

New Health Department Application and Regulations

Details and Status Update

December 2021



Background

- February 2021 City Council of West Covina voted 4-1 to separate from LA Co Public Health
- Other cities have expressed interest...one city has hired HMA to complete a feasibility study
- California law allows a city with population greater than 50,000 to have a health department
- CDPH has authority to fund local health departments who meet statutory and regulatory requirements
- No process exists for CDPH to approve a new health department for funding
- Three existing city health departments are each over 100 years old
- Need to create a new health department application process through the regulatory process

Guiding Principles for Approval

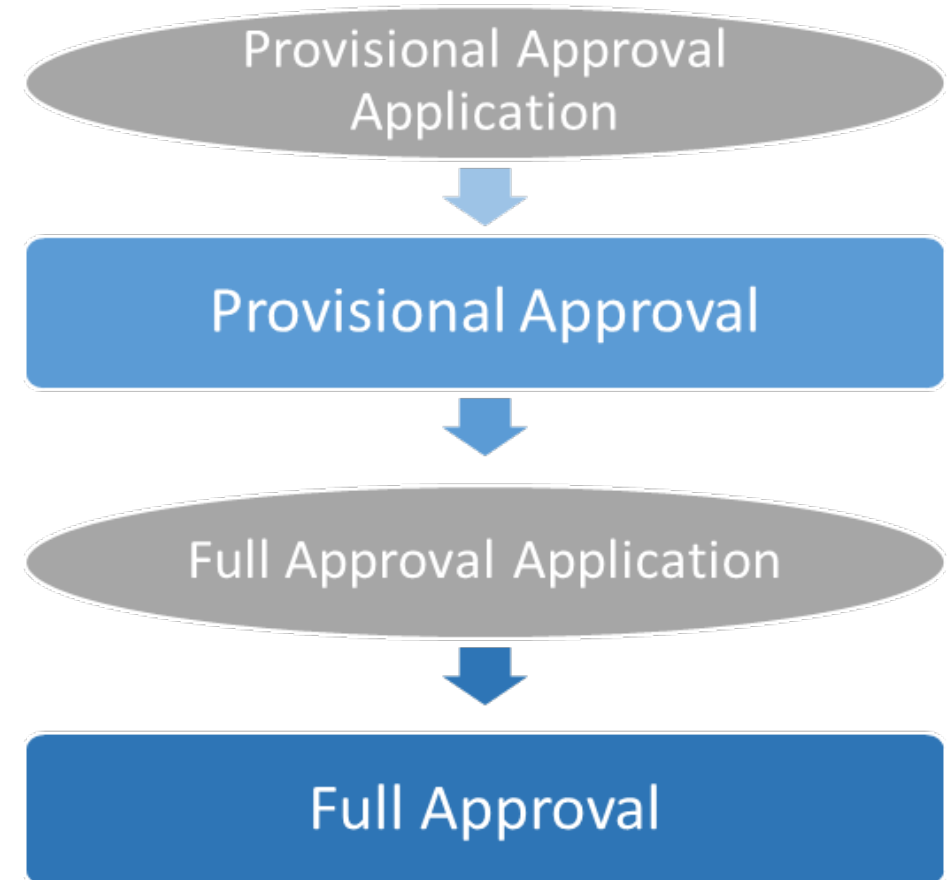
1. New health department must **meet public health statutory and regulatory requirements in order to receive funding**
2. Applicant must **demonstrate clear understanding of community health needs**
3. Applicant must **prove ability to address community health needs through the provision of high quality public health services**

Overall Process

- Regular meetings with CCLHO and CHEAC executive committees
- Meeting nearly every 3 weeks with West Covina leadership and their consultants
- Frequent meetings with CDPH OLS and OOR
- Interviewed all city health departments and the county health departments where they reside
- Formed health officer and health director focus groups
- Regularly updated CDPH director's office
- Presented to CHEAC general membership and CCLHO board of directors on December 2 2021

Possible Approval Stages

- **Provisional Approval:** If approved, applicants are permitted to provide only the specific services that CDPH has given approval
 - Cannot make mandates or rules that differ from county where applicant is located
 - Possibly apply for CDPH funding
 - Required services: communicable disease prevention, emergency preparedness, environmental health, and three others as identified by Applicant's Community Health Assessment
- **Full Approval:** If approved, applicant must ensure provision of all required services
 - Can make local mandates and regulations



Possible Components of Provisional Approval Application

- Proof baseline requirements are met
- Letter of intent that describes rationale and need for forming new LHD
- Feasibility study
- Timeline, budget, and staffing information for service provision (including credentials/job descriptions for required staff and LHO)
- A MOU or contract with county/other organization for services or staff that will be contracted out
- Community Health Assessment & Community Health Improvement Plan and possibly other similar PHAB requirements
- Site Visit

Possible Components of Full Approval Application

- Status update of service and program provision & staff hiring
- Public health workforce development plan and possibly other similar PHAB requirements
- Within one year of full approval, must provide all remaining public health services which are not provided by county
- Site visit

Possible Logistics

- CDPH staff reviews and approves or denies provisional application
- Panel of public health professionals reviews and approves or denies full application
- Applicants can appeal a denial within 90 days
- Possible application fee
- After full approval, new LHD must provide annual report for three years, detailing:
 - Status of required services and positions
 - Initiatives resulting from CHA, CHIP, and possibly other plans
 - Status of health equity work

Why Are Regulations Necessary?

1. In order for CDPH to review and make a determination of a new local health department application, and enforce the application process, CDPH needs to have regulatory authority.
2. Therefore, CDPH is proposing amendments to the California Code of Regulations (CCR). CDPH does not have the authority to amend the California Health and Safety Code (HSC), which is comprised of statutes.

Possible Amendments to the CCR

1. Modernize public health regulations. Examples:
 - a. Section 1276. Basic Services:
 - i. Possibly delete outdated references to “air sanitation” and “venereal disease.”
 - ii. Possibly simplify the lengthy and outdated occ health requirements.
 - b. Clean up sections that contain language that reference outdated section numbers.
2. Add language that will give CDPH the authority to enforce an application, and an application process, for new city health departments.

Next Steps

1. Draft application and regulations documents going through review process.
2. As part of the regulations process, a final draft will be made available for a public comment period....TBD.