



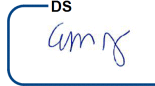
# COUNTY OF MONTEREY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

## MEMORANDUM

*Administration*

DATE: February 28, 2023

TO: Luis Alejo, Chair, Board of Supervisors, District 1  
 Glenn Church, Board of Supervisors, District 2  
 Chris Lopez, Board of Supervisors, District 3  
 Wendy Root Askew, Board of Supervisors, District 4  
 Mary Adams, Board of Supervisors, District 5  
 Sonia De La Rosa, County Administrative Officer

FROM: Elsa Mendoza Jimenez, Director of Health 

SUBJECT: Grant application for California Department of Public Health's Public Health Equity and Readiness Opportunity (HERO) Initiative (\$150,000)

It is the intent of the Health Department to submit a grant application in the total amount of \$150,000 to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Public Health Equity and Readiness Opportunity (HERO) Initiative Program. The HERO Initiative is funded through AB178 and AB179.

### **Background:**

The Health Department's Public Health Laboratory (PHL) is responsible for providing testing services to identify microorganisms that cause disease including bacteria, fungi, viruses, and parasites. The PHL provides testing with associated whole genome sequencing for communicable disease surveillance purposes, surge events and other public health emergencies. The PHL also serves as a reference laboratory for local hospitals and health care agencies.

The Department intends to submit a \$150,000 HERO Initiative grant application to provide professional training for public health laboratory professionals. The grant will provide funding for the PHL to train two candidates as Public Health Microbiologists during Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (\$60,000). The grant will also provide funding to support two Public Health Microbiologists' participation in the LabAspire program from FY2022-2023 through FY2024-2025 (\$90,000). LabAspire prepares Public Health Microbiologists for positions directing public health laboratories. The grant funds laboratory and training materials, travel, and program oversight costs. There is currently a shortage of certified Public Health Microbiologists and Director-qualified professionals in California. The grant will increase opportunities for local laboratory professionals to train and remain in our community. This grant application supports the Health Department's Strategic Plan Goal 4 (engage Health Department workforce and improve operational functions to meet current and developing population health needs).

Should the grant be awarded, the Health Department will come before the Board of Supervisors for approval. Please call me at 755-4526 should you have questions or require additional information.