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June 16, 2009

TO: Each Health Deputy

FROM: Jonathan Freedman
Chief Deputy Director

SUBJECT: **UPDATE ON FEDERAL STIMULUS FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

This is to provide you with an update on Department of Public Health (DPH) activities in pursuit of funding opportunities under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Prevention and Wellness Fund

ARRA established a $1 billion Prevention and Wellness Fund, with funding broadly allocated for the following purposes:

Immunization. A total of $300 million has been set aside for immunization activities, including competitive and non-competitive grants and vaccines.

On April 9, 2009, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) allocated $198 million to states and territories on a non-competitive, formula basis of which California received $23.4 million. These funds can be used for surveillance, immunization registries, training, education, public information and outreach, provider quality assurance, vaccine management, and the purchase of vaccines for adults and children who do not qualify for the Vaccine for Children Program.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has indicated that $17.4 million of its award will be used for vaccines, and the remaining $6 million will be used to support State and local program operations. DPH expects to receive a share of both vaccine and program funds, however, CDPH has yet to make an allocation schedule available. Further, a major factor in the allocation of the California funds is the loss of State General Funds for immunization as proposed in the Governor's May Revision. It is unknown at this time if the State is going to use the ARRA immunization funds to replace the loss of State General Funds.

Of the $18 million available for competitive immunization-related grants, the DPH Acute Communicable Disease Control Program has submitted two applications: a proposal in the amount of $121,500 over two years to measure the effectiveness of pneumococcal vaccine, and a proposal in the amount of $450,000 over two years to measure the effectiveness of varicella vaccine.

Evidence-based Clinical and Community-Based Prevention and Wellness Strategies. A total of $650 million has been allocated to this area, however, allocation details are pending release by HHS. It is unknown whether DPH will see benefit from this funding.

Healthcare-Associated Infection (HAI) Reduction Strategies. A total of $50 million is available in this program area, of which $36 million will initially be allocated to the states through an expected 52 grant awards. CDPH expects to receive approximately $1 million. DPH anticipates participating in the State's grant through the funding of additional State staff to support surveillance activities, measure outcomes, and collaborate with hospital/clinic staff to train in HAI prevention. The award is expected in August 2009.

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) and Competitive Grant Program

The stimulus package provides $2.2 billion for Byrne competitive and formula grants for the following purposes:

Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Formula Grants.

A total of $2 billion has been allocated to Byrne Formula grants to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime and improve the justice system.

Grant formulas are based on population and crime statistics with a minimum allocation to each state. Allocation to California will be $135.6 million with $3.5 million expected to be allocated to Los Angeles County and $27 million to municipalities within the County. If treatment is included as a priority, DPH Alcohol and Drug Program Administration (ADPA) will collaborate with the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CCJCC) to submit a proposal for funding.

Byrne Competitive Grants.

A total of $225 million has been allocated to the Byrne Competitive Grant Program. Funds are intended to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system, to assist victims of crime (other than compensation) and for youth mentoring initiatives. Applicants may be national, regional, state, or local public and private entities, including for-profit and nonprofit organizations.

ADPA is collaborating with the CCJCC to pursue potential Byrne Grant funding for expansion of treatment services. The CCJCC submitted two Byrne Grant proposals in April 2009. These would increase the number of participants in the Co-Occurring Disorders Court Program and would expand treatment services for the Second Chance Women's Re-entry Court Program. If successful, the CCJCC will provide ADPA with funding for the treatment component.

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Grants

ARRA allocated $10.4 billion to NIH for a variety of purposes. A portion of these funds have been set aside for NIH Challenge Grants in Health and Science Research for projects that evaluate technology or program approaches in biomedical or behavioral science and/or public health.

The DPH Office of AIDS Program and Policy OAPP) has submitted a proposal relating to reducing stigma associated with HIV and optimizing HIV/Substance abuse care in the amount of $1 million over two years.

The DPH HIV Epidemiology Program has submitted proposals to study health behaviors related to HIV/AIDS in collaboration with the HIV Commission in the amount of $311,689 over two years, and a proposal related to HIV Oral Health in community settings in collaboration with the Rand Corporation in the amount of $1 million over two years.

I will keep you informed as DPH gains more information regarding funding opportunities.

JF:cb

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