

Date: April 11, 2023

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager *BT*

From: Kelly Colopy, Director of Health and Human Services *KC*

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: Health Department Receives Grants to Increase Inclusivity within Public Health Preparedness Planning and Response

The Health and Human Services Department's Public Health Emergency Management (PHEM) Division received funding from two grants on behalf of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) to address the needs of people with disabilities, and others with access or functional needs, by integrating inclusive considerations into public health emergency preparedness planning. This will ensure that, regardless of ability, all will have equal access to emergency information, resources, and services.

Per the U.S. Census, a total of 50,214 persons self-identified as living with a disability in the City of Long Beach (City). Individuals with disabilities and their families are disproportionately affected by natural disasters, disease outbreaks, and public health emergencies. PHEM seeks to identify these disparities by collaborating with local organizations to help address these gaps. As a result, these actions will encourage community engagement, trust in relationships with our community, and enhance the City's public health emergency preparedness planning process.

Collectively, the NACCHO funding will be used to:

- 1) Hire two (2) Accessibility Advocates, a temporary employment opportunity that will offer exposure to the public health emergency management field, provide professional guidance and career development, and provide networking opportunities to support the Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Specialist to build capacity around these important public health efforts. Our community will benefit through the development of new approaches and strategies to redesign and improve our programs, policies, and services.
- 2) Partner with community-based organization Able ARTS Work to host a series of "zine-making" workshops that encourage community engagement and collect experiences on City emergency response efforts, such as COVID-19. A zine is a noncommercial, often homemade, or online publication that focuses on a specific theme or subject and, when shared, can educate, and inspire change. The active exchange of resources and information between our department and partners is invaluable in improving and sustaining inclusive emergency planning in Long Beach. Collaboration among reliable networks will increase engagement and reinforce community trust.

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- 3) The AFN Specialist, Accessibility Advocates, and other public health emergency staff will help conduct outreach to our disability community and facilitate relationship building to convene our local partners to establish a Disabilities, Access, and Functional Needs (DAFN) workgroup. The workgroup will include local subject matter experts who will apply their knowledge of DAFN and ensure the considerations of our whole community are met by reviewing public health processes and plans. Organizing a DAFN workgroup will guarantee that inclusive considerations will be incorporated into the City's public health emergency preparedness planning and response process to better respond to the needs of the DAFN community.

If you are interested in joining a DAFN workgroup or would like more information, please contact Access and Functional Needs Specialist, Esmeralda Garcia at Esmeralda.garcia@longbeach.gov or (562) 570-4770.

Please visit www.longbeach.gov/zineproject for information on the upcoming zine workshops to share with your constituents to encourage participation. For more information, please email HE-Preparedness@longbeach.gov or call (562) 570-4289.

ATTACHMENTS: [FLYER ENGLISH](#)
[FLYER SPANISH](#)
[FLYER TAGALOG](#)
[FLYER KHMER](#)

CC: DAWN MCINTOSH, CITY ATTORNEY
DOUGLAS P. HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR
LINDA F. TATUM, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
TERESA CHANDLER, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
KATY NOMURA, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
APRIL WALKER, ADMINISTRATIVE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
KEVIN LEE, CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK
DEPARTMENT HEADS