



MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 30, 2019

TO: Collin County Health Care Board of Trustees

FROM: Candy Blair
Healthcare Care Services Administrator

RE: Contract Amendment—Texas Department of Health Services (DSHS) FY2020 Hazards/Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant

DSHS recently notified our county that a limited amount of additional grant funding was available for various contracts. Attached is the amendment to the FY2020 Hazards grant for one year grant period 7/1/2019-6/30/2020. The initial funding amount of \$545,327 was increased by \$11,997 for a total of \$557,324 to support the county's Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) activities.

The additional funds will be used towards hiring interns to assist with disease investigations and other epidemiology tasks. Interns are limited in working a maximum of 1080 hours and often work less than full time hours and less than six months. As a result, we expect to hire multiple interns throughout the contract year in order to maintain two interns working with our Epidemiology department at all times.

The County match required for this funding is 10% and will be met by using existing staff members' salaries and fringe. Due to the grant application deadline being 8/30/19, the application was submitted to DSHS in a timely manner and needs approval.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness is a valuable source of funding for Collin County. The Hazards grant creates the abilities to effectively prepare and respond to a range of public health threats, including infectious diseases, natural disasters, and biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological events. Preparedness activities funded by the PHEP cooperative agreement are targeted specifically for the development of emergency-ready public health departments that are flexible and adaptable.

PHEP follows the guidance of the CDC's fifteen public health capabilities, including; Community Preparedness and Recovery, Fatality Management, Public Health Surveillance and Epidemiological Investigation, Mass Care, and Volunteer Management (MRC). CCHCS plans to use the allocated DSHS Hazards funds towards the current salaries of seven PHEP staff members. Other program costs such as mileage, travel for training, and medical supplies are included in the budget for review.

CB/jlg