



BARBARA FERRER, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed.
Director

MUNTU DAVIS, M.D., M.P.H.
County Health Officer

ANISH P. MAHAJAN, M.D., M.S., M.P.H.
Chief Deputy Director

313 North Figueroa Street, Suite 806
Los Angeles, CA 90012
TEL (213) 268-8117 • FAX (213) 975-1273

www.publichealth.lacounty.gov



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ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

May 07, 2024

52 May 7, 2024

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

JEFF LEVINSON
INTERIM EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

**ACCEPTANCE OF A MONETARY DONATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
FROM THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT THE AFRICAN
AMERICAN INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY PREVENTION INITIATIVE
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request approval to accept a monetary donation from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in the amount of \$250,000 to the Department of Public Health to support African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Prevention Initiative activities.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

Authorize the Director of the Department of Public Health (Public Health), or designee, to accept a donation in the amount of \$250,000 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) to support African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Prevention (AAIMM) Initiative activities.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

In accordance with County policy, donations in excess of \$10,000 require acceptance by the Board of Supervisors.

Approval of the above recommendation will allow Public Health to accept a monetary donation from RWJF in the amount of \$250,000, which is expected to support an AAIMM Compassion Response plan and fund. The Compassion Response plan will enable the AAIMM network to inform all necessary parties expediently upon news of a Black maternal, fetal, or infant death and to respond to the affected family with appropriate support and resources. This will meet a need that has long been

expressed by the AAIMM network to be the village of support for Black families.

In 2018 the AAIMM Initiative launched as a coalition of County departments, community organizations, health care providers, and community members to address the racial disparities in infant and maternal health outcomes in Los Angeles County (LAC). The Initiative theorizes that lifetime exposure to racism and its resultant stress are at the heart of unequal birth and perinatal health outcomes. The AAIMM Initiative is purposefully positive and strengths-based in messaging and in providing direct service programs. These efforts help prepare families for encountering systems that are not set up for them and assures families that they are deserving of and entitled to respectful, optimal services and care.

On November 1, 2023, the AAIMM Initiative was announced as one of the winners of the RWJF 2023 Culture of Health Prize for its innovative programs and commitment to racial equity and was awarded \$250,000 in prize money. The RWJF Culture of Health Prize honors the work of communities that foster health and wellbeing by addressing systemic inequities and aims to highlight community initiatives that address barriers to health and wellbeing caused by structural racism and other types of discrimination. The call for applications was released on February 16, 2023. The Culture of Health Prize recognized nine communities across the country that are at the forefront of advancing health, opportunity, and equity for all. The AAIMM Initiative was recognized specifically for: 1) its robust collaborative structure, which includes a countywide steering committee and four regional Community Action Teams; and 2) its AAIMM Doula Program, public awareness and storytelling, and committed academic, non-profit, and philanthropic partnerships.

RWJF is a private philanthropic organization with a mission to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals across the country. RWJF works in collaboration with policymakers, business leaders, community groups and many others who share a common interest in addressing the many harmful obstacles to wellbeing, including poverty, powerlessness, discrimination, and advancing health equity for all. The organization focuses on identifying, illuminating, and addressing barriers to health, particularly those caused by structural racism and its intersection with other forms of discrimination, including sexism, ableism, and prejudice based on sexual orientation. RWJF has leaned on evidence to advance health equity across multiple sectors promoting policies, practices, and systems change to dismantle the structural barriers to wellbeing created by racism. Amplifying voices to shift national conversations and attitudes about health and health equity, they have specifically created grants and grant programs that inspire bold ideas, encourage creative solutions, and demonstrate transformative potential.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions support Strategy I.1, Increase Our Focus on Prevention Initiatives and Strategy II.2, Support the Wellness of Our Communities, of the County's Strategic Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The donation from RWJF in the amount of \$250,000 is expected to support an AAIMM Compassion Response plan and fund.

There is no net County cost associated with this action.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Government Code Section 25335 permits the County to accept grants, donations, or other gifts for a

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specific County purpose. Section 2.4.2 of the County Fiscal Manual authorizes County departments to accept donations in excess of \$10,000 with Board approval.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Acceptance of the donation will allow Public Health to support the continued provision of AAImm Initiative activities.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd

Director

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Director

BF:mz

#07484

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors