
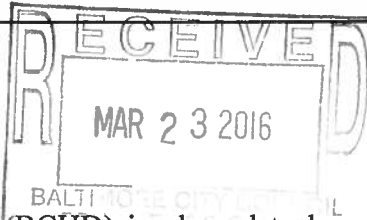


F R O M	Name & Title	Dr. Leana Wen <i>Leana Wen</i>	Health Department	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject	CB 16-0628 – Supplementary Federal Fund Operating Appropriation – Health Department – \$6,833,333		

To: President and Members
of the City Council
c/o 409 City Hall



March 29, 2016

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill 16-0628 – Supplementary Federal Fund Operating Appropriation – Health Department – \$6,833,333. The purpose of this bill is to provide funding for a project entitled “Baltimore: Projects to Reduce HIV Infections and Improve Engagement in HIV Medical Care Among Men Who Have Sex With Men” (\$4,500,000) and for a project entitled “Health Department Demonstration Projects for Comprehensive Prevention, Care, Behavioral Health, and Social Services for Men Who Have Sex With Men of Color at Risk for and Living with HIV Infection”.

In October 2015 BCHD received two new grants from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to expand HIV prevention services, including a new strategy entitled Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). This highly effective program includes medication, treatment, information and education to prevent HIV infections particularly among African-American men who have sex with men (MSM) and African-American transgender persons.

The funding period for both grants began October 2015. One grant funds this work for four years and the other for three years. Partners for this work include the Baltimore City STD clinics, Chase Brexton, Harriet Lane, Moore Clinic, STAR TRACK, AIDS Action Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Center for Child and Community Health Research, Johns Hopkins University REACH Institute, Johns Hopkins University Prevention and Training Center, JACQUES Initiative, The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center of Baltimore, and the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

This unprecedented collaboration is a combination of key clinics, community-based organizations, and training facilities that address the health needs of those at highest risk of acquiring or being exposed to HIV. For many of the partnering agencies, implementing the PrEP program will be a new activity in addition to the services that they offer. This also represents a very large increase in human resources and staffing needs to meet what we hope will be a large demand for services. Work began in January 2016 to begin implementation of PrEP with the eleven partners. To date these agencies have hired 17 people, with 30-plus additional hires anticipated.

BCHD is proud to have received these grants and excited to provide these services to Baltimore residents. The Health Department will be present at the hearing to answer any questions.

Comments