



Tomás Aragón, MD, DrPH  
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
California Department of Public Health



GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor

Date: July 14, 2022  
To: California Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs)  
From: California Department of Public Health (CDPH)  
Subject: Overview of Recent Legislative Augmentations for Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)

## I. Purpose

This memo provides LHJs with an overview of recent legislative augmentations and ongoing STD-related funding, including funds allocated in the 2022 State Budget Act ([Senate Bill 154](#), Chapter 43, Statutes of 2022).

## II. STD Prevention and Collaboration Grants

The 2022 Budget Act included an augmentation that will increase funding for STD 'Prevention and Collaboration' Grants, of which funding was originally appropriated for in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20 via the 2019 Budget Act. The 2019 Budget Act also required LHJs to reallocate 50 percent of funds to at least one community-based organization (CBO) or non-profit health care provider for STD activities.

**Funding:** The STD Prevention and Collaboration Grants comprise \$13.6 million in ongoing STD local assistance funding annually beginning FY 2022-23. This includes the following annual awards:

- \$4.5 million, appropriated in FY 2019-20,
- \$3.6 million, appropriated in FY 2021-22, and
- \$5.5 million, appropriated in FY 2022-23.
  - Note: The 2022 Budget Act combined \$3.6 million from FY 2021-22 and \$5.5 million from FY 2022-23 for a total of \$9.1 million.

**Eligibility Criteria:** Eligibility was determined in collaboration with the County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), the California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO), and other stakeholders. LHJs were listed from highest to lowest morbidity and the LHJs that comprised 95% of the California early syphilis and/or congenital syphilis morbidity in 2019 were identified as eligible.

**Number of Grantees:** Effective FY 2022-23, twenty-three (23) currently funded LHJs will receive increases to their STD Prevention and Collaboration Grant funding and seven (7) LHJs will receive these grants for the first time, bringing the total number of LHJs receiving STD Prevention and Collaboration grants to 30 (see attached Excel file, **STD Funding Summary, July 2022**, for totals).



**Funding Formula:** An updated allocation formula was developed in collaboration with CHEAC, CCLHO, and other stakeholders. Formula inputs were based on 2020 Department of Finance data and are as follows: 50 percent based on population, 25 percent based on population in poverty, and 25 percent based on population by race/ethnicity (Black/African American, Native American/Alaska Native, and Hispanic/Latinx). Inclusion of racial/ethnic groups was determined by disproportionate rates or high case counts of early syphilis or congenital syphilis. This funding formula was updated from the original formula and will be applied to the full amount of the grant starting July 1, 2022.

**Timeline:** CDPH anticipates issuing grant guidance to LHJs by the end of July 2022.

**Additional Details:**

- Fifty percent of these funds must be allocated to or used by LHJs to support activities in partnership with community-based organizations or non-profit health care providers.
- Funding must be encumbered or expended within the fiscal year being allocated.
- Effective July 1, 2022, eligible uses expanded to include innovative and impactful activities such as integrated services for STIs, viral hepatitis, HIV, and drug overdose and material support including but not limited to sleeping bags, tarps, shelter, clothing items, and hygiene kits. A more detailed memo will be sent to LHJs on these changes by the end of July 2022.
- Allows CDPH to use funds to support capacity building assistance.

**Contact Information:** LHJs will receive detailed letters describing their LHJ-specific allocation amounts and new flexibilities in the use of STD Prevention and Collaboration grant funds soon. Communications will be shared with CHEAC and CCLHO distribution lists in addition to other key stakeholders. For questions related to these funding streams, please feel free to reach out to Rachel Piper at [Rachel.Piper@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Rachel.Piper@cdph.ca.gov) and Orlanda Tafolla at [Orlanda.Tafolla@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Orlanda.Tafolla@cdph.ca.gov).

### III. Syphilis Outbreak Response

The 2022 Budget Act includes additional General Fund to support innovative and impactful syphilis and congenital syphilis prevention and control activities in eight specified LHJs. These grants will be separate from the STD Prevention and Collaboration grants described above.

**Funding:** \$9 million, to be expended or encumbered by June 30, 2027.

**Eligible Entities:** Eight LHJs will receive funds to support innovative and impactful syphilis and congenital syphilis prevention and control activities in FY 2022-23, as defined in the 2022 Budget Act: Fresno, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, and San Joaquin.

**Funding Formula:** The 2022 Budget Act specified funds must be allocated based on early syphilis and congenital syphilis morbidity, with 60 percent of funds based on early syphilis and 40 percent of funds based on congenital syphilis. For this reason, the funding formula for the syphilis outbreak response funds will be separate from the funding formula for the STD Prevention and Collaboration grant funds described above.

**Timeline:** CDPH anticipates releasing funding materials by December 2022.

**Additional Details:**

- Funds must be used to support innovative and impactful syphilis and congenital syphilis prevention and control activities with a focus on populations as determined by local or regional syphilis or congenital syphilis epidemiology
- Funds must be used to supplement and not supplant existing resources

**Contact Information:** On July 26,2022, the STD Control Branch will meet with LHJs receiving syphilis outbreak response grants to consult on the funding and discuss potential grant activities. Communications will be shared with CHEAC and CCLHO distribution lists in addition to other key stakeholders. For questions related to these funding streams, please feel free to reach out to Rachel Piper at [Rachel.Piper@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Rachel.Piper@cdph.ca.gov) and Orlanda Tafolla at [Orlanda.Tafolla@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Orlanda.Tafolla@cdph.ca.gov).

#### IV. Hepatitis B

The 2022 Budget Act includes General Fund resources to establish demonstration projects to allow for innovative, evidence-informed approaches to improve the health and wellbeing of vulnerable underserved Californians living with or at risk of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.

**Funding:** \$2.7 million for local assistance, awarded on a competitive basis.

**Eligible Entities:** Any entity in California that demonstrates experience and expertise in providing culturally appropriate services to the most vulnerable and underserved Californians living with or at risk of HBV. Applications will be evaluated based on need in the geographic area, population served, competency of the entity applying and program design.

**Allocation Methodology:** This funding will be allocated on a competitive basis through the Request for Application (RFA) process.

**Timeline:** CDPH anticipates releasing the RFA by December 2022; funding available until June 30, 2027.

#### Additional Details:

- Demonstration projects must be informed by a landscape analysis conducted by CDPH on existing HBV outreach, screening, and linkages to and retention in care efforts
- The CDPH landscape analysis must include an assessment of current efforts and needs to serve the most vulnerable and underserved populations living with or at risk for HBV infections
- Demonstration projects shall include an evaluation component

**Attachment: LHJ STD Funding Summary, July 2022 (Excel File)**