

**LRB-FISCAL REVIEW SECTION ANALYSIS**

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**ITEM 15, FILE # 020508**

**JULY 25, 2002**

**MARK A. RAMION**

File # 020508 is a resolution relative to application, acceptance and funding of the Bioterrorism Grant-Wisconsin's Public Health Preparedness and Response for Bioterrorism.

**Background**

1. This resolution authorizes the Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) to apply for, accept and fund the Bioterrorism Grant project from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control through the State of Wisconsin Department of Health and Human Services.
2. This funding is year one of a projected five-year grant. Based upon recent legislation in the U.S. Congress regarding homeland security, new financial resources have been created to fund existing, as well as new, efforts assigned to local agencies for defense against bioterrorism.

**Discussion**

1. The purpose of this grant project is to enhance local public health agencies' capacity to prepare and respond to bioterrorism. No funding of this nature is being made available to the private sector.
2. The grant funding primarily supports improvements to MHD's epidemiology and disease surveillance as well as improvements to laboratory capacity and analysis,
3. Interagency communication will be improved for the purpose of prompt identification of microbiologic agents and subsequent coordination in the event of a biological attack.
4. This grant will also assist in the development of laboratory standard operating procedures and enhance communication, systems and training between MHD, the Milwaukee Police and Fire Departments and the community emergency management network.
5. This grant provides for MHD laboratory improvements as well as the purchase of new analytical equipment. Specimen assessment capabilities will provide MHD with DNA "fingerprint" analysis as well enable the rapid detection and identification of a terrorist event with the accompanying biological agents used.

6. The MHD laboratory will be assigned “BioSafety Level 3” (BSL3) status, one of four laboratories with this designation in the state of Wisconsin. MHD will assume regional responsibility for identification and analysis of biological agents in a perceived or real terrorist attack.
7. This grant encompasses the period of September 1, 2002 through August 31, 2003.

### **Fiscal Impact**

1. The total amount of this grant is \$760,874, entirely from the grantor.
2. This grant will fund the following existing full-time MHD positions with salary and fringe:
  - 1 Microbiologist III, SG 642
  - 1 Epidemiologist, SG 009
3. This grant will fund the following new full-time MHD positions with salary and fringe:
  - 1 Molecular Microbiologist III, SG 642
  - 1 Laboratory Information Systems QA Technical Specialist, SG 644
4. Salary expenses represent 36% of the grant total.
5. \$397,456 (52% of the grant total) will be used for laboratory renovation to accommodate the objectives of this project and laboratory and computer equipment for project implementation and analysis.

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