DATE:      May 12, 2020
TO:        Board of Supervisors
FROM:      Paul E. Lorenz, Chief Executive Officer, SCVMC
SUBJECT:   Monthly Report on Valley Homeless Healthcare Program

RECOMMENDED ACTION
Consider recommendations relating to the Valley Homeless Healthcare Program.
(Ambulatory and Community Health Services, Santa Clara Valley Medical Center)
Possible action:

   a. Approve operational report from Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).


   c. Ratify approval of budget, project narrative, and supporting documents as part of the HRSA supplemental grant award relating to COVID-19 related activities in the amount of $55,627 for the period March 15, 2020 through March 14, 2021.

   d. Ratify approval of budget, project narrative, and supporting documents as part of the HRSA supplemental grant award relating to COVID-19 related activities in the amount of $626,225 for the period April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS
There are no costs or revenues associated with receiving the report or budget update. No appropriation modifications are needed upon ratification of the grants. Related grant revenue and expenditures are included in the FY 19-20 Adopted Budget for Santa Clara Valley Medical Center Hospitals and Clinics (SCVMC).

CONTRACT HISTORY
In September 2003, the County of Santa Clara received a grant from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to provide medical services to the County’s homeless population. This grant provided the funding through which the Valley Homeless
Healthcare Program (VHHP) began. The grant has been renewed since then, allowing the program to continue.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

As part of grant funding requirements from HRSA, the establishment of a Governing Board is required to provide oversight and direction for VHHP. It has been determined that the Board of Supervisors (Board) is the Governing Board of VHHP. Monthly updates on the Program are presented to the Governing Board, including any actionable items for the Board’s consideration in order to meet HRSA’s governance requirements.

**HRSA Supplemental Grant Awards for COVID--19 Response**

**COVID19 Supplemental Grant Award**

On March 20, 2020, VHHP was notified of a one-time supplemental grant award in the amount of $55,627 to support preventing, preparing for, and responding to COVID-19. The funding provides flexibility, as it can be used for a wide range of activities, including but not limited to, patient and community education, screening, testing, laboratory services, personnel, supplies such as personal protective equipment, and purchase of vehicles to transport patients. VHHP is requesting to use the funds for existing personnel costs not currently claimed on the grant. The personnel cost is for a 0.5 FTE Health Services Representative (HSR) to assist VHHP’s Mobile Medical Unit, Backpack Medicine, and Medical Respite teams with scheduling telehealth visits for people placed in motels where they receive ongoing assessment, testing, and medical and behavioral health services.

Additionally, the HSR will maintain and update patient location/housing after discharge from the motel for follow-up VHHP care management and referrals.

**Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Supplemental Grant Award**

On April 8, 2020, VHHP received notification of another one-time supplemental grant award in the amount of $626,225. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides supplemental one-time funding to health centers for the detection, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of COVID-19, including maintaining or increasing health center capacity and staffing levels during the COVID-19 response. VHHP is requesting to use the funds to offset existing personnel costs not currently claimed on the grant. Specifically, recognizing the need to reach, screen, test, and manage care for a greater number of homeless residents with, or at-risk for, COVID-19, VHHP is requesting to use CARES funding to expand activities delivered by the 1.0 FTE Physician, 1.0 FTE Nurse Coordinator, and 1.0 FTE Community Outreach Specialist who staff VHHP’s Backpack Medicine Team. In collaboration with the Public Health Department, Office of Supportive Housing, and other community partners, the Backpack Medicine Team has been rapidly responding to encampments, shelters, and other areas to screen and test homeless individuals immediately for COVID-19. The Backpack Medicine Team has also been identifying older homeless adults, individuals who have been exposed to someone who has tested positive, and/or individuals with pre-existing chronic health conditions to facilitate testing for COVID-19, as well as coordinate placement in quarantine or emergency isolation housing in motels/hotels.
Submission of the budget, project narratives, and other supporting documents for the COVID-19 supplemental award and CARES supplemental grant awards were due on April 23, 2020 and May 8, 2020, respectively. As such, the department is requesting retroactive approval of these supplemental grants, since the deadline for submission was before the next available Board meeting.

Quarterly Grant Budget Update

The Homeless grant was renewed for an additional three-year term from June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2022. The base grant amount for the first year of the three-year term from June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020 was $2,735,817. An additional $202,872 of unused FY 18-19 Substance Use Disorder – Mental Health (SUD-MH) supplemental grant funds has been rolled over to the current term, bringing the total funding available for FY19-20 to $2,938,689. The grant predominantly provides funding for administrative and medical staff. Each quarter, expenditures are reported to HRSA in order to draw down funds.

For the period from June 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020, VHHP claimed $2,081,048 or 71% of the grant funding, with a remaining balance of $857,641. A more detailed list of expenditures to date is attached to the legislative file for the Board's review and approval.

CHILD IMPACT

The recommended action will have no/neutral impact on children and youth.

SENIOR IMPACT

The recommended action will have no/neutral impact on seniors.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The recommended action will have no/neutral sustainability implications.

BACKGROUND

Since 2004, VHHP has targeted homeless residents of Santa Clara County and has provided services designed to reduce and reverse health disparities. VHHP’s service delivery model is designed to create a “safety net for the safety net” through an integrated model of care that incorporates primary care, mental health, substance abuse, oral health, and enabling services. VHHP’s network of front-line mobile and fixed-site services, linked to the County of Santa Clara Health System’s system of care, engages and serves homeless people who cannot or will not use primary health care services in conventional settings. Front-line services are co-located with homeless shelters and services to provide convenient access to walk-in health services. Care coordination connects homeless patients to comprehensive services, including care at Valley Health Centers and Valley Specialty Center. This model emphasizes accessibility, affordability, and relationship-building to counter the practical, cultural/linguistic and attitudinal barriers that impede access to healthcare for homeless people through:

- Services that reach homeless people “where they are”;
▪ Provision of all services without regard to ability to pay;
▪ Assignment of homeless patients to primary care providers to assure medical home access;
▪ Integration of primary care and mental health services;
▪ Active assistance to obtain and stay enrolled in health coverage and other benefits programs;
▪ Recognition and respect for each patient’s strengths and autonomy; and
▪ Communication of compassion, dignity and hope in every patient encounter.

Within this framework, VHHP uses specific strategies to meet the unique needs of homeless sub-populations. VHHP has received Expanded Medical Capacity, New Access Point, and Service Expansion awards to carry out specialized strategies to reach and deliver services that meet the health access and care needs of chronically homeless adults; homeless adults with acute medical problems discharged from hospitals; homeless injection drug users with, and at high risk for, the hepatitis C virus; homeless migrant/seasonal farm workers; and homeless transitional age youth.

**CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

Failure to approve the recommendation action would hinder the Program’s ability to meet the program requirements for HRSA.

**STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

Clerk of the Board is requested to notify Selene Ho at selene.ho@hhs.sccgov.org.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- VHHP Q3 Budget Update  (PDF)
- COVID19 Supplemental Grant Budget and Narrative  (PDF)
- CARES Supplemental Grant Budget and Narrative (PDF)