



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## AGENDA ITEM

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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First District

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Fifth District

# DRAFT

**DATE:** May 23, 2023

# XX

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

### SUBJECT

**UPDATE ON ESTABLISHING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IMPACT FUND 2.0 (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

### OVERVIEW

On October 11, 2022 (9), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the County of San Diego (County) to establish a Behavioral Health Impact Fund 2.0 program (BHIF 2.0) which would award grants to projects that support the continuum of behavioral health services. The Board further directed an update on the status of awards, including the total number of awards granted, types of projects awarded, a description of recently awarded projects, and amount of funds remaining.

Today's action provides an update on this direction and a summary of ongoing activities that align with the goals of BHIF 2.0 to ensure funds are available to support the increase in behavioral health needs across the continuum. Additionally, today's action requests authorization to provide future updates to coincide with significant developments in lieu of time-certain reporting.

Today's actions support the County's vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, specifically those communities and populations in San Diego County that have been historically left behind, as well as our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities. This will be accomplished by a steadfast commitment to pursue funding opportunities that will allow the County to grow behavioral health supports in alignment with community need.

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

#### CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Receive the update on establishing the Behavioral Health Impact Fund 2.0.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to sunset time-certain reporting for the Behavioral Health Impact Fund 2.0, and shift updates to coincide with significant developments.

### EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Services (BHS) serves as the specialty behavioral health plan for Medi-Cal eligible residents within San Diego County who are experiencing serious mental illness or serious emotional

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disturbance, as well as the service delivery system for Medi-Cal eligible residents with substance use disorder care needs. BHS aims to provide resources and services that are equitably distributed and advance wellness across the continuum of need. Today's item supports this vision of advancing behavioral health equity in our region.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Today's item is an update on the pursuit of funding that will support ongoing behavioral health projects and supports Sustainability Goal #4 to protect the health and wellbeing of everyone in the region.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with these items. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT**

On May 4, 2023, the Behavioral Health Advisory Board received this Board Letter as an informational item.

**BACKGROUND**

On October 11, 2022 (09) the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) found that a Behavioral Health Impact Fund 2.0 (BHIF 2.0) was necessary to meet the needs of San Diego County residents and established the BHIF 2.0 grant program.

The Board further directed the Chief Administrative Officer to:

- Return to the Board within 120 days with proposed evaluation and selection criteria for the BHIF 2.0;
- Administer the BHIF 2.0, including the evaluation of proposals and the administration of the resulting agreements; and
- Submit a written report to the Board every 120 days on the status of awards, including the total number of awards granted, types of projects awarded, a description of recently awarded projects, and amount of funds remaining.

Following this direction, the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Services (BHS) has explored funding channels but has not yet identified a funding source for this initiative. However, in alignment with the goals of BHIF 2.0, BHS continues to explore grant funding opportunities available at the State and federal level. In Fiscal Year 2022-23, BHS has pursued grant opportunities totaling over \$220M and has been awarded just over \$33M with the possibility of further awards (pending final decisions by the State) that will further support behavioral health needs across the continuum.

Today's recommended actions request that the Board accept this initial update on BHIF 2.0 and authorize future updates to coincide with significant developments in lieu of time-certain reporting.

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**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Today’s proposed actions support the County of San Diego’s 2023-2028 Strategic Plan initiatives of Equity (Health) and Community (Quality of Life) as well as the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision, by pursuing funding to support the regional continuum of behavioral health services.

Respectfully submitted,

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HELEN N. ROBBINS-MEYER  
Interim Chief Administrative Officer

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

N/A

DRAFT