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Director & State Health Officer

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

September 4, 2013

Dear AIDS Directors in the 18 California Project Area LHJs that receive OA HIV Prevention Funding,

The California Department of Public Health, Center for Infectious Diseases, Office of AIDS (OA) would like to thank the many organizations and individuals who responded to our request for community input on how best to meet the HIV prevention needs in the California Project Area while accommodating a 6 percent reduction in HIV prevention funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 2014. OA will make these sequestration-related funding cuts equally from Local Assistance and OA Operational Support, with the goal of minimizing harm to our mission and the Californians that we serve.

On August 23, 2013, OA held a consultation with the AIDS Directors of the 18 local health jurisdictions (LHJs) in the California Project Area that are directly funded by the HIV Prevention Branch. At that time we presented four scenarios for discussion. In all scenarios, funding for both Local Assistance and OA Support was reduced by 6%. In the first scenario, OA proposed continuing to fund all 18 LHJs. In the other three scenarios, OA proposed directing funding to the geographic areas most impacted by HIV/AIDS within the group of 18 currently funded LHJs; these proposed options would result in elimination or substantial reduction of OA's prevention funding to the five newly-prevention-funded jurisdictions of Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara, Stanislaus, Monterey and Ventura counties. We distributed a survey and asked the AIDS Directors to seek further input from their stakeholders.

Survey results indicate that most respondents favor maintaining funding in all 18 local health jurisdictions. OA recognizes the strong community and local health department support for HIV prevention efforts in these counties. OA will continue HIV prevention funding in all 18 local health jurisdictions for calendar year 2014, and over the next four weeks OA will make changes to program requirements as needed to accommodate the 6% reduction to OA Operational Support. New funding allocations to the LHJs will also be calculated in the upcoming weeks using the most recent epidemiological data (2011 data is now available; calculations for the 2013 allocations were based on 2009 data). Effects of these data updates may differ from county to county.

OA appreciates the time and careful consideration that AIDS Directors and their stakeholders have dedicated to this feedback process.

Sincerely,

Karen E. Mark, MD, MPH
Chief, Office of AIDS
California Department of Public Health