



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: 4/25/2023

File #: 23-422

To: Board of Supervisors

From: DHHS: Public Health

Agenda Section: Departmental

Vote Requirement: Majority

SUBJECT:

Report on the DHHS - Public Health Syringe Services Program (SSP)

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive and file a report on the SSP by the Humboldt County Health Officer and Public Health Director.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Public Health Fund (1175)

DISCUSSION:

Syringe services programs (SSPs) or needle exchange programs are recommended as public health best practice by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and World Health Organization (WHO), and are part of comprehensive harm reduction programs. These programs can provide access to disease and overdose prevention education and such as sterile needles, other injection supplies, non-injection supplies, safer sex supplies, HIV/HCV testing, and naloxone (Narcan), free of cost for participants. They have been operating in California since the late 1980s, with more than 65 currently operating in California.

In 2000, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors approved syringe exchange services by partner agencies; in 2012, the Board approved DHHS-Public Health's Syringe Services Program through its mobile outreach program. This program is operated by DHHS-Public Health's North Coast AIDS Project (NorCAP). The DHHS - Public Health Harm Reduction Program is an essential component of Humboldt County's Board Strategic Framework Core Role to "Create opportunities for improved safety and health" and the Humboldt County Community Health Improvement Plan Priority Area "Behavioral Health - Substance Use". This program is an essential strategy for reducing the harm of drug use to individuals, families, and communities. Benefits include the prevention of disease, injury, and death associated with drug use, as well as addressing other drug-related harm by providing

referrals to treatment.

Current regulations require that the Health Officer update the Board on the status of the county SSP biennially. The full written report is attached and satisfies state regulatory requirements to maintain Public Health’s syringe services in Humboldt County.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Expenditures (Fund, Budget Unit)	FY22-23 Adopted	FY23-24 Projected	FY24-25 Projected
Budgeted Expenses	\$215,088	\$215,521	\$\$
Additional Appropriation Requested	\$\$	\$\$	\$\$
Total Expenditures	\$215,088	\$215,521	\$\$
Funding Sources (Fund, Budget Unit)	FY22-23 Adopted	FY23-24 Projected*	FY24-25 Projected*
State/Federal Funds	\$215,088	\$215,521	\$\$
Total Funding Sources	\$215,088	\$215,521	\$\$

**Projected amounts are estimates and are subject to change.*

Narrative Explanation of Financial Impact:

There is no financial impact on reporting on the SSP aside from budgeted staff time to complete the report. The total cost of the program is represented in the table above.

STAFFING IMPACT:

There is no staffing impact on reporting on the SSP.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:

This action supports your Board’s Strategic Framework priority of protecting vulnerable populations, and creating opportunities for improved safety and health.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

None

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS:

Report on the DHHS - PH Syringe Services Program

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No.: C-13

Meeting of: 7/7/2020

File No.: 20-777