

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Health Services Agency *max*

BOARD AGENDA # *B-3

Urgent Routine

AGENDA DATE November 9, 2010

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Approval for the Health Services Agency through its Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike Designation to Submit an Application for Health Center New Access Points Funding Under the Affordable Care Act of 2010

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve the Health Services Agency to submit an application for Health Center New Access Points Funding under the Affordable Care Act of 2010.
2. Authorize the Health Services Agency Managing Director, or her designee, to sign the grant agreement, if awarded.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is a competitive national grant opportunity anticipated to generate many applications. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) projects that an estimated 350 awards will be made for an average amount of \$650,000 for an estimated project period of August 1, 2011 through July 31, 2013. The annual limit is \$650,000 which may include up to \$150,000 in the first year for minor capital improvement and equipment. There is no matching requirement of local funds. If the grant is awarded, the Health Services Agency will return to the Board of Supervisors to request the appropriate budget adjustments.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2010-691

On motion of Supervisor Chiesa, Seconded by Supervisor O'Brien
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, DeMartini, and Vice-Chairman Monteith

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: Chairman Grover

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) _____ Denied

3) _____ Approved as amended

4) _____ Other:

MOTION:

Christine Ferraro

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

DISCUSSION:

The Affordable Care Act, passed in March of 2010, considers the expansion need of the provider safety net system in order to ensure access for the anticipated newly insured. The "Health Center New Access Points" grant opportunity is funded under the Affordable Care Act of 2010 and is for the purpose of expanding health care delivery capacity to improve the health of the underserved communities and vulnerable populations by assuring access to comprehensive, culturally competent, quality primary health care services.

The Health Services Agency is eligible to submit for this federal grant opportunity through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) as it meets the requirements of the Public Health Services Act Section 330 under its *primary care sites'* designation as a Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike.

This is a competitive national grant opportunity. HRSA estimates that 350 awards will be made for an average amount of \$650,000.

The Health Services Agency (Agency) would propose to use the new federal funding to support clinical expansion within an existing Agency facility(ies). Agency staff has acknowledged that with some minor renovation, existing vacant space could be converted to revenue generating space and provide increased access to the underserved.

In addition to the potential for increased demand due to the Affordable Care Act of 2010 (Health Reform), the Health Services Agency is interested in seeking this opportunity to support increased capacity needs already presently being encountered. For example, the number of days between a patient's call requesting a non-urgent appointment and the next available appointment, has grown generally to multiple weeks. With the exception of the Urgent Care Center, our ability to provide access to new patients is minimal. Given our lack of excess capacity, the growing Medically Indigent Adult/uninsured population is displacing needed revenue generating appointments, thereby jeopardizing our ability to achieve a balanced budget. Although staff is still monitoring and analyzing trend data, there is some indication that Emergency Room visits and potentially the testing those visits generate have increased, possibly as a result of primary care capacity constraints.

The grant application is due to the federal Health Resources and Services Administration electronically by November 17, 2010 with additional data to be submitted by December 15, 2010. The announcement of awards is expected to occur on or about August 1, 2011.

Applying for this grant is supported by the Community Health Center Board's strategic plan and grants policy.

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POLICY ISSUES:

Approval of this request is aligned with the Board of Supervisors priorities of A Healthy Community, Efficient Delivery of Public Services, and Effective Partnerships by supporting the Community Health Center Board's priorities and the Health Services Agency's efforts to seek external grant funding to provide for improved access to primary care services for the underserved.

STAFFING IMPACT:

There is no staffing impact related to submission of an application. If the grant is awarded, additional staffing will be required in order to fulfill the grant project scope of work. The Health Services Agency would make the appropriate requests for related staffing at that time.

CONTACT PERSON:

Mary Ann Lee, Managing Director. Telephone (209) 558-7163