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To: Local Health Officers and Tribal Health Agencies

From: Communicable Diseases Funding for Local Health Departments Workgroup:
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Update on Communicable Diseases Funding Passed in the 2017-2019 Biennial Budget

This memo is intended to provide local public health departments and tribal health clinics with an update on the communicable diseases funding passed in the 2017-2019 Biennial Budget and the process for receiving the money.

The [budget](#) allocated \$500,000 in GPR per year as a continuing appropriation to local and tribal health agencies for communicable disease control and prevention ([page 79](#)).

The budget language as passed ([page 329](#)) states:

“252.185 Communicable disease control and prevention.

(1) From the appropriation under s. 20.435 (1)(cf), the department shall distribute moneys to local health departments to use for disease surveillance, contact tracing, staff development and training, improving communication among health care professionals, public education and outreach, and other infection control measures as required under this chapter. The department shall consider the following factors to establish an equitable allocation formula for the distribution of moneys under this section:

- (a) Base allocation, including at least some base amount for each local health department.
- (b) General population.
- (c) Target populations.
- (d) Risk factors.

(e) Geographic area, including consideration of the size of the service area or the density of population, or both. (2) By January 1, 2019, and biennially thereafter, each local health department shall submit to the division of the department that addresses public health issues a financial statement of its use of funds under this section.”

Funding Allocation

The Division of Public Health convened a work group of state, local, and tribal government representatives to establish a funding methodology and mechanism for the funds that were allocated in the budget. The names listed on page one are serving as representatives for each region, and these individuals are providing a health department and tribal government perspective. These names were solicited and put forward by the WALHDAB association director.

The group met via telephone conference to discuss various allocation formula methodologies and decided to proceed with a \$2,500 base amount plus area population for this fiscal year. A copy of this formula allocation is attached to the memo so agencies can review how much they will receive. The funds will be distributed through the consolidated contracting amendment process. The funding period is from July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018. Eligible expenses can be retroactive to July 1, 2017. Agencies will be notified of the funding amendment through the existing consolidated contracting notification process. We expect that this notification will come within days of your agency receiving this memo.

Agencies can claim expenditures only through the time period of July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018. Any underspending will revert back to the general fund. These funds cannot be carried forward.

The workgroup agreed that this allocation methodology will be revisited prior to the next round of funding distribution to ensure that it is still the appropriate formula for these funds.

Eligible Uses

Per the budget language, the scope of eligible uses for this additional funding is relatively broad and reflects all responsibilities under chapter 252. Funding may be used for new projects, as well as to offset increasing budgetary pressures resulting from ongoing disease surveillance and investigations at the local level.

Examples of **possible** uses include but are not limited to:

- Reducing the burden of communicable diseases.
- Ensuring or increasing capacity to respond to communicable disease events.
- Training to increase competencies around communicable disease issues.
- Purchasing additional equipment to allow for easier access when following up on communicable disease reports (such as smart phones or tablets).
- Following up more extensively or completely on communicable disease outbreaks/reports.
- Increasing communicable disease awareness in the community along with practical prevention opportunities.

Reporting

The local agency is expected to submit its first financial statement to the Director of the Bureau of its use of funds no later than January 1, 2019. The financial statement must include detailed narrative of the activities funded by this allocation. The workgroup plans to meet in the near future to continue conversations regarding the specific expectations from the Division of Public Health for this reporting requirement.

If you have any questions regarding this memo, please feel free to contact any representatives on the Communicable Diseases Funding Workgroup or Stephanie Smiley at 608-267-9363 or StephanieL.Smiley@dhs.wisconsin.gov.