

WFR GL Balances

Run Date: 2021/11/19 Run Time: 11:28:46

Inquiry Parameters :

Client:
026
Responsibility:

Service Line:

STOB:
E000
Project:
66K0392,66K0396,66K0397,66K0404
Period:
Previous
Budget Name:
HE22 MINISTRY
Encumbrance Type:

Other Parameters:
Lines with Zeros: No
Cents: No
Rollup Fiscal Year:
Current
Parameter Set Name:
BCAS

Grouping Parameters:

Displayed Columns:

Group / Sort Page 1 Client	Actuals YTD+Yr Open
Group / Sort Page 2 None	
Group / Sort 1 Responsibility	
Group / Sort 2 Service Line	
Group / Sort 3 None	
Detail Level Project	

WFR GL Balances
026 Health Client**Budget: HE22 MINISTRY**
Period: OCT-22 (Closed)

Run Date: 2021/11/19 Run Time: 11:28:46

Project	Actuals YTD +Yr Open
66145 Executive Director, Strategic Projects Responsibility	
44005 Information Management Services Service Line	
66K0392-Case and Contract Managemt	52,703
66K0396-Lab Booking / Lab Testing	10,500
66K0397-Thrive App	17,080
66K0404-EMR Sector Strategy	11,060
44005 Total	91,343
66145 Total	91,343
026 Total	91,343
REPORT TOTAL	91,343

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH
DECISION BRIEFING NOTE**

Cliff # 1171610

PREPARED FOR: Stephen Brown, Deputy Minister - **FOR DECISION**

TITLE: Federal Funding for COVID-19 Virtual Care

PURPOSE: Approve entering into a bilateral agreement with Health Canada to secure funding for virtual care in response to COVID-19

BACKGROUND:

On May 19, 2020, federal, provincial and territorial Deputy Ministers of Health agreed to five priority areas for immediate action in response to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- 1) secure messaging and file-transfer platforms or supports to enable end-to-end messaging;
- 2) secure video-conferencing technology to deliver care to patients remotely;
- 3) remote patient monitoring technologies;
- 4) patient access to COVID-19 and other lab results; and
- 5) back-end supports for integration of new platforms and supports, including hardware.

These priorities will be funded by the federal government through a one-time bilateral agreement. British Columbia is eligible to receive a total of \$17.9M with no obligation to contribute matching funds. Half of this amount will be paid within 30 days of the effective date with the second half to be paid after October 1, 2020 and contingent upon an action plan that provides an overview of virtual care in B.C. and identifies priority areas for expenditure of federal funds. The action plan must be completed within 90 days of the effective date, and must highlight how the needs of underrepresented populations within B.C. will be addressed by one or more initiatives. Eligible expenses related to these priorities include operating and capital costs, salaries, training expenses, data collection, information technology (IT) and related investments, and other costs deemed essential to the achievement of results. Using the funds for capital costs or operating expenses that are restricted by Treasury Board Directive (such as salaries) would require additional approval from Treasury Board. The bilateral agreement commits the Ministry of Health to reporting data to the Canadian Institute for Health Information illustrating the baseline of virtual care and progress achieved in virtual care implementation.

DISCUSSION:

This bilateral agreement represents an opportunity for the BC Ministry of Health to advance priority virtual care initiatives identified in the Digital Health Strategy using federal funds. Candidate program areas include Mental Health and Substance Use, Virtual Physician Networks, and HealthLink BC Community and Specialist support services. Funding received from this bilateral agreement could be directed to initiatives currently proposed for COVID-19-related provincial funding or net new projects.

OPTIONS:

- 1) Approve entering into the bilateral agreement with Health Canada.

Federal funding will be available to advance existing priorities identified in the Digital Health Strategy. The BC Ministry of Health will be required to complete an action plan and provide reporting data to demonstrate progress against this plan.

- 2) Do not approve entering into the bilateral agreement with Health Canada.

The opportunity to secure federal funding in support of COVID-19 priorities will be foregone. Failure to adequately fund this work would delay or diminish the COVID-19 response effort.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

A federal contribution of \$17.9M will be available to apply toward the approximately \$26.3M in eligible capital and operating costs for priority COVID-19 related virtual care initiatives.

RECOMMENDATION:

Option 1



Approved/Not Approved
Stephen Brown
Deputy Minister



Date Signed

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Date: December 7, 2020