



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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Congressionally Directed Spending/State Budget "Ask" Template and Instructions

The template below is intended to help guide Departments in the development of potential project submissions for upcoming state and federal appropriations processes. For a description of the type of projects that are currently eligible to be earmarked, please refer to the accompanying documents, either specifying the Congressional Earmark Guidance, or State Assembly and/or Senate Memos. For your project, please fill out the information below. Some information requested may be specific to state or federal processes.

Department Name: Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services

Name of Project: Public Health Laboratory

Amount of Funding Requested from the Federal or State Government (Specify): \$5,000,000

Source of Funds: *(ie, General Fund) If Special Fund, please name*
HRSA Health Facilities Construction and Equipment account

Related Policy Bills:

Project Justification:

Please provide a concise (4 to 5 sentence) explanation of the project. This should be a summary of the necessary information about the project in order for the county to "make its case" for federal funding.

Humboldt County needs a new Public Health laboratory to protect the environment and people of Northern California. The current laboratory, one of only 29 remaining in the state, is in a 100-year-old, repurposed building and aging modular units in a parking lot that don't have the space or power to run modern equipment. From water quality and shellfish testing to bio-terrorist threats, Public Health protects us. A new, updated laboratory space will ensure the North Coast's health and safety for decades to come.

Project Description:

Please provide a detailed description of the project. Key questions to consider and answer:

- *Why is there a need for this project and why is it important to the local community?*
- *Why is the project a good use of taxpayer funds and what is the positive impact for Humboldt County?*
- *Who will the project serve? How many individuals/families would benefit from this project?*
- *How will the money be spent?*

Note: you may provide additional materials (photos, charts, maps, etc.).



Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services Public Health has one of only 29 public health laboratories remaining in California. The laboratory provides vital clinical and environmental testing for the rural region of Humboldt, Del Norte, and western Trinity Counties, and is [an active participant in the Laboratory Response Network Reference Lab for Bioterrorism](#) threats in Northern California. Environmental services provided by the Public Health laboratory support rural households who rely on wells for drinking water and conduct regulatory testing for local beaches and the local shellfish farming industry.

The laboratory facility is in a nearly 100-year-old building that was never designed to be a laboratory space. This repurposed building (once housing Juvenile Hall) has been adapted to accommodate the laboratory as best possible given the location, age and condition of the building; however, the much-needed expansion of laboratory capabilities, including Biosafety Levels certification, is impossible in the current location. The building is wholly inadequate to the space and power demands of modern equipment. A modular BSL-3 laboratory space that was installed in the parking lot 20 years ago has reached the end of its life expectancy and is degrading significantly, resulting in escalating costs to keep the facility repaired and functional.

Replacing an outdated building with a modern public health laboratory is essential to protecting the environment and people of Northern California.

Funding will support the construction costs of building a new 10,000 sq. ft. Public Health Laboratory Facility—a purpose-built space utilizing new and emerging laboratory technology for clinical and environmental testing and bioterrorism response programs.

Total Cost to Complete the Project (Federal AND Non-Federal Funds) (State AND Non-State Funds):

Use the attached spreadsheet to complete the budget portion of this section.

This section is intended to be a budget breakdown and should include the activities for which the requested funding will be utilized, i.e., what specific elements will be paid for with federal funding?

If the request includes personnel, please detail the number and types of positions and sources of funding for the position(s) in future years. If the request is for construction, please specify the sources of cost estimates and break out local, state, federal, private funding for the full cost of the project.

Please include the amount of any non-federal funding/match (dollar amount and/or percentage) and specify if this funding has been secured.

Finally, has the project previously received any federal, state, or private funding, including federal discretionary grants and/or formula funding? If yes, how much, from what source, and when?

Total project cost is \$15,660,041. The estimate was developed by the Humboldt County Department of Public Works based on the scope of work and assumes 10,000 square feet at \$900/square foot and includes cost escalators based on projected construction cost increases.

Secured Funding:



CDC Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases (ELC) Funding (secured): \$2,150,000
CDC Advanced Molecular Detection (AMD) Sequencing & Analytics COVID Funding (secured): \$2,150,000
County/state realignment funds: in-kind staff time (secured): \$1,500,000

Funding request (seeking): \$5,000,000
County general fund and public health fund will balance grant funding to cover the remaining construction costs.

Can the County Obligate all Requested Funding Within 12 Months of Receipt?:

YES

List of Stakeholder Groups or Elected Officials who Support the Project:

California State Assembly Member Jim Wood (requesting)
California State Senator Mike McGuire (requesting)
Health Officers Association of California (requesting)
Open Door Community Health Centers (requesting)
Providence St. Joseph Health (requesting)
North Coast Health Improvement and Information Network (requesting)

NOTE: Congressman Jared Huffman [toured the current laboratory facility in July, 2021](#)

Estimated Project Start Date:

7/1/21 – Project planning began in 2021 with site location identified and cost distribution schedule completed. Construction is planned to begin April 2025.

Estimated Project Completion Date:

3/31/2026 - Full project completion is estimated to be March 31, 2026
Congressionally directed funding will be obligated within 12-months of receipt

Current Developmental Status of the Project:

Project Phases & Cost Distribution Schedule has been completed (attached)
Secured CDC grant funding (totaling \$4.2 million) and county public health funding
Project site location has been identified and purchase is expected to be completed by December 2023;
Congressionally directed funding will NOT be used to acquire land, purchase existing buildings, or to pay salaries or other operating or ongoing costs.

Contact Information:



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Agency:	County of Humboldt, Department of Health and Human Services Public Health		
Project:	Humboldt County Public Health Laboratory Facility		
Budget Breakdown:			
Revenue Source	Amount	Project Budget	Comments
Federal	#####	CDC ELC & AMD Sequencing & Analytics Funding	Funding from CDC to CA Dept of Public Health, awarded to county in 2021
State/Local	#####	County general fund and public health fund will balance future state grant funding to cover the remainder, primarily construction costs.	
Local	\$1,500,000	County realignment funds: in-kind staff time	
	\$10,660,041	Total	
		County match (if any)	
	\$5,000,000	Federal aid needed	
Has the project previously received any federal, state, or private funding, including federal discretionary grants and/or formula funding? If yes, how much, from what source, and when?			
Response:	CDC made Advanced Molecular Detection funding available to states; the county was awarded \$2,150,000 by the CA Dept of Public Health		
	CDC made Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases funding available to states; the county was awarded funding by the CA Dept of Public Health in 3/2021		