



Social Services

Los Alamos County Health Council

October 7, 2021

Los Alamos County Council
c/o County Manager Steven Lynne
1000 Central Ave
Los Alamos, NM 87544

COUNTY COUNCIL

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RE: Settlements Funds in Case No. D-202-CV-2018-08036, City of Albuquerque, et al v. Stephanie Schardin Clarke and New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department, in the Second Judicial District Court of New Mexico

Chair Ryti, Councilors, and Manager Lynne,

The Los Alamos County Health Council (CHC) was charged in its organizing resolution with developing and presenting for County Council approval and use, a County Comprehensive Health Plan. A subcommittee working group is currently completing the proposed scope and anticipated plan structure for approval by the entire CHC and then the County Council. We hope and anticipate the County Council will be pleased with the proposed plan, the level of community and stakeholder participation, and the broad-based future looking plan process. A November or early December date is expected for presentation of the proposal to a Council work session.

An integral part of the Comprehensive Health Plan will be addressing the needs and gaps in coverage and services in behavioral and physical health, community wellness, developmentally disabled programs, workforce and other educational training, and basic needs such as affordable shelter (both transitional and long term) adequate food and medical needs for those residents who cannot afford such services. The CHC and the Social Services Division of the County anticipate that significant capital spending requirements, will be needed if the County and its residents hope to achieve substantial success in meeting the needs of less affluent residents, and providing care and opportunity for all residents.

ATTACHMENT B

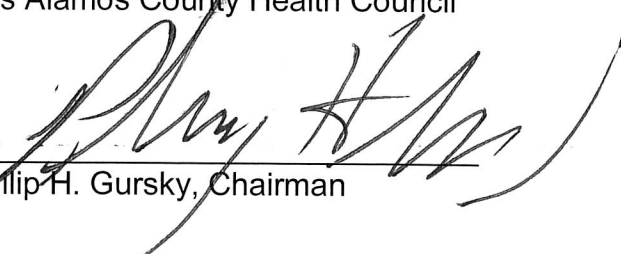
CHC Chair Gursky attended the September 21, 2021, County Council session in which the Council voted to approve the settlement of the tax case cited above. The CHC urges the County Council to view the relative windfall of these funds as providing a unique opportunity to address funding needs that have not received the recent notice or approval that municipal recreational, infrastructure and operational capital improvements have. The CHC urges that a sizable portion of the approximate \$10,000,000 settlement funds be reserved for investment in capital improvements, equipment and services, as well as start-up and other short term funding needs, to reach the goal of providing every resident a meaningful educational and work opportunity and basic needs support. The Community Services Department Director Cory Styron, Social Services Division Manager Donna Casados, and County Health Council Chairman Philip Gursky would be pleased to present and discuss specific project needs and opportunities before the Council.

The CHC lauds comments and the sentiment from current and past Councilors to share our good fortune with our regional neighbors. The Social Services Division and CHC constantly work regionally to help support better health and wellness for all residents of the area. We would, however, in this instance, hope the Council would first consider fully meeting the needs of the Los Alamos and White Rock community and its residents, before distribution of funds to other communities.

Accordingly, the Los Alamos County Health Council requests the County Council, after consultation with County staff, allocate and reserve a substantial portion of the settlement funds from the above-referenced case to capital improvement, equipment and services (such as computer software and hardware for patient services and operational systems), as well start-up capital for behavioral and physical health, wellness educational, workforce training, and basic needs programs. We suggest such reservation be specifically funded at the same time as, and in conjunction with, review and approval of the new LA County Comprehensive Health Plan forthcoming.

The CHC members respectfully thank Council Chairman Ryti, County Manager Lynne, and all the members of the County Council for their respective favorable consideration of our request.

Thank you,
Los Alamos County Health Council

By 
Philip H. Gursky, Chairman