



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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August 4, 2009

TO: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Health Services: Governor's Section 13.10 Requests for the Use of Federal Economic Stimulus Funding for Health Care Associated Infection Reduction Strategies -- Agenda Item VI

REQUEST

The Governor requests that the Joint Committee on Finance approve the allocation and expenditure of \$1,402,324 in the 2009-11 biennium, (\$701,162 annually) from moneys received under the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, to support activities to reduce health care associated infections (HAIs).

BACKGROUND

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines health care associated infections (HAIs) as infections that patients acquire during the course of treatment for other conditions within a healthcare setting. CDC estimates that, nationwide, approximately 1.7 million HAIs and 99,000 associated deaths occur each year.

Health care providers are not required to report HAIs to the state, and the Division of Public Health (DPH) in the Department of Health Services (DHS) does not conduct regular HAI surveillance activities. However, DPH has conducted several activities to track HAIs, including the following: (a) a 2008 survey to determine rates of methicillin resistant *staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA); (b) an annual surveys tracking influenza vaccination rates among employees of hospitals and nursing homes; (c) a 2009 survey of acute care facilities to determine participation in the National Health Care Safety Network; and (d) a study of the status of *clostridium difficile* in Wisconsin inpatient facilities. The Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) and MetaStar, Inc. also conduct various HAI prevention and surveillance activities in the state.

ANALYSIS

The Department plans to implement a program that would focus on HAI surveillance and prevention in acute care facilities. The program would include the following components: (a) development of a Wisconsin health care infections prevention plan (WHIPP); (b) creation of a Wisconsin Healthcare Infections Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee (WHIMAC), made up of representatives of stakeholder organizations; (c) development of data collection and analysis capabilities; and (d) promotion of evidence-based practices and collaboration among hospitals and HAI prevention experts.

Using the requested ARRA funds, the Department would hire four project positions to implement and coordinate these activities. DHS would hire the following positions for a 28-month term of employment: (a) a HAI prevention plan coordinator, who would work with the WHIMAC, develop and implement the WHIPP, and assist with other surveillance and prevention activities; (b) a surveillance coordinator, who would promote the use of the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN), provide training and support, and prepare HAI data reports; (c) a surveillance epidemiologist, who would assist the surveillance coordinator with development of data collection and analysis capacity; and (d) a collaborative/education coordinator, who would coordinate activities related to provider collaboration, best practice models, and HAI education for the general public.

The following table identifies how DHS proposes to use these funds in the 2009-01 biennium, by expenditure type.

Budgeted Expenses, by Type

<u>Expenditure Area</u>	<u>Requested Amount</u>
Salaries of State Positions	\$572,700
Fringe Benefit	264,700
Travel	25,200
Equipment	4,400
Supplies	3,700
Contracted Support	353,000
Other Costs	<u>178,600</u>
Total	\$1,402,300

The \$25,200 in travel costs include travel to meetings and conferences, and travel for NHSN training and technical support. The \$353,000 in contracted support would be provided to MetaStar and the WHA for the support and expansion of existing projects. Other costs include internal DHS services, communications, the costs of holding WHIMAC meetings and other conferences or workshops, and other miscellaneous costs.

The application deadline for these funds was June 26, 2009. The administration submitted the application to the federal government, but has not received federal approval for the use of these funds. The Department indicates that modifications to the application as submitted are not possible at this time, as the deadline for submission has already passed.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the Governor's request to allow the Department of Health Services to allocate and expend \$1,402,324 in the 2009-11 biennium (\$701,162 annually), in federal ARRA funds, for health care associated infection reduction and activities in the Division of Public Health.

2. Deny the request.

Prepared by: Sam Austin