



Agenda Date: 11/7/2006
Agenda Placement: 6E

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Shelli Brobst for Randy 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 Health Services for an Emergency Medical Services Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2006-2007.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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 administer its EMSA allocation for services to be provided in Fiscal Year 2006-2007.

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:	Napa County is entitled to State Emergency Medical Services Appropriation to cover uncompensated emergency services. From these funds, doctors and hospitals are reimbursed at 75 percent of the Medicare rate. Approval of the requested action will allow HHSA to accept and administer Napa County's allocation. This action is discretionary in that there is no mandate to accept these funds. The estimated Fiscal Year 2006-2007 amount is \$86,978 (based

on the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 amount and the amount of available state funding).

Is the general fund affected? No

Future fiscal impact: None

Consequences if not approved: If the requested action is not approved, the funds will become part of a State funding pool. Napa County physicians and hospitals will thus not be guaranteed reimbursement for costs, since costs are reimbursed by the state 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

In accordance with SB 2132 (2000), Proposition 99 Tobacco Tax funds are appropriated to reimburse uncompensated emergency services provided by physicians to the indigent population in the current fiscal year. These funds are used for the provision of these emergency services, in addition to the County-operated Emergency Medical Services Trust Fund. This Trust is funded by fines for 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 with the State. In the past, the County chose to contract back the funds to the State, an arrangement under which the funds are part of a State pool used to reimburse physicians and hospitals for uncompensated emergency care. If funds are contracted back with the State, however, physicians and hospitals operating within Napa County are not guaranteed reimbursement for costs, since costs are reimbursed by the state on a first-come, first-served basis.

For the second consecutive year HHS is recommending that the County accept and disburse the funds directly to local emergency physicians and hospitals. Under this arrangement, the County is responsible for enrolling physicians in the County, determining whether the services provided meet the criteria for the program funds, and reporting to the State how the funds were disbursed. For providing these administration services, Napa County can claim up to ten percent of the EMSA funds. This process is similar to the one HHS currently follows with regard to Emergency Medical Services Trust Funds.

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

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Lorenzo Zialcita