

DR. MATT HEINZ

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Pima County Board of Supervisors

To: Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board

From: Dr. Matt Heinz, Supervisor, District 2

Date: March 31, 2022

RE: BOS Agenda 04/05/22: Health Department Funding

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Heinz".

Please add this item to the addendum agenda for 04/05/22. Thank you.

Board of Supervisors:

Discussion/Direction/Action: Directing the County Administrator and County staff to allocate an additional \$6.0 million in General Fund revenues to the FY23 Budget for the Pima County Health Department, with an eye toward additional increases in the Department's base funding in future years.

Under the current Draft FY23 Recommended Budget, our General Fund investment in the Health Department totals \$21.7 million, which is a 2% increase from last year – less than the rate of inflation – and most importantly, accounts for less than 40% of the Health Department's overall anticipated budget as it helps Pima County emerge from the pandemic and become a healthier, stronger community.

The remaining sixty-plus percent of the revenues needed for the Health Department's operations and initiatives – including vital ongoing collaborations with partner community healthcare providers – currently is anticipated to come from a variety of grants and other sources, including Federal grants. While a portion of these funds is formula based and therefore more or less reliable – depending on the actions of the Arizona Dept of Health Services as the intermediary – a significant portion is not. It is comprised of competitive grants, which we cannot count on in perpetuity and which force us to be reliant on changing Federal priorities, instead of being guided by internal guiding principles and objectives.

Additionally, we must ensure the Health Department has the resources it needs to fulfill its mission and achieve the health equity goals of the Board of Supervisors as outlined in *Resolution [2020-92](#), Declaring Racial and Ethnic Health Inequities and Income Inequality in Pima County to be a Public Health Crisis*. As County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry noted in his memo to the Board at the time, "with public health agencies at the forefront of this COVID-19 response we have a unique opportunity to refocus our public health agency and provide the necessary resources to address long-standing public health disparities, as well as improve readiness for future public health emergencies."

As the Health Department leads us out of the pandemic and toward greater community health and wellbeing, we must ensure it has the dedicated personnel and other resources needed to accomplish its long-term goals.

cc: Jan Leshar, Acting County Administrator
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer and Deputy County Administrator for Health and Community Services
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works