



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

GREG COX
First District

DIANNE JACOB
Second District

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Third District

RON ROBERTS
Fourth District

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Fifth District

DATE: September 11, 2018

XX

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT

AUTHORIZATION FOR SINGLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT: REFUGEE HEALTH ASSESSMENT SERVICES (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services receives funding from California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Office of Refugee Health (ORH) to provide comprehensive health assessments for newly arrived refugees and to report findings from the California Refugee Health Assessment (CRHA) form into the California State Refugee Health Electronic Information System (RHEIS), as outlined in the Policy and Procedure Manual from CDPH - ORH.

The Public Health Services, Tuberculosis Control and Refugee Health Branch currently contracts these services with two service providers via cost reimbursement contracts. However, effective April 1, 2018 the CDPH-ORH changed the payment methodology from cost reimbursement to fee for service reimbursement.

Today's action requests the Board of Supervisors to approve and authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to enter into single source contracts with qualified community providers to provide refugee health assessment services to clients who enter into the United States as designated by the Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

This request supports the countywide *Live Well San Diego* vision by building a better service delivery system to reduce the spread of disease and improve health outcomes in the County of San Diego, which promotes a healthy, safe, and thriving region.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. In accordance with Board Policy A-87 Competitive Procurement, approve and authorize the Director of the Department of Purchasing and Contracting to enter into negotiations with qualified providers of refugee health assessment services, and subject to successful negotiations and determination of fair and reasonable pricing, award contracts for the term of one year, with an initial 9-month term of January 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019, with

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four renewal option years through September 30, 2023 and up to an additional six months if necessary, and to amend the contracts as required to reflect changes to requirements and funding.

2. Authorize the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency, to pursue future funding opportunities to fund efforts that build capacity and enhance programs for early detection and prevention of threats to the public's health.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2018-20 Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. The funding source is the California Department of Public Health. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT

The Health Services Advisory Board voted to support this action at its meeting on July 3, 2018.

BACKGROUND

The County of San Diego is a major resettlement area for refugee arrivals, with an average of 3,360 refugees arriving annually in the last two federal fiscal years, as reported by the four resettlement agencies in San Diego County. The County often receives refugees from countries torn by conflict, where adequate medical services are not provided to preserve the health of the individual and family. With limited access to medical services, refugees often arrive with various chronic conditions, such as diabetes, hypertension, poor oral health, elevated lead levels in the blood of children, as well as mental health conditions and communicable diseases that need to be treated in order to preserve and protect the overall health of the community.

The Tuberculosis Control and Refugee Health Branch of Public Health Services receives funding from the State to administer the Refugee Health Assessment Program (RHAP) for the purpose of administering physical examinations and screening for these conditions. This ensures refugee families are able to access much needed medical and mental health services soon after arrival, which improves the success rate of conditions being treated and/or addressed. Vaccinations, tuberculosis testing, and other important preventive measures are taken during these assessments to protect refugees and the community from preventable illnesses, which align with the *Live Well San Diego* vision. The program is anticipated to cost approximately \$319,442 in Fiscal Year 18/19 with an anticipated revenue from CDPH and Medi-Cal reimbursement of \$355,176.

California Department of Public Health, Office of Refugee Health (CDPH - ORH) restructured the revenue agreement reimbursement methodology from cost reimbursement to a fee for service program which commenced on April 1, 2018. The new fee for service structure will reimburse the County \$400 per fully completed health assessment/physical exam, or \$200 for a partially completed health assessment/physical exam. There will be no annual cap on the amount of reimbursement in order to accommodate the natural ebb and flow of the refugee arrivals. The exam fees will also include costs which will be incurred by the County in administering the

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program as well as follow-up care for patients diagnosed with latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) during the assessment. To cover the cost of clinical services, the County will require community providers bill Medi-Cal for reimbursement. This may include billing medical appointments, administration of vaccinations, laboratory tests, and medications. County RHAP will follow this same practice for services provided through Public Health Services TB Clinics.

To fully engage this fee for service reimbursement structure, Public Health Services requests the Board of Supervisors to authorize the Department of Purchasing and Contracting to enter into contracts with providers who have the ability to deliver the following to the refugee population:

1. Ability and capacity to provide a medical exam and mental health screening within 30 days of refugee arrival, and complete the medical exam within 90 days of refugee arrival;
2. Ability and capacity to complete a full assessment as outlined in the Policy and Procedure Manual from CDPH – ORH;
3. Ability and capacity to enter results from the California Refugee Health Assessment into the California State Refugee Health Electronic Information System within five business days of service, in order for the County to award incentive to contractor;
4. The ability and capacity to invoice Medi-Cal;
5. Demonstrated experience working with newly arrived refugees;
6. Ability and capacity to provide licensed medical interpretation for each patient visit; and
7. Ability and capacity to provide services in San Diego, East, and Central regions where the majority of refugees reside.
8. Health navigation services

Refugee health assessment services qualify as Single Source procurements based on section 1D-3 of Board Policy A-87, as these services are from providers with unique knowledge, skill, and ability not available from other sources. For RHAP services, medical providers must meet all requirements of the RHAP Policy and Procedure Manual. Physicians must be board certified in infectious disease or have training in general practice medicine. Because the refugee population lives throughout the region, and in order to provide services to a diverse population, it is not in the best interest of this program to continue to contract with the two existing providers for refugee health assessment services. Approval will allow additional providers to participate and help assure eligible clients receive needed services. Increasing the number of providers will not result in any cost to the County. Multiple qualified providers would best serve the Building Better Health component of the *Live Well San Diego* vision by assuring prompt and conveniently located service provision to this diverse population.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN

Today's proposed actions support the *Live Well San Diego* vision by building better health through building a better service delivery system in our community. Specifically, it helps to build healthy families by raising the life expectancy of newly arrived refugee residents so they can lead healthy lives. It improves access to high-quality and efficient care and will lead to improved physical and mental health by providing prompt access to health assessment services and referrals for the refugee community and will provide data to assess the trends in health needs of refugee residents within the County of San Diego.

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HEALTH ASSESSMENT SERVICES (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Respectfully submitted,

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HELEN N. ROBBINS-MEYER
Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT(S)

N/A

DRAFT

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED

Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:

N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:

A-87 - Competitive Procurement

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:

A-87 Competitive Procurement: Exception to the Competitive Procurement requirement of Board Policy A-87 is requested to negotiate agreements with all qualified providers to ensure the County is able to provide health assessment services for refugees.

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:

N/A

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):

Award – 503127

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Health and Human Services Agency

OTHER CONCURRENCE(S): Department of Purchasing and Contracting

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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