

October 27, 2026

Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

**REQUEST TO PURCHASE GIFT CARDS, BASIC HYGIENE ITEMS AND TRANSPORTATION
VOUCHERS FOR AT-RISK POPULATIONS SERVED BY HEALTH EDUCATION AND
LINKAGE PROGRAM**

(Fiscal Impact: \$22,000; State; Budgeted; Discretionary)

The purpose of this letter is to request your Board's approval to purchase gift cards, basic hygiene items, and transportation vouchers for at-risk populations served by the Health Education and Linkage Program (HELP), from October 27, 2026 through June 30, 2027, in an amount not to exceed \$22,000. This request is brought to your Board as required by the Auditor-Controller's Office.

HELP supports immunocompromised patients in maintaining healthy living standards by providing medical case management services and education to low-income individuals living with HIV. As part of this support, gift cards may be issued on an as-needed basis to help clients purchase food that aids in their recovery and overall health. Hygiene products, which are essential for maintaining personal well-being, are distributed when it is determined that a patient is unable to obtain these items through other means. This request also includes the purchase of bus passes and fuel gas cards to assist patients who lack transportation to attend necessary medical appointments.

The purchase of these items is fully funded by the California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS. A record of each gift card, hygiene kit, and transportation voucher is maintained and when issued, includes recipient's name, date, and signature.

Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED that your Board approve the request to purchase gift cards, basic hygiene items, and transportation vouchers for at-risk populations served by the Health Education Linkage Program, from October 27, 2026 through June 30, 2027, in an amount not to exceed \$22,000.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brynn Carrigan
Director of Public Health Services

BNC:mm
cc: County Administrative Office

Grounded in Health

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