



Agenda Date: 11/6/2007
Agenda Placement: 6C

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Shelli Brobst for Randolph F. Snowden - Director
Health & Human Services
REPORT BY: Shelli Brobst, Contracts Analyst, 253-4720
SUBJECT: Declaration of Intent to Administer Emergency Medical Services Appropriation for Rural Health Services

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Health and Human Services requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign the Declaration of Intent and Standard Agreement with the California Department of Public Health for an Emergency Medical Services Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2007-2008.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

State Emergency Medical Services Appropriation (EMSA) funds are available to Rural Health Services Counties for the reimbursement of uncompensated emergency services. Approval of the requested action will declare the County's intent to accept its EMSA allocation for services to be provided in Fiscal Year 2007-2008.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	Public Health
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary
Discretionary Justification:	This is a discretionary activity in that there is no mandate to accept the EMSA funding directly from the State. However, by accepting these funds, Napa County Health and Human Services will be able to administer their allocation to local physicians and hospitals. It is anticipated that Napa County will receive \$87,526 in EMSA funding this fiscal year.
Is the general fund affected?	No

Future fiscal impact: None

Consequences if not approved: If this action is not approved, the EMSA funds will become part of a State funding pool. Napa County physicians and hospitals will not be guaranteed reimbursement for costs, since costs are reimbursed by the State funding pool on a first-come, first-served basis.

Additional Information:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Assembly Bill (AB) 203, Chapter 188, Statutes of 2007, appropriated Proposition 99 Tobacco Tax money through the California Healthcare for Indigents Program and the Rural Health Services Program accounts to provide reimbursement for uncompensated emergency services provided by physicians to the indigent population in Fiscal Year 2007-2008. Napa County is designated as a Rural Health Services County and as such is entitled to receive Emergency Medical Services Appropriation (EMSA) funds regardless of whether the County accepts Rural Health Services funding for the Children's Treatment Program. (On October 16, 2007, Napa County declined to accept Rural Health Services funding for the Children's Treatment Program and instead elected to contract back these services to the State.) The EMSA funds are in addition to the County-operated Emergency Medical Services Fund, which is funded by fines from traffic violations.

Counties defined as "Rural Health Services Counties" have the option to receive Emergency Medical Services Appropriations (EMSA) directly or through the EMSA Contract Back Program. In past years the County chose to contract back the services to the State, which meant that the funds went into a State pool to be used to reimburse emergency physicians and hospitals for uncompensated emergency care. Starting in Fiscal Year 2004-2005, the County began accepting the EMSA funds from the State and thus was responsible for disbursing funds directly to local physicians and hospitals.

For the fourth consecutive year, HHS is recommending that the County accept and disburse the funds directly to local physicians and hospitals for emergency care. Under this arrangement, the County is responsible for enrolling local physicians, and hospitals, determining whether the services provided meet the criteria for the program funds, and submitting a Progress Report and a Final Report to the State on how the funds were disbursed. Napa County can claim up to ten percent of the funds for administrative costs.

The Declaration of Intent and Standard Contract (the subject of today's requested action) constitute Napa County's agreement to accept and administer the EMSA funds.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Lorenzo Zialcita