



BOARD LETTER:
AUTHORIZE ACCEPTANCE OF ADDITIONAL
LABASPIRE PUBLIC HEALTH EQUITY AND
READINESS OPPORTUNITY INITIATIVE FELLOWSHIP
GRANT FUNDING

Epidemiology and Immunizations Services Branch

Public Health Laboratory

April 2, 2024



PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY



LIVE WELL
SAN DIEGO

Mission Statement: Providing quality laboratory services to protect community health and prevent the spread of disease.

- The Public Health Laboratory (PHL) works in conjunction with public health clinics, local hospitals and healthcare providers, the Public Health Service's Epidemiology Unit, Tuberculosis Control and Refugee Health Branch, and the Department of Environmental Health and Quality.
- By analyzing clinical and environmental samples, the PHL participates in the core activities of **surveillance, assessment, and assurance.**





TYPES OF LABORATORY SERVICES

■ ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING

- Drinking water testing
- Beach water testing – ddPCR and Culture

■ CLINICAL TESTING

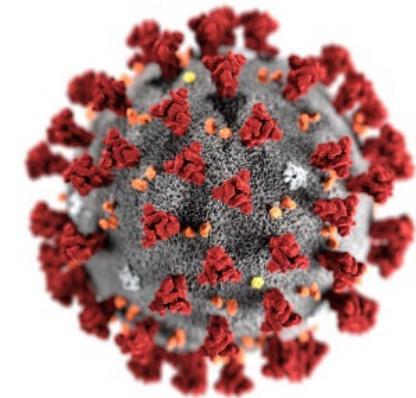
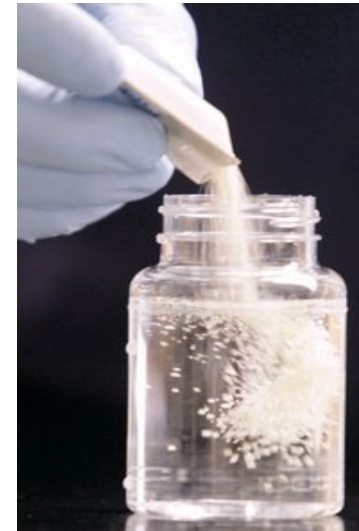
- Enteric Disease (e.g., Salmonella, Shigella, STEC)
- STDs (HIV, chlamydia, gonorrhea)
- Vaccine Preventable Diseases (i.e., measles, mumps)
- Tuberculosis testing and COVID Testing

■ BIOTERRORISM PREPAREDNESS (BSL-3)

- Clinical and Environmental Samples
- Detect Select Agents (i.e., anthrax, plague, ricin toxin)

■ OTHER

- BioWatch Program – Environmental Air Sampling
- Rabies and Sequencing



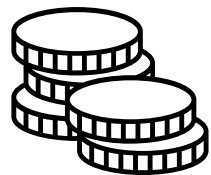
LABASPIRE PUBLIC HERO AND FELLOWSHIP GRANT



California has an **urgent** need to **increase** workforce **training programs** that address recruitment challenges in public health labs.



The California Department of Public Health, Center for Laboratory Sciences is implementing the Public HERO Initiative, also known as the **LabAspire Fellowship Program**.



The grant total is **\$542,745** through **June 30, 2026**.



LABASPIRE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



- Sponsored by:
 - California Department of Public Health, Office of the State Public Health Laboratory Director and Laboratory Field Services
 - California Association of Public Health Laboratory Directors



- Trains and prepares qualified professionals to direct and work in Public Health Laboratories:
 - Public Health Microbiologist Training Program
 - LabAspire Training Program



- **Public Health Microbiologist (PHM) Training Program**

- Must have PHM certification to work at PHL in CA
- San Diego is an Approved Training site
- 1040 hours covering 23 different units
- 3 fulltime Jr. PHM trainees
 - Additionally, 2 feeder Jr. PHM positions supporting ddPCR testing
 - Crucial to being competitive and retaining talent



- **LabAspire Training Program – Laboratory Director Pathway**

- DrPH Track via University of South Florida – Anna Liza Manlutac
- Assistant Director Track – Dr. Sam Hallis
- Current Laboratory Director - LabAspire and DrPH graduate

BENEFITS AND OUTCOMES



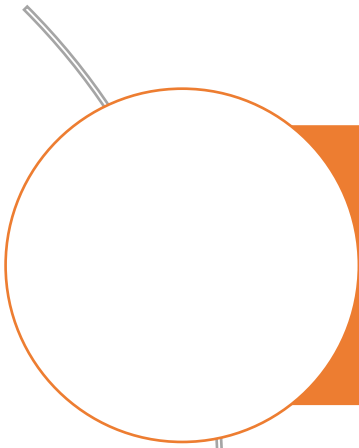
- Filling long-standing vacancies
- Increased knowledge and leadership skills
- Opportunities for staff to attend conferences and trainings
- Succession planning
- Opportunity to collaborate with APHL and CDPH to support training needs locally and in CA



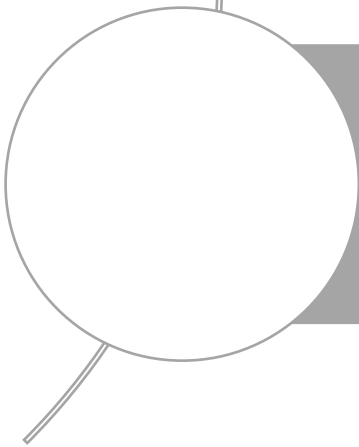
FUNDING



LIVE WELL
SAN DIEGO



FISCAL YEAR 2024 – 2025
\$150,500



FISCAL YEAR 2025 – 2026
\$392,245

RECOMMENDATIONS



1. In accordance with Board Policy B-29, Fees, Grants, Revenue Contracts – Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery, which requires prior approval of grant applications full-cost recovery of grants.
2. Authorize the acceptance of \$392,245 from the California Department of Public Health, Center for the Public Health Equity and Readiness Opportunity LabAspire Fellowship grant and \$150,500 from the PHM Training Award for the period of January 12, 2024, through June 30, 2026.
3. Authorize application for additional funding opportunities to support the public health laboratory staff continuing education and training of laboratory personnel.

CONTACT INFORMATION



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