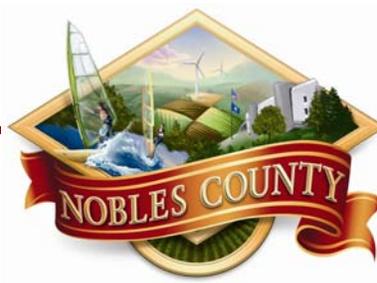


Board of Commissioners

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*“In cooperation with our citizens, we improve the quality of life for individuals,
families and communities by fostering a healthy economy and environment.”*

“Looking Forward with Purpose”

COUNTY BOARD SPECIAL MEETING– PROPOSED AGENDA WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021 (Immediately Following Work Session) NOBLES COUNTY BOARD ROOM

Zoom Information (Same Zoom as the Work Session will be used)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81042744687?pwd=V1B2RnF1U0Y2UE9EMFBza29kenIDUT09>

Call in Number: 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 81042744687

Password: 461798

1.0 Call to Order

2.0 Pledge of Allegiance

3.0 Approval of Agenda *(Action)*

4.0 Department Presentation – Stacie Golombiecki / Michelle Ebbers

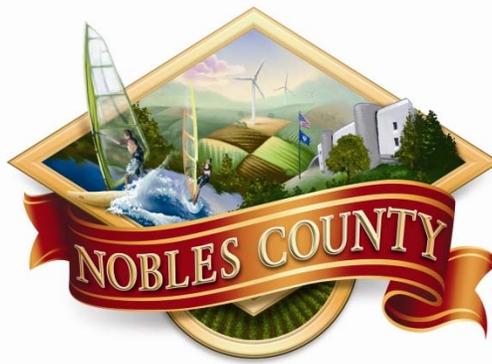
4.1 State COVID-19 Funding Discussion *(Action)*

5.0 Other / Future Business

Board Meeting – Tuesday February 02, 2021

9:00 a.m. Nobles County Board Room

6.0 Adjournment *(Action)*



“In cooperation with our citizens, we improve the quality of life for individuals, families and communities by fostering a healthy economy and environment.”

COMMISSIONER BRIEFING

State COVID-19 Funding Discussion

Nobles County Community Services

Stacie Golombiecki/Michelle Ebbers

Time Needed -10 Minutes

Issue:

The Minnesota Legislature allocated state funding for Public Health Response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Nobles County Public Health received an allocation amount of \$75,000 in March of 2020.

Discussion:

These funds were allocated to be utilized during the time-period of March 3, 2020 and February 1, 2021 and were given to support the public health COVID-19 response efforts. In the guidance for use of funds, grantees were strongly encouraged to use this funding for priority public health response activities in our jurisdiction before considering supporting other costs associated with the impact of COVID-19 on other services.

The allowable expenditure categories listed in the guidance for use of funds are:

- Salary and Fringe: All employee time spent on COVID-19 prevention and response activities supported by these funds.*
- Contractual: All contracted activities supported by these funds.*
- In-State Travel: All in-state travel support by these funds.*
- Supplies: All purchases of needed supplies to carry out the COVID-19 prevention and response activities.*
- Equipment: Equipment is defined as tangible, non-expendable personal property that has a useful life of more than one year AND an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit*
- Other: This category contains items not included in the previous budget categories.*

We are here before you today to request support in allocating these funds towards our staffing costs and expenditures that have occurred since the response efforts began in early 2020. We will be submitting our final report to the MN Department of Public Health on our use of these funds early in February 2021.

Options:

- The Board could ask for other options to utilize this funding.*
- Approve allocating the funds to our staffing and other expenses that have occurred in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

Recommendation:

We are requesting that the Board support our recommendation to utilize these funds for our staffing and other expenses that have been incurred so far in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Attachment:

Financial Guidance for State COVID-19 Funding

Financial Guidance for State COVID-19 Funding

3/27/2020

Source of Funding

The Minnesota legislature has allocated state funding¹ for a public health response related to a potential outbreak of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The state has allocated a total of \$7,700,000 to community health boards (CHB), \$825,000 to tribal governments and \$800,000 to health care coalitions to support this effort.

Amount of Funding

CHBs: The amount of funding each CHB received is based on the PHEP funding formula with a base of \$75,000. The agreement to use this formula is supported by the SCHSAC PHEP Oversight Workgroup.

Tribal governments: The amount each tribal government received is based on their public health grant award outlined in 145A.14 with a base of \$75,000.

Health care coalitions: Each of the eight health care coalitions will receive \$100,000.

Distribution of Funds

These funds were advanced to each CHB, tribal government and health care coalition in one lump-sum payment.

Use of Funds

These funds should be used to best support activities directly related to COVID-19 public health response. This could include staff time involved in the response, providing essential services, etc. While MDH understands the entire system is affected by COVID-19, this is limited funding. CHBs and tribal governments are strongly encouraged to use these funds for priority public health response activities in their jurisdiction before considering supporting other cost associated with the impact of COVID-19 on other services.

Health care coalitions must use the funds for staff to directly support health care coalition COVID-19 response efforts.

In general:

- Funds can be used for expenses incurred beginning March 3, 2020.
- Grantees are encouraged to use funds for staffing and other resources necessary for COVID-19 response efforts.
- Funds can *only* be used for COVID-19 prevention, management and response activities.
- Funds must be expended by February 1, 2021. Unexpended funds will be returned to the MDH by June 1, 2021.

¹ [SF 3813, 144.4199 PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT](#)

Tracking of Expenditures

COVID-19 funds should be managed and accounted for as a unique funding source. Expenditures should be tracked according to standard expenditure categories as describe below.

MDH is also asking that you track your overall COVID-19 response expenditures (regardless of funding source) to assure that, if needed, we can request this information from you.

Expenditure Categories:

Salary and Fringe: All employee time spent on COVID-19 prevention and response activities supported by these funds.

Contractual: All contracted activities supported by these funds. This should include: description of contracted services; contractor/consultant's name; length of contracted services; and contracted services budget allocation.

In-State Travel: All in-state travel support by these funds. Travel and subsistence expenses must fall within the following guidelines:

- For CHBs and health care coalitions: Travel and subsistence expenses must be within the guidelines provided in the current "Commissioner's Plan."
- For tribal government: Travel and subsistence must be within the guidelines provided in the current "GSA Plan."

Supplies: All purchases of needed supplies to carry out the COVID-19 prevention and response activities.

Equipment: Equipment is defined as tangible, non-expendable personal property that has a useful life of more than one year AND an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit

Other: This category contains items not included in the previous budget categories.

Reporting

You will be asked to report on expenditures and activities. It is recommended that you track expenditures and activities as comprehensively as possible.

At the end of PHEP Quarter 4 (June 30, 2020), you will be asked to provide a brief summary of the work that has been completed using these funds. Additional reporting will be determined after review of that initial data.

Frequently Asked Questions

Following are responses to questions received by the MDH. Please note that these responses are based on the best available information at the time. If you have question or concerns, please reach out to the appropriate staff (listed at the end of this document) for more clarification. Additional information will be added as needed.

Q: Can these funds be used to pay staff outside of the public health agency to do public health response work?

A: These funds can support staff time outside of the public health agency *if those staff are conducting activities directly related to the public health COVID-19 response.*

Q: Can these funds be used to contract with another CHB to provide COVID-19 prevention and response activities for my jurisdiction?

A: Yes

Q: How do we allocate funds within our multi-county CHB?

A: How funds are distributed to counties within a multi-county CHB is the decision of the CHB.

Contacts for Additional Information

Community Health Boards: DeeAnn Finley (deeann.finley@state.mn.us)

Tribal Government: Funding questions: Paula Naughton (paula.naughton@state.mn.us),
programmatic questions: Wendy Kvale (wendy.kvale@state.mn.us)

Health Care Coalition: Kara Cornils (kara.cornils@state.mn.us)

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03/27/2020