

June 11, 2024

Honorable Mayor and City Council  
City of Long Beach  
California

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommendation to authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute an agreement, all necessary documents, and any subsequent amendments, including amendments to the award amount or terms, with the California Health Benefits Exchange, also known as Covered California, to accept and expend grant funding in the annual amount of \$121,000 for the Covered California Navigator Program for a three-year period, to begin July 1, 2024, with the option to extend for an additional three-year period at the discretion of the City Manager; and,

Increase appropriations in the Health Fund Group in the Health and Human Services Department by \$121,000, offset by grant revenue. (Citywide)

**DISCUSSION**

In 2014, the federal government enacted the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), which strives to reduce the number of Americans living without health insurance, while controlling the cost of health care. Covered California, the State of California's Marketplace Exchange, provides a consumer-focused single portal entry where eligible consumers can shop, compare, and purchase health insurance and receive subsidies. The mission of Covered California is to increase the number of insured Californians, improve health care quality, lower costs, and reduce health disparities through an innovative, competitive marketplace that empowers consumers to choose the health plan and providers that give them the best value.

Covered California offers financial assistance to bring down the cost of health insurance in the form of an Advanced Premium Tax Credit (APTC) and Cost Sharing Reductions (CSR) to individuals and families earning 0 to 400 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). With the ever-changing landscape of health law and programs, the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (Health Department) provides information, education, and assistance reflective of the community that is Long Beach.

The Health Department, a Certified Enrollment Entity since October 2014, conducts outreach and education to over 10,000 individuals and completes over 5,000 applications for health coverage annually. The funding will be used to continue education, enrollment, and navigation activities to populations that continue to have high rates of uninsured. Those populations include, but are not limited to, Latino, African American, Asian American, young adults, LGBTQ, and people experiencing homelessness.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Anita Lakhani on May 21, 2024, and by Budget Analysis Officer Greg Sorensen on May 23, 2024.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on June 11, 2024, to continue providing program services.

FISCAL IMPACT

The City will receive grant funding in the annual amount of \$121,000 for three years, to begin July 1, 2024. An appropriations increase of \$121,000 is requested in the Health Fund Group in the Health and Human Services Department, offset by grant revenue. Any indirect costs that might not ultimately be eligible for grant funds will be funded by the Health Operating Fund, General Fund, or other eligible grant funds. There is no match or in-kind service mandate required. This recommendation has no staffing impact beyond the normal budgeted scope of duties and is consistent with existing City Council priorities. There is no local job impact associated with this recommendation.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



Alison King  
Director  
Health and Human Services

APPROVED:



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THOMAS B. MODICA  
CITY MANAGER