

August 2, 2021

Measure X Community Advisory Board
1025 Escobar Street, 4th Floor
Martinez, CA 94553
Attn: Lisa Driscoll, Committee Staff

Dear Members of the Measure X Community Advisory Board,

On behalf of Contra Costa County's three health systems, I urge the Measure X Community Advisory Board to recommend full funding for the Contra Costa CARES program in the amount of \$1.5 million.

As you know, for the past six years the County's three health systems have contributed over \$3 million in grant funding to the CARES program as a pilot to provide a primary care medical home to Contra Costa residents who fall below the federal poverty line but are not eligible for Medi-Cal due to their immigration status.

While it has been a privilege for the three health systems to be involved in starting up the CARES program, it is now time to find a sustainable source of funding that does not rely on grant funding and can support expanded enrollment and services in the future to meet the long-term needs of this vulnerable community.

I am sure you are aware that the Governor signed legislation this month to expand Medi-Cal coverage to older undocumented adults. While we supported and applauded this action, it still leaves out younger undocumented adults between the ages of 26 and 50 who will continue to rely on Contra Costa CARES for their health care.

We hope you agree that both the ballot measure language and intent of Measure X - that those with limited access to resources in our community receive the health care that they need – clearly supports allocating Measure X funds for this program.

Currently, Contra Costa CARES is funded jointly by the County and the three health systems for a total of \$1.5 million. We strongly encourage the Measure X Community Advisory Board to recommend allocating at least this base funding amount in order to create a sustainable program that will meet the needs of all of those who live in Contra Costa County.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Rozen
Regional Vice President