KERN COUNTY / Public Health

Brynn Carrigan - DIRECTOR
Kristopher Lyon, MD - HEALTH OFFICER

November 17, 2026

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

PROPOSED RETROACTIVE GRANT AGREEMENT WITH CENTER FOR HEALTH CARE STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT THE MEDI-CAL REACH PROJECT IN KERN COUNTY
(Fiscal Impact: $85,000 Revenue; Grant; Not Budgeted; Discretionary)

This letter requests your Board's approval of a proposed retroactive Grant Agreement with Center for Health Care Strategies, to support the Medi-Cal REACH project throughout Kern County, from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2028, in the amount of $85,000. This item is retroactive due to receiving the Grant Agreement on October 30, 2026.

Under the proposed Grant Agreement, Kern County Public Health will partner with the Center for Health Care Strategies to lead and support local initiatives in Kern County aimed at strengthening coordination among organizations responding to Medi-Cal changes that affect enrollment, retention, and access to care. Public Health will engage cross-sector partners, including health plans, health care providers, community-based organizations, enrollment assisters, and other local stakeholders, to identify community priorities, strengthen collaborative partnerships, coordinate outreach and communication efforts, and support strategies to prevent avoidable coverage loss. These efforts will also address the needs of individuals who may become uninsured and help ensure continued access to essential health care services. While this Grant was not anticipated in the FY 2026-27 budget, the Department is not requesting additional appropriations at this time.

County Counsel has reviewed the proposed Grant Agreement and approved as to form.

Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED that your Board approve the proposed retroactive Grant Agreement with Center for Health Care Strategies, to support the Medi-Cal REACH project throughout Kern County, from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2028, in the amount of $85,000 and authorize the Director to sign.

Respectfully submitted,

Brynn Carrigan
Director of Public Health Services

BNC:mm
Attachment
cc: County Administrative Office

GRANT AGREEMENT

COVER PAGE

ID # G1000340-10245.002.003

Grantee:	Center for Health Care Strategies Representative:
Kern County Public Health Services Chad Casto Public Health Program Manager 1800 Mount Vernon Avenue Bakersfield, California 93306 Phone: (661) 868-0498 E-mail: castoc@kerncounty.com	Allison Hamblin, President and CEO Center for Health Care Strategies 300 American Metro Blvd. Suite 125 Hamilton, NJ 08619 Phone: (609) 528-8400 Email: ahamblin@chcs.org

INTRODUCTION

The Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) is pleased to award a grant (the "Grant") in the amount of **$85,000.00** to **Kern County Public Health Services** (the “Grantee”) for the purposes set forth in Article I, below. For purposes of this Grant Agreement (the “Agreement”, the term “Grant” shall include the income, if any arising therefrom, unless the context otherwise requires. The Grant will be made in accordance with the following terms and conditions.

Center for Health Care Strategies

ARTICLE 1 – PURPOSE OF THE GRANT

CHCS is making the Grant to **Kern County Public Health Services** for a project entitled "**Medi-Cal REACH**" (the "Project") as outlined in the Grantee's proposal (see Appendix, **Exhibit A**) as approved by CHCS and hereby incorporated into this Agreement. Specific costs to be paid from the Grant are itemized in the Grant budget (See Appendix, **Exhibit B**), and hereby incorporated into this Agreement.

ARTICLE 2 – CONDITIONS AND TERMS OF THE GRANT

The Grant shall be available for draw down for a period beginning on **October 1, 2026** (the "Commencement Date") and ending **March 31, 2028** (the "Expiration Date"). No additional funds will be awarded above the original approved amount for this period. In signing this agreement, the Grantee agrees to expend the award amount, within the approved grant period, for the purpose of the award as outlined in Exhibit A. Any unspent funds will be returned to CHCS.

ARTICLE 3 – DISBURSEMENT OF THE GRANT

Disbursement of the Grant will begin upon receipt by CHCS of this letter, signed in accordance with Article 10 of this Agreement and counter-signed by CHCS. If cumulative expenditures exceed the total award amount of **$85,000.00** CHCS will make payments only up to the award amount. *Grantee acknowledges the fact that payment is contingent upon timely and appropriate funding from the prime funders of this award.*

CHCS will disburse Grant payments up until the Expiration Date in accordance with the Schedule of Payments and Requirements (See Appendix, **Exhibit C**) and hereby incorporated into this Agreement.

The funds for this Grant were received by CHCS pursuant to grants from the **California Wellness Foundation** and **Kaiser Permanente**.

ARTICLE 4 – ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS AND CONDITIONS ON THE USE OF THE GRANT

a. Grant funds shall be used only for the purposes outlined in **Exhibit A**.

b. No part of the Grant shall be used to carry on propaganda or otherwise attempt to influence legislation within the meaning of Section 4945(d)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code.

c. No part of the Grant shall be used to attempt to influence the outcome of any specific public election or to carry on, directly or indirectly, any voter registration drive within the meaning of Section 4945(d)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.

d. No part of the Grant shall be used for other than religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes or the prevention of cruelty to children or animals within the meaning of Section 170(c)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code.

e. No part of the Grant shall be used to provide a grant to another organization, except as specifically set forth in the Grant proposal, Exhibit A.

f. If the Grant is to be used in whole or in part for research involving human subjects, the Grantee hereby certifies that the Grantee, applying the ethical standards and the criteria for approval of grants set forth in

Department of Health and Human Services policy for the protection of human research subjects (45 CFR part 46, as amended from time to time), has determined that the human subjects involved in this Grant will not experience risk over and above that involved in the normal process of care and are likely to benefit from the proposed research program.

ARTICLE 5 – TAX-EXEMPT STATUS

The Grantee represents that it is currently either exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or that it is a governmental entity described in Sections 170(c)(1) or 511(a)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code. Grantee shall immediately notify CHCS in writing of any change to its tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) or as a governmental entity under Sections 170(c)(1) or 511(a)(2)(B).

ARTICLE 6 – PUBLICITY

CHCS may include information regarding the Grant in its periodic public reports, newsletters, and press releases. Further, the Grantee shall acknowledge CHCS' Grantor role in all of its disseminations, press releases, conference presentations, and any other public references with the following:

Medi-Cal REACH *is supported by the Center for Health Care Strategies through funding from the California Wellness Foundation and Kaiser Permanent.*

The Grantee shall provide copies to CHCS of all material that it provides to the public as it applies to this Grant specifically.

ARTICLE 7 – JURISDICTION

This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the state of New Jersey. Exclusive jurisdiction and venue over any disputes under this Agreement shall be in Mercer County, New Jersey.

ARTICLE 8 – VALIDITY AMENDMENT

The invalidity in whole or in part of any term or condition of this Agreement shall not affect the validity of the other terms and conditions. This Agreement can be modified or amended only by a writing signed by authorized representatives of CHCS and the Grantee.

ARTICLE 9 – CONFLICT OF INTEREST

By signing this Agreement, the Grantee assures that it does not have a conflict of interest relating to the work of this Agreement. If an actual, potential, or apparent conflict of interest arises during the term of this Agreement, the Grantee must notify CHCS and submit a mitigation plan.

Center for Health Care Strategies

ARTICLE 10 – TERMINATION

CHCS reserves the right to terminate this Grant if it determines, in its sole discretion, that the Grantee's performance is unsatisfactory; that the Grantee will be unable to complete the Project as set forth in this Agreement; that the Grantee has breached this agreement; or that continuation of the Grant may be contrary or detrimental to CHCS' reputation, principles or values. If CHCS terminates the Grant, the Grantee agrees to return any unexpended funds to CHCS immediately and to provide an accounting as to the use of any expended funds.

ARTICLE 11 - SIGNATURE REQUIRED

If this Agreement correctly sets forth the Grantee's understanding of the terms and conditions of the Grant, please indicate acceptance by having this Agreement signed and dated in the spaces provided below and return to Kim Malyar, Senior Grants and Contracts Officer, at kmalyar@chcs.org. **Signatories must be officially authorized to sign on behalf of the grantee. This Agreement shall be null and void unless received by CHCS within 10 business days.**

GRANTEE

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

CHCS

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

APPENDIX

See following pages.

Exhibit A

DATE: 10/1/2026
PROJECT TITLE: Medi-Cal Regional Exchange for Access, Coverage, and Health
GRANT PERIOD: 10/01/26 – 03/31/2028

During the grant period, Kern County Public Health will lead and support local convenings and collaborative activities in Kern County to strengthen coordination among organizations responding to Medi-Cal changes impacting enrollment, retention, and access to care. Kern County Public Health will engage cross-sector partners, including health plans, health care providers, community based organizations, enrollment assisters, and other local stakeholders, to identify local priorities, strengthen collaborative partnerships, coordinate outreach and communication strategies, and support efforts to prevent avoidable coverage loss and address the needs of individuals who may become uninsured.

Activities supported through this funding will include planning and facilitating primarily virtual stakeholder convenings, conducting participant outreach and engagement, coordinating communication and outreach strategies related to Medi-Cal changes, identifying local needs, service gaps, and opportunities for improved coordination, strengthening referral and resource coordination for individuals experiencing changes in coverage, supporting information and data sharing among participating organizations, collecting and synthesizing stakeholder feedback, and developing, implementing, and periodically updating a regional action plan.

Kern County Public Health will also participate in Medi-Cal REACH learning community activities, including virtual convenings, affinity group meetings, and coordination with the Center for Health Care Strategies. Lessons learned, promising practices, and relevant resources from the learning community will be shared with local partners to support continued regional collaboration. Kern County Public Health will document participation, activities, progress, challenges, outcomes, and lessons learned and will complete required surveys and reports throughout the grant period.

Exhibit B

Budget for Medi-Cal REACH

Grantee: ***Kern County Public Health***

Project Title: ***Medi-Cal Regional Exchange for Access, Coverage, and Health***

Start Date	**10/1/2026**
End Date	**3/31/2028**

Project Director (Name/Title/Phone/Email): ***Chad Casto, Public Health Program Manager (Phone: 661-868-0498) Email: Castoc@kerncounty.com***

EXPENDITURES

Item	Budget FTEs	Budget 10/01/26 - 03/31/28
PERSONNEL (Enter Staff Names - Add lines if you need more than 4 staff)		
Chad Casto: Project Lead	0.40	$37,431
Staff 2:		
Staff 3		
Staff 4		
Fringe Benefits @ 35 % of Labor Costs		$13,101
Personnel Subtotal	**0.40**	**$50,532**
OTHER DIRECT COSTS		
Travel Costs		$0
Meeting Costs		$0
Communications Costs (Webinars, outreach materials, etc.)		$20,302
Other Costs (Provide Description)		$0
Other Direct Subtotal		**$20,302**
INDIRECT COSTS		
Indirect Costs (20% maximum)		$14,167
Indirects Subtotal		**$14,167**
CONTRACTS/CONSULTANT COSTS		
Contracts		$0
Consultants		$0
Contracts/Consultant Costs Subtotal		**$0**
Grand Total		**$85,000**

BUDGET NARRATIVE

PERSONNEL - Please provide a description for each staff's role on the project, their annual salary, and FTE.

Chad Casto, Public Health Program Manager: Allocation of 40% FTE for project leadership, coordination of virtual stakeholder convenings, partner engagement, action planning, participation in Medi-Cal REACH learning community activities, documentation, and required reporting.

FRINGES: Please describe what goes into your fringe percentage. *(Example: Fringe benefits are calculated at 35% of the total salaries for this project and is comprised as follows: health insurance (13%); life AD&D, and disability LTD/STD (2%); FICA (7.65%); NJSUI (2.35%); dental (2%); and pension (8%))*

Fringe rate and applicable costs are 35%

OTHER DIRECT COSTS - Please provide a description for each line you will be billing. Enter "N/A" if cost not applicable (i.e., if no travel is expected, leave line blank in the budget and list "N/A" in the budget narrative section). If you have other direct costs that aren't listed, please list them under "Other" and provide explanation of how costs were determined.

$20,302 is budgeted for community communications and outreach through billboard advertising in Kern County. Billboard messaging will support broad public awareness and education related to Medi-Cal eligibility changes, including information intended to help residents understand upcoming changes, maintain coverage when eligible, and connect with appropriate enrollment, health care, and community resources. Messaging will be coordinated with regional partners and informed by local needs and emerging Medi-Cal REACH priorities. Costs may include billboard placement, production, and related advertising expenses during the grant period.

Travel - Please provide a description of the travel and the assumptions used to calculate your costs. For example: $500 each for r/t travel (+) $250 each for one hotel night per person (+) $50 each per person for cab fare.

N/A - local convenings are currently anticipated to be primarily virtual, and no travel costs are included in this draft.

Meeting Costs - Please provide a description of meetings you will host and the assumptions used to calculate your costs. For example: $1000 per day for meeting space (x) 1 day (+) $150 per day (x) 10 people for meal costs (+) $25 per person for meeting materials (+) $500 per day for A/V techology rental.

N/A - convenings are currently anticipated to be primarily virtual, and no meeting costs are included in this draft.

Communications Costs - Please provide a description of communications related costs, such as webinars or costs to publish materials. For example: $1000 per 90-minute Webinar with 300 people (x) 2 webinars.

N/A at this time - no separate webinar, publication, or outreach-material costs are included in this draft.

Other Costs - Please provide a description of your direct costs if not described and add lines, if needed. For example, $500 to purchase articles needed for research (+) $1000 for Community member stipends).

N/A at this time.

INDIRECTS: Please provide your indirect rate % and a description of what it covers (e.g., This line-item is intended to cover project-related costs that are not easily identified, but are necessary to obtain the project objective, including – reporting costs, payroll processing, professional fees, etc. Indirect costs are calculated at 20 percent Personnel and Other Direct Costs.) ***PLEASE NOTE: DO NOT APPLY INDIRECTS TO CONSULTANT OR SUBCONTRACTOR COSTS.***

Kern County Public Health's standard indirect rate is 25%. For planning purposes, this draft applies the grant's 20% maximum to Personnel and Other Direct Costs and does not apply indirect costs to consultant or subcontractor costs.

CONTRACTS/CONSULTANT COSTS - Please provide a description of any expected contractor costs or consultant costs, including expected tasks, hourly rate, and estimated hours. For example: Contractor costs: $200/hour (x) 20 hours for contractor to review draft publications and suggest edits for final environmental scan. Consultant costs: $100/hour (x) 5 hours for consultant to provide and facilitate staff assessments and discuss results with staff. ***PLEASE NOTE: DO NOT APPLY INDIRECTS TO CONSULTANT OR SUBCONTRACTOR COSTS.***

N/A at this time - no contractor costs are included.

N/A at this time - no consultant costs are included.

CHCS Center for Health Care Strategies, Inc.

Exhibit C

Schedule of Payments and Requirements

Medi-Cal Regional Exchange for Access, Coverage, and Health
Kern County Public Health
Period of Performance: 10/01/2026 - 03/31/2028

Grant ID#: G1000340-10245.002.003

Please submit reports electronically to the attention of Meryl Schulman
Senior Program Officer
mschulman@chcs.org
with a copy to Kim Malyar, Senior Grants & Contracts Officer @ kmalyar@chcs.org

Deliverable	Requirement Due Date	Approximate Payment Amount
Signed grant agreement	10/1/2026	$56,000
Completed action plan	12/4/2026	$20,500
Updated action plan and midpoint report Midpoint report must include the following: *Beginning award balance *Payments received *Expenditures by major category *Ending (unspent) balance *General ledger detail supporting expenditures	7/30/2027	$0
Completion of final report and survey Final report must include the following: *Beginning award balance *Payments received *Expenditures by major category *Ending (unspent) balance *General ledger detail supporting expenditures	3/31/2028	$8,500
TOTAL Not to Exceed:		$85,000