

Local Oral Health Program (LOHP) Budget Rollover Request Fact Sheet

The County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC) requests that budget rollover authority be granted to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) related to Proposition 56 Local Oral Health Programs.

Background

In November 2016, California voters approved Proposition 56, the California Healthcare, Research, and Prevention Tobacco Tax Act of 2016, which raised the state cigarette tax by \$2 per pack and added an equivalent tax amount on other tobacco products.

Proposition 56 requires that \$30 million be provided annually to the CDPH for the purpose and goal of educating about, preventing, and treating dental disease, including those caused by the use of cigarettes and other tobacco products.

Local Oral Health Program (LOHP)

Purpose and Overview

The CDPH LOHP was established to create and expand capacity at the local level to educate, prevent, and provide linkages to oral health treatment programs. Proposition 56 revenues dedicated to the CDPH State Oral Health Program, in part, support a five-year LOHP grant for all of California's 61 local health departments.

\$18 million will be distributed to local health departments annually through 2022 to establish or expand upon existing oral health programs. Local oral health programs are dedicated to providing:

- Oral health education and outreach
- Oral health disease prevention
- Linkage to oral health treatment services and care
- Case management and follow-up activities
- Monitoring of oral health conditions and disease trends

In the early stages of the LOHP, local health departments are tasked with planning and

assessment activities. In the latter years of the LOHP, local health departments will focus on intervention activities, education and outreach, and preventive oral health services.

Issue

Local health departments are challenged with a compressed timeline to expend LOHP grant funds and stand to lose critical resources essential to ensuring program effectiveness. Grant funds to LOHPs are divided equally across five program years. However, the first program year of expenditures must be accomplished in only six months. Local health departments are not permitted to roll over unexpended funds or carry forward funds from year-to-year.

Although Year 1 activities are funded from January through June of 2018, many jurisdictions throughout the state are still in the process of scheduling and executing agreements with the State, further delaying the start of LOHP Year 1 activities into the early months of 2018.

Solution

Local health departments request that budget authority be granted to CDPH to permit the rollover of unexpended LOHP funds for three years beyond the date of appropriation.

Similar funding distribution practices are currently in place for other CDPH programs, including the Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Program (MCAH) and the California Tobacco Control Program (CTCP).

Additional Information

For additional information or questions about our proposed statutory language, please contact CHEAC Executive Director Michelle Gibbons at mgibbons@cheac.org or 916-327-7540.