



MEMORANDUM

Date: March 28, 2025

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Leshner 
County Administrator

Re: **Federal Impacts to Pima County Health Department Grants**

Earlier this week Pima County Health Department (PCHD) received notification of recent federal grant terminations and their immediate impact to PCHD. As a result of this, several contracts are being closed, necessitating a workforce reduction plan and a decrease in capacity to provide vital community services. (Attachment)

Notably two major grants have been terminated effective immediately:

National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities

- Impacts eight (8) grant-funded staff positions
Leaving approximately \$903,102 in remaining funds inaccessible

COV4Equity (Vaccine Equity)

- Impacts fourteen (14) full-time funded staff members, three (3) contract licensed practical nurses and an additional twenty-five (25) employees who charge out portions of their time to this grant.
- Halting access to approximately \$1,047,252 in remaining funds

Employees have been informed of potential layoffs and PCHD is committed to supporting them through this transition.

The full scope of this funding loss is still being determined and PCHD is working to identify possible strategies to mitigate service disruptions. Additionally, PCHD is working with legal counsel to better understand the implications of these notifications and ensure compliance with all necessary procedures.

JKL/dym

Attachment

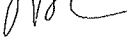
c: Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Terry Cullen, MD, MS, Public Health Director, Health Department



MAR 28 25 AM 11:52 PC CLK OF BD

Date: March 28, 2025

To: Jan Leshar
County Administrator

From: Theresa Cullen, MD, MS 
Health Department Director

Re: Federal Impacts to PCHD Grants

The purpose of this memo is to provide an overview of recent federal grant terminations and their immediate impact on the Pima County Health Department (PCHD).

Earlier this week PCHD received notices of termination or stop orders for the following grants:

National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities

On March 25, 2025, the Health Department was notified that the National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities grant has been terminated effective immediately.

Originally awarded \$6,510,503 in federal funding with no-cost extensions through May 30, 2026, the County now faces an abrupt halt in spending, leaving approximately \$903,102 in remaining funds inaccessible.

This decision directly impacts **eight grant-funded staff** positions and necessitates the closure of service contract agreements, the resolution of outstanding invoices, and the development of a layoff plan in consultation with Human Resources.

The termination of this program will significantly reduce the Health Department's capacity to provide vital community services, including health education, care kit distribution, insurance enrollment assistance, and support for initiatives such as NARCAN education, menstrual product distribution, and extreme heat response efforts. The full impact of this funding loss is still being assessed.

COV4EQUITY (Vaccine Equity)

The Health Department's Vaccine Equity (VE) Program has also been terminated as of March 26, 2025, halting access to approximately \$1,047,252 in remaining funds from the original \$9,559,161 award. This decision directly affects **14 full-time funded staff members**, three contract licensed practical nurses, and an additional 25 employees who charge out portions of their time to this grant.

The closure of this program will impact vaccine clinics, health education, and outreach, particularly in rural communities that rely on these services. The program's broader public health initiatives, including its resource referral system, and development of health education materials,

will also be discontinued. Additionally, the termination of VE funding will disrupt staff cross-training efforts, and create staffing shortages within the Health Department's clinical services.

The full scope of this funding loss is still being determined, and the Health Department is working to identify possible strategies to mitigate service disruptions.

SAIF COVID

Pima County Health Department received a stop order on March 26, 2025. There are no staff charging to this grant and it has pending charges of approximately \$6,131 which will leave no remaining funds.

IDEAS COVID

Pima County Health Department received a stop order on March 26, 2025. There are no staff charging to this grant and it has approximately \$11,267 of unspent funds intended for the purchase and repair of immunization cold storage and thermometer calibrations.

EQUITY COVID

Pima County Health Department received a stop order on March 26, 2025. There are no staff charging to this grant and has approximately \$19,377 of unspent funds intended for media campaigns promoting vaccination, supplies and other small projects.

SUP COVID

Pima County Health Department received a stop order on March 26, 2025. This grant was expended several years ago.

COVID-19 Containment

On March 26, 2025, Pima County Health Department received a stop order for this grant, which had been closed on May 31, 2024, with \$47,979 in remaining funds. Prior to the stop order, ADHS had contacted PCHD and offered to issue a new grant IGA using these remaining funds. While no staff are currently charging to the grant, the department intended to allocate these funds to support the Epidemiology program following the expiration of ARPA at the conclusion of this fiscal year.

Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 in Communities of Color (MC3)

On March 26, 2025, Pima County Health Department received a stop order for this grant, which had been closed on February 28, 2022, with \$55,554 in remaining funds. Prior to the stop order, ADHS had contacted PCHD and offered to issue a new grant IGA using these remaining funds. While no staff are currently charging to the grant, the department intended to allocate these funds to support the Epidemiology program following the expiration of ARPA at the conclusion of this fiscal year.

Enhanced Detection, Response, Surveillance and Prevention COVID-19

On March 26, 2025, Pima County Health Department received a stop order for this grant, which had been closed on May 1, 2023, with \$94,915 in remaining funds. Prior to the stop order,

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ADHS had contacted PCHD and offered to issue a new grant IGA using these remaining funds. While no staff are currently charging to the grant, the department intended to allocate these funds to support the Epidemiology program following the expiration of ARPA at the conclusion of this fiscal year.

The termination of these grants presents challenges for the Health Department, and will impact services, staffing, and ongoing public health initiatives. The County is working with legal counsel to better understand the implications of these notifications and ensure compliance with all necessary procedures. Employees have been informed of potential layoffs, and we are committed to supporting them through this transition. Efforts are underway to assess the full impact, manage staffing changes, close contracts, and transition programs. Additional updates can be provided as the situation evolves.

TC/ms

C: Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator