



Date: May 30, 2019

To: The Honorable Holly Mitchell,
Chair, Budget Conference Committee

Honorable Members
Budget Conference Committee

From: Michelle Gibbons, Executive Director

**RE: 4265 CDPH Issue #32 – Hepatitis C Prevention Funding – SUPPORT
ASSEMBLY VERSION**

The County Health Executives of Association California (CHEAC) respectfully requests your support of Assembly's version of the budget to provide \$10 million General Fund ongoing for Hepatitis C prevention programs.

According to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), approximately 400,000 Californians are living with chronic Hepatitis C, but many are unaware that they are infected. The number of Hepatitis C cases among young people ages 15-29 more than doubled between 2012 and 2016, with over 6,000 new cases among this age group in 2016. Factors that have been increasingly present in California, including homelessness and injection drug use, have also increased the risk of Hepatitis C transmission.

Local health departments employ a variety of initiatives and activities to prevent and control the spread of Hepatitis C in California, including providing outreach and education to providers and residents, testing and treatment services, and linkage to care. By working closely with residents and community-based organizations, local health departments play a vital role in preventing new infections, coordinating care, and delivering services to residents at risk or infected with Hepatitis C.

Local health departments stand ready to partner with the Legislature, Administration, and stakeholders on trailer bill language to ensure these additional resources best address the rates of Hepatitis C in California.

It is for these reasons that we respectfully urge the Budget Conference Committee to adopt the Assembly version to provide \$10 million General Fund ongoing for Hepatitis C prevention programs. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (916) 327-7540.

cc: Scott Ogus, Consultant, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3
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