

Item Title: Accept and Appropriate Grant Award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners accepts and appropriates \$3,883,667 of revenues and expenditures into the Grants and Donations Fund and establishes five FTEs to support COVID-19 control initiatives and improve social determinants to further health equity.

Item Summary:

Purpose: The Board of Commissioners must approve all additional revenues and new FTE positions added to the FY 2022 Adopted Ordinance.

Background: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is awarding grants to local governments to improve COVID-related services to underserved racial and ethnic minority populations. The CDC has awarded Wake County \$3,883,667 for this two-year project addressing COVID-19-related health disparities and advance health equity in Wake County. Wake County will implement this project through the Live Well Wake initiative in three components:

1. Support community-based organizations through mini-grants which address social determinants of health and community health needs,
2. Expand community health worker services through partner organization, Southeastern HealthCare.
3. Increase evaluation, learning, and data analysis from university partners to inform health equity decisions.

The grant from CDC will cover full-time salaries for one Project Administrator, three Project Coordinators, one Program Assistant, and some operating costs.

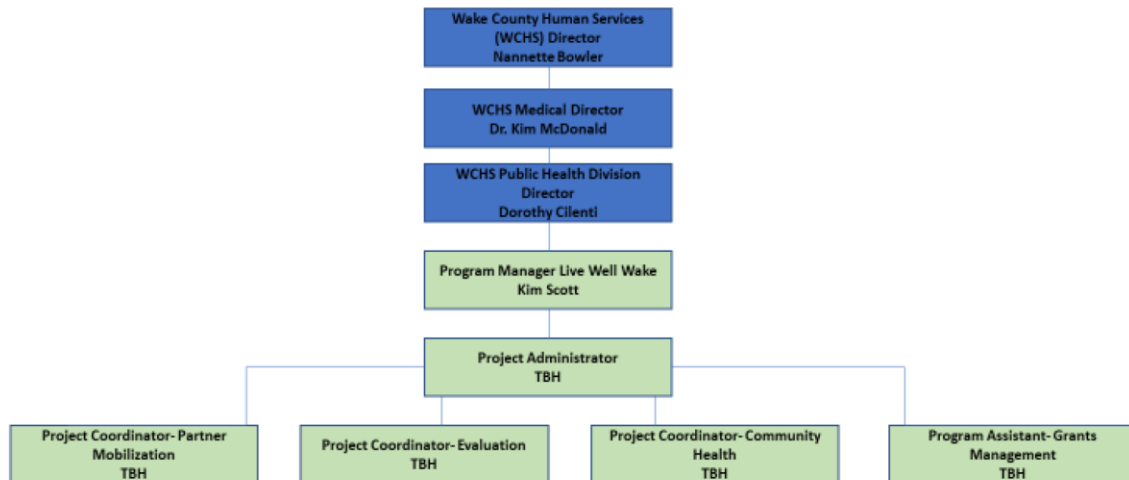
Board Goal: This action supports Community Health and Vitality Goal 2: Improve access to affordable, high-quality care for all residents experiencing medical and/or behavioral health challenges.

Fiscal Impact: This agreement establishes 5.000 FTEs and provides \$3,883,667 for the two-year project period June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2023 in the Grants and Donations Fund for the expansion of community health services, COVID-19 response activities, and activities which support health equity. There is no matching funds requirement. Prior to the end of the two-year grant, staff will evaluate funding needs and continuation of the program as part of the budget development process.

Additional Information:

Funds from CDC will be used to support health equity and COVID control initiatives through a two-year project. Five staff members will be hired to support this work and the current Program Manager of Live Well Wake will serve as the lead for this project.

Health Impact Collaborative Organizational Chart



COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted populations placed at higher risks for chronic illness and who are underserved, particularly racial and ethnic minorities. Wake County Human Services (WCHS) aims to reduce these disparities through the development of a Health Impact Collaborative intended to support community health worker expansion, public/private partnerships for health, and innovative solutions to address health inequities. The Health Impact Collaborative will be implemented through Live Well Wake, a program of the Public Health Division of WCHS which brings together Wake County's major health organizations and community members to address five major priorities from the Community Health Needs Assessment: transportation options and transit, employment, access to care, mental health and substance abuse disorders, and housing and homelessness.

Through Live Well Wake, the Health Impact Collaborative plans to support the following strategies and activities:

1. **Mobilize partners and collaborators to advance health equity and address social determinants of health as they relate to COVID-19 health disparities among populations at higher risk and that are underserved.** The Health Impact Collaborative will work through United Way to expand social services through seed funds to support cross-sectoral public/private and private/community-based organization (CBO) partnerships to decrease the risk for COVID-19. Expansion of social services will align with priorities established through the Community Health Needs Assessment to ultimately increase community resilience to current and future health threats and will support CBOs to increase access to health services. The

Health Impact Collaborative will build on existing community capacity and resources to address social and structural determinants of health, ultimately building systems and partnerships that improve community health. Through these partnerships the Health Impact Collaborative aims to reduce barriers to healthcare through initiatives such as transportation services to increase access to vaccinations, support for those that are homebound, or COVID-19 outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness, to name a few. Partners will be selected by the Health Impact Collaborative and the Live Well Wake Advisory Committee in the first quarter of the award, allowing for agility based on the COVID-19 context at that time.

2. **Build, leverage, and expand infrastructure support for COVID-19 prevention and control among populations that are at higher risk and underserved; including hiring people from the community (e.g., community health workers, social workers, other trusted community members) who are equipped to assess and address the needs of communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19.** To further support community health initiatives, the Health Impact Collaborative will coordinate and expand support for Community Health Workers (CHWs) in communities most impacted by COVID-19. Through a contract between Wake County Human Services and Southeastern Healthcare, the Health Impact Collaborative will expand the current number of CHWs by ten, allowing for a more robust community health structure with a focus on Southeast Raleigh. Southeastern Healthcare currently supports referrals for COVID-19, community health clinics, and a wide-range of CHWs that are from communities where they serve. CHWs supported by Southeastern Healthcare have and will play a crucial role in the expansion of services for COVID-19, referrals, community-led response structures, and increased access to vaccination. As COVID-19 cases decrease, CHWs will also play a vital role in community alert systems for future outbreaks and can transition to support of social services which impact determinants of health. Through support of CHWs the Health Impact Collaborative aims to continue to create links between the broader health system, communities, and community partnerships such as those developed through the seed-funding initiative.
3. **Increase/improve data collection and reporting for populations experiencing a disproportionate burden of COVID-19 infection, severe illness, and death to guide the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.** Finally, the Health Impact collaborative will partner with Saint Augustine University and Shaw University through a contract between WCHS and the two institutions to implement a developmental evaluation focused on implementation and improvement with the end goal of translating science into community practice. Documentation and evaluation will be fed into the community response workstream to inform course-correction, iterative and agile approaches to funding, and influence policy and decision making in the county and within North Carolina. Specifically, university partners will support the evaluation of CHWs in North Carolina, with the end goal of expanded support for CHWs as part of the broader health system, as well as evaluation of seed-funding projects which impact social determinants of health. University partnerships will also focus on cross-learning related to COVID-19, improved data collection, expanded resources for analyzing public health data,

and CHW training. The university partners within the Health Impact collaborative will directly compliment the work conducted by cross-sectoral partners, CHWs, and response initiatives led by WCHS.

Wake County Human Services, Division of Public Health intends to allocate these funds as follows:

Description	Amount
Personnel Costs	\$ 821,339
Supplies	\$ 15,465
Travel	\$ 16,128
Other	\$ 10,917
Contractual	\$ 3,019,818
Total Approved Budget	\$ 3,883,667

Attachments:

1. Award Letter
2. Budget Memo - FY22 Grants and Donations Fund