



AGENDA REPORT

TO: Edward D. Reiskin
City Administrator

FROM: Erin Roseman
Director of Finance

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding with
Alameda County for COVID-19
Testing Services

DATE: April 23, 2021

City Administrator Approval

Date: May 3, 2021

RECOMMENDATION

Staff Recommends That The City Council Approve A Resolution (1) Authorizing A Memorandum Of Understanding With The County Of Alameda For City To Receive Funds In An Amount Not To Exceed \$778,549 As Reimbursement For Providing COVID-19 Testing Services, And (2) Appropriating Said Funds, And (3) Awarding A Pass-Through Grant Agreement In An Amount Not To Exceed \$73,474 To La Clinica De La Raza As Reimbursement For Providing COVID-19 Testing Services.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Oakland partnered with Alameda County and community-based organizations to provide COVID-19 testing services during the first nine months of the global pandemic.

Approval of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will allow the City to receive reimbursement for a variety of testing expenses that were incurred and paid in calendar year 2020. Most of these expenses would not be available for reimbursement through other sources.

BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

In December 2019, an outbreak of a respiratory illness due to a novel coronavirus (a disease known as 2019 Novel Coronavirus or COVID-19) was first identified in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. On January 23, 2020, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) activated its Emergency Response System to provide ongoing support for the response to COVID-19 across the United States. In addition, the Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency in the United States on January 31, 2020. In Alameda County, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution ratifying the declaration of a local health emergency by the County Health Officer on March 10, 2020.

In Oakland, City Council adopted Resolution 88075 C.M.S. on March 12, 2020 ratifying the declaration of a local emergency by the City Administrator acting as the Director of the Emergency Services Operation Center on March 9, 2020.

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ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES

According to the CDC, testing for individuals who are at high risk for contracting the virus is an important strategy to reduce community transmission of COVID-19. To support efforts by cities to expand testing services, Alameda County adopted the Alameda County & City COVID-19 Testing Partnership Framework on June 30, 2020 to coordinate resources and provide technical assistance to cities to increase equitable access to testing and lab processing services for residents most impacted by COVID-19.

With the support of the newly established Community Resilience Branch in the City's Emergency Operation Center, Oakland partnered with Alameda County and community-based organizations to provide free COVID-19 testing at several sites during the height of the pandemic. These services were intended to alleviate pressure on hospital emergency rooms; provide quicker answers for recently exposed first responders, health care workers, and persons with recent suspected exposures to COVID-19; ensure equitable access for communities most impacted by racial disparities; and enhance the region's capacity to suppress new transmissions through isolation after testing. In addition to such community-based testing the City also offered testing to first responders and other essential workers during this period, which will also be eligible for reimbursement by the County.

Expenses subject to reimbursement under the MOU include \$146,589 incurred by the City for testing site sanitation and security, \$434,707 for testing of first responders, essential workers and individuals in high risk populations, and \$73,474 to be passed through to La Clinica de La Raza for expenses incurred in excess of donations received for testing site personnel and equipment rentals. Although the MOU provides for reimbursements not to exceed \$778,549, the City estimates that eligible costs under the agreement will fall below this level and total \$654,770.

Testing site expenses for the City and La Clinica de La Raza may be eligible for reimbursement by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Such reimbursements would be subject to a 25% local cost share, significantly more burdensome documentation requirements, and uncertainty regarding the timing of payments. Testing expenses for first responders and other essential personnel may not be eligible under any FEMA program. The City chose to work with Alameda County on this agreement to simplify the reimbursement process, accelerate the timeline for payment, and gain reimbursement for expenses that would not otherwise be available.

FISCAL IMPACT

Approval of this MOU will allow the County to apply for direct payment by Alameda County to the City of \$654,770, of which \$73,474 would be passed through to La Clinica de la Raza.

PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST

The City partnered with community-based organizations including La Clinica de la Raza, Roots Community Health Clinic, and Allen Temple Baptist Church to provide testing services. Multiple City departments, including the Oakland Library, Oak311, Digital Services, Violence Prevention and the Fire Department, distributed COVID-19 testing information across various mediums, including radio, phone hotlines, digital outreach and distribution of printed material in multiple languages (see **Attachment A**).

COORDINATION

This report was prepared by the Finance Department with input from Risk Management, the Budget Bureau, and the Chief Resilience Officer, who led the City's efforts to expand testing services now subject to reimbursement.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: This agreement would provide needed funds to the City and La Clinica de la Raza that would not otherwise be available.

Environmental: There are no environmental opportunities associated with this report.

Race & Equity: Upon its formation, the Community Resilience Branch immediately set a goal to ensure all residents have equitable access to COVID-19 testing, particularly Black and Latino residents given the overrepresentation of COVID cases and deaths in those communities. By partnering with trusted institutions like La Clinica, Roots Community Health Clinic, Allen Temple Baptist Church and Community Organized Relief Effort, the City quickly mobilized to open and support testing sites targeting community needs, like the Bay Area's first pedestrian-only site at Roots Community Clinic or the large Allen Temple Baptist Church site that had evening hours to accommodate varying work schedules.

These efforts contributed to Oakland's recognition as being one of the few cities that did not have longer waiting times and/or understaffed testing centers in communities of color. Across the U.S., people of color were more likely to experience longer wait times and understaffed testing center. However, according to an [extensive review of testing sites by FiveThirtyEight.com](https://abc7news.com/covid-19-testing-black-latino-bay-area/6330018/) (<https://abc7news.com/covid-19-testing-black-latino-bay-area/6330018/>), Oakland and San Francisco testing locations near mostly Black census blocks were an estimated 21% less busy – on average – than testing sites near mostly-white neighborhoods. In the city's mostly Hispanic neighborhoods, the testing centers were about 4% less busy than those serving majority-white neighborhoods. The analysis found only four cities across the U.S. where minority neighborhoods were being served by less busy testing sites.

The City, in partnership with the Mayor's Office, also actively participated in the COVID-19 Racial Disparities Task Force, which advocated for initiatives and policies that promote greater COVID-19 equity.

Edward D. Reiskin, City Administrator

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ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Staff recommends that the City Council approve a resolution (1) authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the County of Alameda for City to receive funds in an amount not to exceed \$778,549 as reimbursement for providing COVID-19 testing services, and (2) appropriating said funds, and (3) awarding a pass-through grant agreement in an amount not to exceed \$73,474 to La Clinica de La Raza as reimbursement for providing COVID-19 testing services.

For questions regarding this report, please contact Stephen Walsh, Controller, at (510) 238-4906.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Roseman

[Erin Roseman \(Apr 27, 2021 15:19 PDT\)](#)

Erin Roseman
Director of Finance
Finance Department

Prepared by:
Stephen Walsh
Controller
Controller's Bureau

Attachment (1):

A: COVID-19 Postcard

City Council
May 18, 2021

PRUEBAS GRATUITAS DEL COVID-19

Si usted vive o trabaja en el condado de Alameda, puede hacerse la prueba de Covid-19 GRATIS sin importar estatus migratorio o seguro médico.

**Llame al 311 o visite oaklandca.gov/testing
para saber más**



CITY OF
OAKLAND

FREE COVID-19 TESTING

If you work outside the home or if you're worried you have COVID, get a test. You can get tested for free at one of the City's walk-up or drive-through testing locations.

**Find out more by calling 311 or visiting
oaklandca.gov/testing**



CITY OF
OAKLAND

El COVID-19 está afectando a las comunidad Latina y Negra más gravemente que a otras. Sabemos que en Oakland miembros de estas comunidades se están enfermado e incluso muriendo con tasas de 2 a 3 veces más altas que en otras comunidades. Es muy importante que tú y tus seres queridos sepan cómo protegerse, mantenerse sanos y obtener la ayuda que necesitan. Por favor sigue estos consejos:

- Quédate en casa – si le es posible
- Manténgase a 6 pies/ 2 metros de distancia de otras personas
- Protéjase usted mismo y a otros en su comunidad y familia usando una tapabocas o máscara
- Lávese las manos frecuentemente

Hacerse la prueba de COVID-19 es muy importante es GRATIS y no importa si tienes papeles o seguro médico.

**Find out more by calling 311 or visiting
oaklandca.gov/testing**



COVID-19 is hitting some communities harder than others. We know that in Oakland, Black and Brown communities are getting sick and even dying at rates 2-3 times higher than others. So it's incredibly important that our loved ones in these communities know how to protect themselves, stay healthy, and get the help they need. Please follow these tips:

- Stay inside when possible
- Keep 6 feet apart from other people
- Protect yourself and others by wearing a face covering
- Wash your hands frequently

Testing is important and FREE.

**Find out more by calling 311 or visiting
oaklandca.gov/testing**



THỬ NGHIỆM COVID-19 MIỄN PHÍ

Si usted vive o trabaja en el condado de Alameda, puede hacerse la prueba de Covid-19 GRATIS sin importar estatus migratorio o seguro médico.

Tìm hiểu thêm bằng cách gọi số 311 hoặc vào xem oaklandca.gov/testing



CITY OF OAKLAND

免費 COVID-19 檢測

如果您居住或工作在阿拉梅達縣，無論保險或移民身份如何，您都可以免費接受檢測。

更多詳情，請致電311或訪問 www.oaklandca.gov/COVID-19



CITY OF OAKLAND

COVID-19 đang tấn công một số cộng đồng nặng nề hơn các cộng đồng khác. Chúng ta biết rằng tại Oakland, các cộng đồng Da Đen và Da Nâu đang bị bệnh và thậm chí tử vong với tỷ lệ cao gấp 2-3 lần so với các cộng đồng khác. Vì vậy, điều cực kỳ quan trọng là những người thân yêu của chúng ta trong các cộng đồng này biết cách bảo vệ bản thân, giữ gìn sức khỏe, và nhận được sự giúp đỡ mà họ cần. Hãy làm theo những gợi ý sau đây:

- Ở trong nhà khi có thể
- Cách xa người khác 6 feet
- Bảo vệ bản thân và người khác bằng cách mang
- khăn che mặt
- Rửa tay thường xuyên

Thử nghiệm là điều quan trọng và MIỄN PHÍ.

Tìm hiểu thêm bằng cách gọi số 311 hoặc vào xem oaklandca.gov/testing



COVID-19 對一些社區的打擊比其他社區嚴重。我們知道，在屋崙，黑人種和棕色人種患病甚至死亡的概率是其他人的2-3倍。因此，以下內容至關重要，請身處這些社區中的親朋好友切記如何保護自己，保持健康，並獲得所需的幫助。請遵循以下貼士：

- 盡可能留在屋內
- 和他人保持6英尺的距離
- 佩戴面罩，保護自己和他人的安全
- 勤洗手

檢測至關重要，并且免費

更多詳情，請致電311或訪問 www.oaklandca.gov/COVID-19

