

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Departmental Correspondence

DATE **APR 18 2001**
HEARING **APR 24 2001**

TO Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM Timothy B. McMurdo, Director, Hospital & Clinics Division
SUBJECT Acceptance of the Health Resources Services Administration Grant

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 Adopt a Resolution to accept the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) grant in the amount of \$897,773
- 2 Approve an Appropriation Transfer Request (ATR) to accept \$159,032 for fiscal year 2000-2001
3. Approve an Amendment to the Salary Ordinance to add nine unclassified positions to the Division of Hospital & Clinics

Background

In 1999, the federal government established the Community Access Program (CAP) to expand health care access for the uninsured by increasing the effectiveness and capacity of the nation's health care safety net at the community level. This program is one component of an initiative which also seeks to expand insurance coverage for five million uninsured Americans by providing new, affordable health insurance options for families, and by accelerating enrollment of uninsured children eligible for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (the Healthy Families program in California). CAP program funds are distributed through a competitive grant process, and the program requires collaborative, community-based initiatives involving local safety net institutions. The Division of Hospital and Clinics submitted a proposal in June 2000, together with its community partners: the Central Labor Council, El Concilio; the South County Community Health Center; and the Health Plan of San Mateo.

Discussion

In March 2001, after a site visit by HRSA staff, Health Services was notified it would receive \$897,773 for a grant year commencing March 1, 2001. The grant funds nine unclassified County positions, including a Project Coordinator to develop an Insurance Access Team, dedicated solely to assuring that as many hospital and clinic patients as possible are covered by some form of insurance. This team (four positions), working in tandem with out-stationed eligibility workers from Human Services, will provide a central access point for enrolling uninsured residents in

Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, or the WELL program. The grant also funds a staff nurse to provide health assessments and case management services to high-risk individuals to help ensure clients receive services at the most cost-effective and appropriate level of care. It also funds a community program specialist and two outreach workers to assist the Central Labor Council in coordinating and providing worksite health improvement programs and outreach to low income union workers, and in enrolling workers and their families in Medi-Cal, Healthy Families or WELL.

In addition, the grant provides funds to El Concilio for a Chronic Disease Coordinator position to support expanded chronic disease services, develop a multi-ethnic consultant team and provide funds for a grant writer; consultant assistance including a 5 Development Director position for the Section 330 South County Community Health Center, and acquisition of an internet messaging system to link community and county providers with the Health Plan of San Mateo for improved utilization management information.

Insurance enrollment for County hospital and clinic clients is critical for the financial health of the hospital and clinics. Current data indicate that many clients treated at the hospital and clinics are eligible for insurance, a lack of staff solely dedicated to this task is one reason more clients have not been enrolled. Health Services does not receive reimbursement for services provided to uninsured clients. San Mateo County Health Center currently has 2500 applications for the Health Families Program and 4000 applications for Medi-Cal. The Insurance Access Team will help ensure as many clients as possible are enrolled in a health insurance plan.

Term and Fiscal Impact

The grant totals \$897,773 for one year. Of that amount, \$159,032 will be used in the current fiscal year. The remainder of the grant (\$738,740) will be included in the Hospital's FY 2001-02 budget. HRSA is accepting proposals for a second year of funding. All positions will be unclassified and are fully funded by the grant. Many of these positions can be partially reimbursed through Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA) claiming, which will be considered as a funding source for ongoing support of these positions together with grant funding. Substantial state and foundation grant funding is currently available for insurance outreach activities. If additional funding is not secured, these positions will be eliminated at the end of the grant year. There is no net County cost associated with this grant.

RECOMMENDED

Margaret Taylor

HEALTH SERVICES
RECOMMENDED
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Paul J. Stanwell
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ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER

ORDINANCE NO. _____
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2000-2001
SALARY ORDINANCE ADOPTED AUGUST 8, 2000

The Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, ordains as follows

SECTION 1. Part 12 of the Ordinance 03987 is amended as indicated

ORGANIZATION 68500 COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINICS

- 1 Item B182S, Community Program Specialist - unclassified series, is increased by 2 positions for a new total of 3 positions
- 2 Item B183S, Community Worker - unclassified series, is increased by 2 positions for a new total of 11 positions
- 3 Item F009S, Patient Care series, is increased by 1 position for a new total of 91 positions
- 4 Item B083S, Patient Services Assistant - unclassified series, is increased by 3 positions for a new total of 5 positions
5. Item B085, Patient Services Supervisor - unclassified, is increased by 1 position for a new total of 1 position

SECTION 2. This action is effective at the start of the first pay period beginning thirty days following adoption