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Agenda Item
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Supervisors
Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Item Number: 1.14

MEETING DATE: 02/24/2026

DEPARTMENT: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

AGENDA ITEM PREPARER: Yolanda Beltran

DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR: Tracey Belton

SUBJECT:

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY- T. BELTON

1. Accept report providing an overview of recent federal Public Health grant termination notices and the resulting temporary restraining order (TRO) issued by a federal judge; and
2. Approve letter to be sent to the appropriate legislative representatives to support the Public Health Division considering the recent federal actions.

SBC FILE NUMBER: 420

AGENDA SECTION:

CONSENT AGENDA

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

Background

This report provides an overview of recent federal public health grant termination notices and the resulting temporary restraining order (TRO) issued by a federal judge. On February 13, 2026, a 14-day TRO was granted enjoining federal agencies from implementing the termination of certain public health grants, including those impacting local health departments (LHDs). While this order temporarily halts the immediate loss of funding, it does not resolve the underlying uncertainty regarding the continuation of grant support. If funding is ultimately terminated, the impact to local public health infrastructure, staffing, community programs, and administrative systems will be significant and immediate. The Health and Human Services Agency is requesting the Board of Supervisors approve the attached letter to be sent to the appropriate legislative representatives to support the Public Health Division considering the recent

federal actions.

Current State

- As of February 13, 2026, a 14-day Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) is in effect temporarily preventing the federal government from carrying out grant terminations.
- Effective February 11, 2026, termination notices have been given citing alignment with agency priorities and stating no corrective action is possible.
- Awardees must continue to comply with closeout requirements and have 120 days from termination to liquidate financial obligations incurred prior to termination.
- The TRO includes language covering states, their subdivisions, instrumentalities, and fiscal agents, which may extend to local health departments; however, consultation with County Counsel is recommended.
- A multistate lawsuit has been filed challenging the terminations.

The situation remains fluid and requires ongoing monitoring.

Local Impact

If the California Strengthening Public Health Infrastructure (CASPHI) grant funding is permanently terminated, the County will experience direct fiscal and operational impacts.

CASPHI Grant Summary

- Total Grant Amount FY 25-26: \$ 675,929
 - Personnel \$ 469,391
 - Non-Personnel \$107,966
 - Indirect Cost (21%) \$98,572
- Total Amount Expended through Dec 25: \$ 341,449
- Total Amount at Risk/Potential Loss in FY 25-26: \$ 171,031
- Total Amount at Risk / Potential Loss for balance of the grant: \$ 334,480

Personnel Costs

- Personnel (2.0 FTE) Health Education Associates II

Loss of funding would result in the elimination of 2.0 FTEs, which broadly support health promotion outreach, data analytics, health equity strategies, and communications across many public health programs, including: Tobacco Education, Opioid Prevention, CalFresh Healthy Living, Immunizations, Oral Health, Communicable Disease, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health, Emergency Preparedness, and Public Health Nursing programs.

These positions support community engagement, equitable access to services, program communication,

and strategic data-driven planning.

Non-Personnel Costs

- Electronic Health Record (EHR) system and related software tools used for case management for the Medical Therapy Unit (MTU) serving children with qualifying medical conditions (e.g., cerebral palsy, spinal cord conditions, etc.).
- Adobe Licenses, general office supplies, E-filing system
- Workforce development investments, including training in data analytics, leadership development, crisis communication, and equitable access to health services.

Loss of these resources would impair patient data security, operational efficiency, compliance, and long-term workforce capacity.

Conclusion

While the Temporary Restraining Order provides short-term relief, the long-term fiscal outlook remains uncertain. The potential loss of CASPHI funding would directly impact staffing, infrastructure, public health program delivery, and essential administrative systems that support vulnerable populations in our community.

Given the significant local implications, it is recommended that the County:

1. Prepare and submit a formal letter to members of Congress to advocate for preservation of obligated federal public health funds. (see attached)
2. Continue active monitoring of federal and judicial developments.
3. Conduct fiscal contingency planning to prepare for potential funding reductions, including assessment of personnel and non-personnel impacts.

Stable, predictable funding is essential for maintaining public health infrastructure, supporting community health outcomes, and ensuring continuity of services. Ongoing advocacy and fiscal planning are necessary to mitigate potential adverse impacts to our County and the residents we serve.

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. Accept report providing an overview of recent federal Public Health grant termination notices and the resulting temporary restraining order (TRO) issued by a federal judge; and
2. Approve letter to be sent to the appropriate legislative representatives to support the Public Health Division considering the recent federal actions

ATTACHMENTS:

Board Agenda Fact Sheet - Legislative Letter of Support

Public Health Letter of Support