



# MARIPOSA COUNTY

Human Services/Social Services · (209) 966-2000



## RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2013-80

MEETING: March 12, 2013

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jim Rydingsword, Human Services Director

RE: Blue Shield Grant Submission

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### RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve submission of the "County Enrollment Assistance Grant" in the amount not to exceed \$84,318 to the Blue Shield of California Foundation.

Under Health Care Reform, the Blue Shield Foundation of California is making funds available to expand coverage to population who will be newly eligible under Medi-Cal expansion known as Covered California. This project targets individuals at 133% of the Federal Poverty Level and below, representing about 2000 newly eligible individuals in Mariposa County who currently go without adequate health insurance. The current funding is being requested to assist with the enrollment of these individuals in this newly expanded program.

### Mariposa County Needs

Per the Health Ranking Study (Univ. Of Wisconsin 2012), Mariposa County ranks 34 (out of 56 ranked CA counties with "1" being best) for health outcomes. Our high poverty rate (14.4% - 2012 Census) and high number of uninsured contribute significantly to this low ranking. In 2011, John C. Fremont Health Care District (JCFHD) and the Mariposa County Human Services Department (MCHSD) partnered to conduct a healthcare needs assessment, which identified that 12% of the respondents were uninsured. The local Health Survey also revealed that the under or uninsured access primary care at lower rates than private and publicly insured individuals (65% and 48% compared to 43%). For specialty care, their access dropped significantly to 13% accessing when they need it. Currently 32.4% of Mariposa County residents are eligible for low-income health programs (200% of the federal poverty level -CA Food Policy Advocates, 2010) with approximately 2,000 individuals between 100% and 133% of FPL eligible for expanded Medi-Cal coverage. Rural populations are considered "hard to move" per the recent Request for Applications for Covered California, and we believe they will have a higher per person cost to enroll.

### Proposed Project

Under the Proposed Project, MCHSD will partner with community based organizations and groups (such as churches, service clubs, schools, etc.) to increase outreach and preliminary enrollment to the individuals targeted through

this funding. Utilizing Blue Shield of California Foundation funding, a .5 FTE Eligibility Worker will be funded through MCHSD to perform outreach training to community partners and provide additional time to complete Medi-Cal enrollment processing. Grant funds will also be used to provide small stipends/incentives to community groups, nonprofit and government agency staff to conduct outreach, identify eligible individuals and assist in the application process. Our project replicates existing successful outreach and enrollment models from Healthy Families and the private insurance sector and leverages existing relationships with community partners who come in contact with a large number of individuals and families who may not currently be connected with MCHSD. We estimate that this model will help us to ensure timely processing of at least 1,500 new applications to Medi-Cal within the one year grant period.

#### Implementation

If Mariposa County is successful in obtaining this grant the Human Services Department will combine this grant with funds that are already available for CalFresh (Food Stamp) outreach activities and return to the Board for approval to add a 1.0 FTE Eligibility Worker III to current position allocations for the period of the grant. It is anticipated that, at the end of the grant period, this position can be converted to a permanent position as a result of increases in the Medi-Cal caseload due to Covered California.

#### **BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:**

#### **ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:**

As an alternative to this grant the County will rely exclusively on State-level activities to inform people in Mariposa County of health care options that will be available under California's Health care Reform known as Covered California. The consequence of negative action is that people in Mariposa County may not consider their options for Health care under Covered California in a more timely fashion.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

**If approved, this grant will bring approximately \$84,318 in Foundation revenue into Mariposa County. There will be no impact to the County General Fund.**

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

**Application\_County Enrollment Assistance 2013\_DRAFT\_v2 (DOCX)**

**Copy of MariposaHumanServices\_BSCFBudget\_22013 (XLS)**

**MCDHS\_Project\_Budget\_Narrative\_021513 (DOC)**

**OrgChart\_HumanServices\_1-15-2013 WO Names (PDF)**

**ProjectTimeline\_MediCalExpansionMariposaCo (DOCX)**

**STATEMENT REGARDING 990 TAX FILING (DOCX)**

**County Single Audit 2011 (PDF)**

**Financial Statements (PDF)**

#### **CAO RECOMMENDATION**

Requested Action Recommended

  
Rick Benson, County Administrator/Office

**RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**

**MOVER:** Janet Bibby, District III Supervisor

**SECONDER:** John Carrier, District V Supervisor

**AYES:** Janet Bibby, Kevin Cann, John Carrier, Merlin Jones

**EXCUSED:** Lee Stetson