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DATE: May 29, 2026

TO: Members of the Board of Supervisors and Board of Directors

FROM: David Guhin, County Executive

SUBJECT: FY 2026-27 Board Budget Requests

This tab includes Board Budget Requests with staff responses to each. Board Budget Requests are opportunities for Board members to submit requests for funding to be considered during budget hearings.

Attachments:

A – Board Budget Requests (BOS-01 and BOS-02)



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Request Title: *Funding Set-Aside for Imminent Healthcare Access Needs*

Submitted By: *Lynda Hopkins, James Gore*

Funding Amount Requested: *\$1.5M*

Funding Source: *County Discretionary*

DETAILED INFORMATION

What will the one-time funds be used for and why is the request needed?

This request seeks to establish a \$1.5M contingency fund to address imminent healthcare access needs for vulnerable and at-risk individuals. These funds could be utilized to address access gaps that could arise from shifting governmental guidance and policies.

The shifting governmental landscape has caused providers to preemptively stop, delay and impede patients' access to state-protected, medically necessary care, behavioral health services, preventative services, and/or prescriptions. Federal actions are already negatively impacting access to gender affirming care for youth, and could also impact access to reproductive healthcare, HIV prevention services, and low-income healthcare. This fund will preserve emergency funding to ensure continuity of care and mitigate adverse health outcomes for especially vulnerable individuals.

If needed, funds will be deployed by the Department of Health through a NOFA process with priorities identified in coordination with trusted community partners supporting the affected population. Possible funding priorities could include (but are not limited to): prescription or service access and assistance, care navigation, school-based behavioral health support, family support, legal services, provider trainings, and/or provider reimbursement stabilization to providers delivering uncompensated care to affected patients.

Healthcare coverage disruptions are becoming increasingly common due to evolving policy landscapes. A dedicated contingency fund ensures the County is prepared to respond rapidly, preventing avoidable patient trauma and maintaining continuity of care.

What Strategic Plan objective(s) does this request directly support?



Healthy and Safe Communities, Goal 1, Objective 2: Identify gaps in the Safety Net system of services and identify areas where departments can address those gaps directly, and seek guidance from the Board when additional resources and/or policy direction is needed.

What department would be responsible for implementing this request?

The fund will be administered by the Department of Health, in coordination with trusted community partners and healthcare providers.

Does this request leverage additional funds?



STAFF RESPONSE TO BOARD BUDGET REQUEST

Description of Request: Establish a one-time contingency funding set-aside that could be deployed by Board direction to address emerging health and community service needs resulting from changes in federal or state policy, funding, or program availability. The proposed funding would allow the Department of Health Services (DHS) to administer a limited-duration NOFA and contract process, potentially in coordination with community partners or other agencies, to support services or activities identified by the Board in response to funding reductions, service disruptions, or unmet community needs.

Staff Response:

Is this request currently handled within the departmental budget as part of normal workload?

DHS currently administers and coordinates a variety of healthcare access, behavioral health, public health, and community partnership programs that support vulnerable populations. Some services identified in the request may overlap with existing state, federal, grant-funded, or community-based programs. The Department does not currently maintain a dedicated contingency funding source specifically intended to address emerging service or healthcare access needs resulting from changing governmental policies, funding conditions or provider reimbursement impacts.

Is this request already part of an existing workplan (e.g. Capital Improvement Plan)?

No.

Could the request be completed with the resources suggested?

DHS has experience administering grant-funded and community-based funding programs and could operationalize a limited-duration funding or reimbursement program if resources were approved. Implementation would require development of funding criteria, fiscal controls, administrative processes, and oversight mechanisms appropriate to the selected funding model. Additional operational considerations may include contracting, compliance monitoring, reporting requirements, and development of clear eligibility and prioritization criteria. Additionally, DHS would need to create a Standard Operating Procedure detailing when a funding opportunity is warranted and the steps needed to complete and award funds.

What timeframe would be required to complete this request?

If approved, implementation timelines would depend on the final program structure and funding mechanism. Initial administrative setup, including development of program criteria and any necessary solicitation or contracting processes, could occur within several months of funding allocation. Implementation timelines may also vary depending on procurement, contracting, and administrative requirements associated with the selected funding model.



Request Title: Farmworker Population Assessment to Position Sonoma County for State Farmworker Resource Center Grant

Submitted By: *Coursey*

Funding Amount Requested: \$50,000

Funding Source: Dollars set aside for state lobbying and FRP (\$1M), or \$1.5M set aside from 4.7.26 immigration item.

DETAILED INFORMATION

What will the one-time funds be used for and why is the request needed?

California's Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) administers the Farmworker Resource Center Grant Program, established under AB 941 (Bennett, 2021). The program provides counties with grants of approximately \$833,000 — requiring a 25% county match — to establish or expand farmworker resource centers providing services in labor rights, housing, health, immigration, and emergency assistance. To date, only three counties in the state have received awards: Santa Barbara, Monterey, and Stanislaus. Sonoma County was in the eligible pool but did not apply during the initial 2022 NOFA cycle. Efforts are underway to authorize an additional round of funding which could materialize as early as this year's state budget process, or possibly through stand-alone legislation to be introduced in January of 2027.

To compete successfully when a new NOFA is released, Sonoma County must demonstrate two things: (1) documented, data-supported need, and (2) operational readiness. This request funds the first element — a rigorous farmworker population and needs assessment — while the county's recently acquired mobile human services vans address the second.

Sonoma County's farmworker population is estimated at 9,000 to 15,000 workers at peak season, concentrated in agricultural areas across the county and including populations of Mixtec and Triqui-speaking indigenous workers who face compounded barriers to accessing services. Despite this need, no comprehensive, county-conducted primary survey of this population currently exists.

This request seeks to fund a community-based needs assessment leveraging existing county resources in combination with promotores and trusted messengers to conduct outreach across worksites, labor camps, and farmworker communities. The survey would aim to reach 400–500 farmworkers across different parts of the county and across language communities, including Spanish, Mixtec, and Triqui speakers. It would be designed so that the results can serve as a



baseline — meaning a follow-up survey conducted during a future grant period can build directly on this one, rather than starting from scratch, saving significant time and cost down the road, and positioning the county as having gathered enough quantitative data about the communities we seek to serve, as well as the high-level needs that a local Farmworker Resource Center would address.

By proactively absorbing the cost of this assessment, through this one-time funding allocation, the full award will be available for service delivery from day one, representing a meaningful competitive and programmatic advantage over counties that must dedicate early grant months to assessment activities. All three current grantees launched operations months after award; completing this required assessment in advance Sonoma County will be positioned to move quickly to deliver these resources to our farmworkers and their families.

The \$50,000 request covers the following estimated costs:

- Survey design, instrument development, and multilingual adaptation including but not limited to Mixtec and Triqui: \$8,000–10,000
- Field data collection using existing mobile van infrastructure with CBO-partnered interviewers: \$18,000–22,000
- Participant incentives: \$4,000–6,000
- Data entry, analysis, and quality assurance: \$6,000–8,000
- Final report suitable for use in a state grant application: \$5,000–7,000

What Strategic Plan objective(s) does this request directly support?

Racial Equity and Social Justice: Sonoma County's farmworker community is disproportionately Latino and indigenous, faces significant barriers to public services, and is among the county's most economically vulnerable populations. This assessment is a foundational step toward building a dedicated, culturally and linguistically responsive resource infrastructure for this community.

Healthy and Safe Communities: The Farmworker Resource Center model is designed to connect workers and their families with health, housing, legal, and emergency services. The assessment directly supports the goal of providing equitable access to services for the county's most underserved residents.



Organizational Excellence: Positioning Sonoma County for a competitive state grant through proactive, data-driven preparation reflects the board's commitment to leveraging external funding and demonstrating operational readiness before funders.

What department would be responsible for implementing this request?

The Human Services Department, in coordination with the Department of Health Services, Office of Equity and Ag, Weights & Measures, would lead implementation. Survey design and field operations would be conducted in partnership with established community-based organizations with existing trusting relationships with the farm working community.

Does this request leverage additional funds?

No.



STAFF RESPONSE TO BOARD BUDGET REQUEST

-- THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY STAFF --

Staff Response to Board Budget Request:

Description of Request:

This request seeks funding to conduct a needs assessment of the Sonoma County farmworker community in order to position the County to apply for potential grant funding to establish a farmworker resource center.

Staff Response:

This request does not fall directly within the normal budget or workload of any County department, and is not currently part of a department workplan. If funded, the County Executive's Office will coordinate with relevant departments, including the Office of Equity, Human Services, Health Services, and the Agricultural Commissioner to identify a lead and develop a plan to implement and analyze the needs assessment. The funding sources discussed are limited only by Board direction and could be utilized for this purpose if authorized by the Board.