

**GOODHUE COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES (GCHHS)**



REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

Requested Board Date:	February 21, 2023	Staff Lead:	Ruth Greenslade
Consent Agenda:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Attachments:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Action Requested:	Approval Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Local Concurrence Letter		

BACKGROUND:

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is required to obtain annual concurrence from local health departments and tribal officials regarding the general approach of the activities MDH is using to make sustainable progress in achieving public health preparedness through the use of federal Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) funds. These strategies for moving forward in 2023-2024 (Budget Period 5) recognize ongoing COVID-19 response work, demobilization, recovery, and a return to more normal preparedness work. Budget Period 5 (BP5) begins July 1, 2023 and ends June 30, 2024.

CDC requires the concurrence be sent on agency letterhead and signed by an authorized agency representative. Goodhue County Health and Human Services is a recipient of the PHEP funds and attached please find our county letter to meet this concurrent requirement. MDH requested the letter on 2/6/23 with a due date of 2/24/23.

RECOMMENDATION: HHS Department recommends approval as requested.



Goodhue County **Health and Human Services**

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February 21, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) priorities for Budget Period 5 (BP5), July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024, of the five-year project period (2019-2024) are:

- 1) Continuing COVID-19 response and recovery activities,
- 2) Incorporating lessons learned during the COVID-19 response by updating plans, policies, and/or procedures,
- 3) Developing staff through participation in select training and exercises, and
- 4) Developing strategies to move public health emergency preparedness work forward during Budget Period 5 and the next five-year project period (2024-2029).

Community Health Board (CHB) duties for BP5 again will include recurring, base, and funding level-based tiered duties. The recurring and base grant-related activities will be completed by all CHBs. CHBs at the X, Y, and Z funding levels will select a tiered number of activities.

The BP5 CHB Grant Duties were developed through regional conversations with local public health emergency preparedness coordinators, information from LPH reporting, CDC priorities, and input from MDH Division of Emergency Preparedness and Response staff. The duties were reviewed by a group of LPH representatives and the SCHSAC PHEP Oversight Work Group will review the duties before they are finalized.

The Recurring duties are the activities that occur every year or regularly, such as reports, work plans, integrated preparedness plan (IPP, formerly called the multi-year exercise and training plans (MYTEP), updating contact information, attending MDH-sponsored preparedness trainings, and responding to Health Alert Messages (HANs).

The Base and Tiered (funding level-based) duties will continue COVID-19 response work and again emphasize recovery activities. CHBs will address gaps identified through hot washes in after action reports, assess the public health incident management structure, and participate in MDH trainings including Psychological First Aid (PFA), MN Responds system administrators, and potentially an in-person NIMS/ICS training (if MDH is able to offer it). There will be a unique opportunity to participate in a climate-change focused TTX developed and facilitated by the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. CHBs will develop and/or revise plans for social media, risk communication, responder safety and health, and pandemic influenza. Finally, CHBs will continue regular communication with volunteers to help keep them engaged.

I certify that my community health board concurs with the general approach to public health emergency preparedness as outlined by MDH.

Nina Arneson, MS, GCHHS Director
Goodhue County Health and Human Services

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