



CITY OF LONG BEACH

BOARD OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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Dear Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers,

Funding a healthy community is integral to maintaining a safe city. The Board of Health and Human Services encourages you to include additional general-fund support for the Department of Health and Human Services in the fiscal year 2019 budget.

The Health Department's mission is to improve quality of life in the entire City of Long Beach by promoting a safe and healthy community in which to live, work, and play. Every year the Department provides more than 350,000 public health visits, 16,000 immunizations, 300,000 food nutrition vouchers, 7,800 food facility inspections, 5,400 miles of spraying for mosquitoes, 2,700 public health nurse visits, and 780 recreational water tests. More than 7,000 individuals are assisted with housing and other services. Removing barriers to language, through the Language Access Program, is important to meeting the diverse needs of our city. These services are provided throughout the City, helping to keep Long Beach healthy.

This year, the Department launched a Healthy Aging Center, led the development of an Early Childhood Education Strategic Plan, brought LA County resources to Long Beach to strengthen alternatives to incarceration for those with mental illness and substance use disorders, launched an oral health program, designed and implemented a cannabis education campaign, launched an STD education campaign, led the first My Brother's Keeper youth leadership program as well as launched a new fatherhood program and received funding to lead trauma informed efforts for the City of Long Beach.

Additionally, in June 2018, the Department launched a 24-hour Duty Officer Call Line for Police and Fire Dispatch and local hospitals to respond to communicable disease reports, mass shelter activation requests, and other emergency events. It is heavily utilized by our City's hospitals and was recently utilized by the Fire Department to engage the Public Health Emergency Management team in response to the devastating shooting at Covenant Manor. The Health Department was also recently awarded an emergency mobile hospital unit to be used in a local emergency, one of six in the country. These are only a few examples of how the Department of Health and Human Services is an integral component of the public safety triangle, encompassing Police, Fire and the Health Department working to keep our community robust and well.

However, it is important to note that essentially all these efforts are funded by outside funding. City funding is not provided for public health specific services or Department administration/infrastructure. All these services are funded through federal, State and local grants.

The Health Department operates with a \$123 million budget annually, 92% comes from federal, State, County and private funds. Grants make up the bulk of these funds. These grants fund specific activities and outcomes and allow for little flexibility, which leaves critical planning, analytic, and coordination work unfunded. Of the \$2 million provided from the General Fund, nearly one million goes back to the City to cover overhead costs such as HR, Finance, and technological support.

To ensure a robust Health and Human Services Department, flexible non-grant funding is essential and necessary to shore up the infrastructure necessary to keep these programs going, as well as do the non-program specific work required for public health work, such as epidemiologic data collection and analysis, contract management, communications and direct health service provision.

Investing in the Health Department isn't only beneficial for the health of our community, it is also a smart economic decision. For every City dollar spent in FY 2017, the Health Department leveraged \$295 of outside funding. For every new dollar provided to the Health Department in FY 2018, the Department was able to match that dollar in grants and outside funding, a 100% return.

No individual or community can thrive without health and well-being. Invest in a robust Health and Human Services Department and make a commitment to a healthy, safe Long Beach.

Thank you for your consideration