



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 #31 – Comprehensive HIV Prevention Resources –  
SUPPORT SENATE VERSION**

The County Health Executives of Association California (CHEAC) respectfully requests your support of Senate's version of the budget to provide \$20 million General Fund ongoing for grants to local health jurisdictions and community-based organizations for comprehensive HIV prevention resources.

According to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the number of persons in California living with a diagnosed HIV infection increased over five percent between 2013 to 2017, with a prevalence rate of 323.8 per 100,000 people in 2013 to 340.3 per 100,000 people in 2017. HIV disproportionately impacts certain Californians, with people of color, gay and bisexual men, and people using drugs experiencing the highest prevalence of HIV. Further, the annual number of deaths of persons with a diagnosed HIV infection in California increased from 1,735 in 2013 to 1,874 in 2017.

Local health departments employ a variety of initiatives and activities to prevent and control the spread of HIV in California, including providing outreach and education to providers and residents, testing services, access to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), and linkage to care. These services provided by local health departments or through partnerships with community-based organizations, ensure residents are able to identify their HIV status, enroll in applicable care, and access necessary support services in a timely manner. 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 HIV.

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 HIV in California.

It is for these reasons that we respectfully urge the Budget Conference Committee to adopt the Senate version to provide \$20 million General Fund ongoing to local health jurisdictions and community-based organizations for comprehensive HIV prevention resources. 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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