



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

**C-11**  
**REVISED**

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July 21, 2015

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
City of Long Beach  
California

## RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute an agreement and all necessary amendments, between the City of Long Beach and the County of Los Angeles for the Children's Health Outreach Initiative (CHOI) Program in an amount not to exceed \$409,320 to provide outreach, enrollment, utilization, and retention services for the benefit of low-to-moderate income families to obtain affordable medical insurance for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017. (Citywide)

## DISCUSSION

A lack of health insurance is the most important barrier impacting children's access to health care. Children without health insurance are less likely than those who are insured to see a physician for prevention-based care including immunizations and other well-child care services. Uninsured families tend to rely on emergency rooms for their regular source of care and to go without needed medical care for acute and chronic health conditions such as ear infections, throat infections, and asthma. With the passage of the Affordable Care Act and expansion of Medi-Cal in California, a study by the Commonwealth Fund reported in June 2014, that the percentage of Californians without health insurance was cut in half. It is, therefore, estimated that 11.1 percent of Long Beach residents still are uninsured; however, the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (Health Department) continues to work to increase access to care for our residents.

Since 2003, the Health Department has received funding from Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to assist children (ages 0 - 5) and their families to get medical coverage. The Children's Health Outreach Initiative (CHOI) Program, formerly known as the Community Outreach, Enrollment, Utilization and Retention (COEUR) Program, keeps children and their family members healthy by ensuring access to health care coverage through community outreach, assistance with enrollment, utilization of services, and retention of health insurance benefits. Intensive case management and follow-up is conducted to ensure full use of medical and preventive care benefits for children and families that qualify for low- or no-cost health insurance programs. To date, the CHOI program has provided outreach and education to over 78,696 community members and 12,447 children and adults have received direct enrollment assistance into a qualifying health insurance plan. Moreover, 11,252 individuals have been assisted with troubleshooting and retention services.

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The CHOI program, along with other Health Department services, aims to increase access to care, is aligned with the national implementation of the Affordable Care Act and the City's overall goal to keep Long Beach safe, healthy, and economically robust.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Linda Vu on June 29, 2015 and Budget Management Officer Victoria Bell on July 2, 2015.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action on this matter is requested on July 21, 2015 in order to continue the program without interruption.

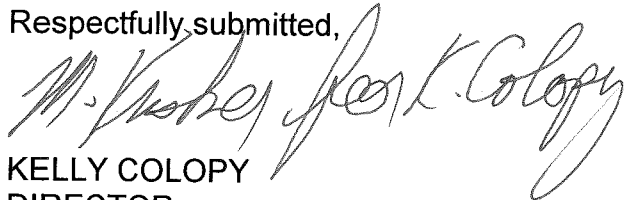
FISCAL IMPACT

The City will receive grant funding of \$409,320 for the grant period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017. Sufficient funding for year one (July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016) is currently budgeted in the Health Fund (SR 130) in the Department of Health and Human Services (HE). Funding for subsequent years will be requested through the annual budget process. No match or in-kind service mandate is required, and there is no local job impact associated with this action.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

  
KELLY COLOPY  
DIRECTOR  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

APPROVED:

  
PATRICK H. WEST  
CITY MANAGER