



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of July 7, 2007**

DATE: July 7, 2007

SUBJECT: Emergency Preparedness and Response Program Funds From the Virginia Department of Health

C. M. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Appropriate \$92,580 from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) (101.364501) Emergency Preparedness and Response Program to the Department of Human Services (101.55001).

ISSUES: Should state funds be accepted and appropriated for emergency preparedness activities?

SUMMARY: VDH received Centers for Disease Control approval to carryover their FY 2007 unspent emergency preparedness and response funds and to distribute these funds to localities. These carryover funds will be used by Arlington to purchase equipment and supplies to support public health preparedness activities, including pandemic influenza outreach and education.

BACKGROUND: Following 9/11 and the anthrax scares of 2001, the federal government provided funds to states for public health emergency preparedness and response activities. The states in turn provided funds to local health agencies. Arlington County received its first Emergency Preparedness and Response grant in 2002 to fund a public health emergency preparedness planner and an epidemiologist. The Emergency Preparedness and Response grant has been renewed each subsequent year.

A key component of public health preparedness is planning for the possibility of a flu pandemic. The nature of a pandemic is that, should it occur, it is likely to strike the nation quickly, necessitating pre-planning on both state and local levels. In an effort to stimulate preparedness for pandemic influenza, the federal government has provided emergency supplemental funds to the states. Arlington County was awarded a Phase I Pandemic Influenza Planning grant in 2006 and a Phase II grant in 2007.

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

Staff: Tom Maddox, Public Health, DHS

DISCUSSION: The carry over funds will be used to enhance local public health preparedness capacity through purchases that will begin to address the gaps in equipment and supplies required to support public health emergency operations. Funds will also be used to raise awareness of pandemic influenza. Educating the public will facilitate a more effective community wide response in the event of an actual outbreak.

The categories of equipment and supplies that will be purchased are as follows:

- Equipment to support the operation of the Public Health Operations Center
- Supplies to support the operation of a staging area for the management of personnel and volunteers during an emergency
- Equipment and supplies to support the operation of the Emergency Support Function 8: Public Health and Medical Services in the Emergency Operations Center environment
- Printing and distribution of a pandemic influenza information guide for the residents of Arlington County
- Material to implement community and professional education on pandemic influenza preparedness

FISCAL IMPACT: None. There is no impact on net tax support.