



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
September 12, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager  
 Submitted by: Dr. Lisa Warhuus, Director, Health, Housing, and Community Services  
 Subject: Accept Future of Public Health Funds from the State of California

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City manager to submit grant agreements to the State of California, to accept the grants, and to execute any resultant revenue agreements and amendments for the Future of Public Health program for an amount of \$912,213 for each of the following: Fiscal Year 2024, Fiscal Year 2025, and Fiscal Year 2026.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The City's award for each Fiscal Year is \$912,213 and needs to be expended by June 30<sup>th</sup> or the last day of each of the following: Fiscal Year 2024, Fiscal Year 2025, and Fiscal Year 2026.

Funding will be recommended for appropriation through the first amendment to the appropriations ordinance in the State Operating Grant Fund (Fund 302).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The State's Budget Act of 2022 created a new funding stream called the Future of Public Health, intended to support and grow California's public health infrastructure. The funds are in the budget baseline and are planned to be an ongoing source of funding. As a local public health jurisdiction, the City is entitled to a base award of \$350,000 and additional funds awarded by formula. At least 70% of funds must be spent on permanent City staff costs and training, and up to 30% can be used for equipment, supplies and other administrative costs.

The funding comes with certain requirements, including the submission of a public health improvement plan, the use of evaluation and Results Based Accountability to measure success, and staff participation in specified regional public health groups.

The City's public health activities are a Strategic Plan Priority Project, advancing our goals to champion and demonstrate social and racial equity and to be a customer-focused organization that provides excellent, timely, easily-accessible service and information to the community.

## BACKGROUND

The vast majority of the City's health funding grants support strictly defined health activities and services and come with extensive reporting requirements. In contrast, the Future of Public Health funds can be used relatively flexibly to support the City's infrastructure to plan, coordinate and deliver programs to address specific local needs, most notably reducing public health disparities.

The City of Berkeley is a thriving community with considerable wealth, high levels of education attainment, and a rich culture that all contribute to a healthy community. However, Berkeley is not a city where all people are living long and healthy lives and achieving the highest possible level of health. In Berkeley, African American/Black and other people of color are more likely to die prematurely and experience a wide variety of adverse health conditions throughout their lives.

As reported in the 2018 City of Berkeley Health Status Report, higher incidence of disease is linked to neighborhoods that have been historically under-resourced and overexposed to unhealthy conditions. These neighborhoods have more people living in poverty and more people of color than surrounding neighborhoods. Like other jurisdictions, these historic and ongoing health inequities have been exacerbated by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Communities of color, specifically African American/Black and Hispanic/Latinx residents, have a higher COVID-19 positivity rate, hospitalizations, and deaths compared to White residents.

Since 2018, extensive work has been done by Health, Housing, and Community Services (HHCS) to analyze and identify solutions to overcome the underlying issues that perpetuate these health inequities. HHCS programs serve individuals who are most impacted in Berkeley and continue to make progress toward solving health inequities that have existed and been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no environmental effects associated directly with accepting public health funding.

## RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Accepting these funds will allow the City to grow its infrastructure for public health.

## ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

## CONTACT PERSON

Kellie Knox, Future of Public Health Coordinator, HHCS, (510) 981-5301

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

ACCEPTING STATE OF CALIFORNIA FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDS

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has been a public health jurisdiction for more than one hundred years; and

WHEREAS, in Berkeley communities of color, specifically African American/Black and Hispanic/Latinx residents continue to experience disparate health outcomes, which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of public health needs throughout California the state budget established funds for the Future of Public Health program; and

WHEREAS, as a public health jurisdiction the City is eligible to receive an allocation of Future of Public Health funds.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or her designee is hereby authorized to submit grant agreements to the State of California, to accept the grants, and execute any resultant revenue agreements and amendments for the Future of Public Health program for an amount of \$912,213 annually in Fiscal Year 2024, Fiscal Year 2025 and Fiscal Year 2026. Funding will be recommended for appropriation through the first amendment to the appropriations ordinance in the State Operating Grant Fund (Fund 302) A record signature copy of said agreements and any amendments shall be on file in the office of the City Clerk.

