High Priority Plan For Procuring Additional Federal Funding To Address Clinic Closures

Contact: Ann Edwards-Buckley, Acting Director, Health and Human Services, 875-2002

**BACKGROUND**

During the June 11, 2009, the Department of Health and Human Services was requested to provide a framework for procuring additional federal funding to address enhancing medical services and to address clinic closures.

**DISCUSSION**

The Department of Health and Human Services has already begun applying for federal funding to enhance medical services and to address clinic closures. Primary Health Services are the successful recipients of a grant from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) since 2001 titled "Healthcare for the Homeless". The current annual award is \$600,808. The intent of the this grant is to improve access to the homeless population estimated to be 18% of the County Medically Indigent Services Program (CMISP) population, or 10,080 persons.

A second HRSA grant recently awarded in March 2009 to the Department is titled "Increase Services to Health Centers", part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, for a total of \$546,318 over a two year period. The global intent of this grant is to increase access to medical care for underinsured and uninsured persons. The specific grant award to the Department was to fund medical staff for afternoon and evening hours at the Primary Care Clinic. This funding prevented the lay-off of five County support staff employees and in addition covers the expense of two on-call physicians who work the evening hours at the clinic. The grant award requires that the Primary Care Clinic remain open from 5-9 pm.

The Department of Health and Human Services submitted an application for a third HRSA grant in June 2009 titled, "Capital Improvement Program Grant", also part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The Department applied for a two year grant totaling \$890,219. If the application is approved, the funding will be available in July 2009. The intent of this grant is twofold. A portion of this grant (\$35,000) will fund capital improvements in the Dental Clinic which was recently relocated from the Capital Health Center to the Primary Care Center as a result of Fiscal Year 2008-09 budget reductions.

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The majority of the grant is intended to fund material and labor expenses related to the implementation of an electronic health record in the County medical clinics that serve the CMISP population. While this grant does provide funding for County project management labor expenses, it does not prevent any lay-off since staff dedicated to this project are not currently in jeopardy of facing a lay-off. Award of this grant requires a County match of the currently budgeted \$500,000 annually over the next two years. Removal of the budgeted amount places award of this grant in jeopardy.

There is one additional grant that is part of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 titled the "Health Information Technology Act". The application for this grant is expected to be made available in 2010. The grant is in development and is described briefly as intending to "facilitate and expand electronic movement and use of health information among organizations." No further information is available about this grant at this time. The Department intends to follow development of this grant and to submit an application if appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:  
TERRY SCHUTTEN  
County Executive

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ANN EDWARDS-BUCKLEY, Acting Director  
Department of Health and Human Services

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
JAMES W. HUNT, Acting Administrator  
Countywide Services Agency