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Agency/Point of Contact: Cynthia MacDonald, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Human Services

Title of Request: Public Health Emergency (PHE) Unwind preparation

Date: 2/7/2023 **Request Amount:** \$ 1,105,000

Expenditure Time Period: 5/23/2022 to 2/15/2023 (no later than 2/15/2023)

Brief Summary of Request: (Summary must be complete on this page with supporting information attached)

During the COVID-19 pandemic, 1.5 million Minnesotans enrolled in the state's publicly funded health care programs. As a condition of receiving additional federal dollars to support low-income Minnesotans during the pandemic, the state temporarily adopted continuous coverage in compliance with federal guidance. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 decoupled the continuous coverage requirement from the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) and ends the continuous coverage provision effective March 31, 2023. Minnesota must prepare to unwind the continuous coverage provisions that were put in place at the beginning of the pandemic. Federal direction provides states with up to 12 months following the expiration of continuous coverage to determine eligibility for all individuals who are currently enrolled in MA and MinnesotaCare. In accordance with federal guidance, Minnesota plans to begin program renewals in April 2023 and complete them by May 31, 2024 (this corresponds to starting with our July 2023 renewal cohort and ending with our June 2024 cohort). This proposal requests \$1,105,000 in COVID Management funds to support efforts to prepare for PHE unwind. The funds will cover the following costs for three categories of expenditures related Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare eligibility renewals. The amounts for each category are approximate.

* \$171,000 for printing, postage, translation and mailing of managed care enrollment guide booklets and other materials that will need to be sent to enrollees as part of the renewal process.

* \$241,000 for staff overtime costs related to preparing renewal self-service functionality, and updating continuous eligibility and third party liability functions for Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare coverage.

* \$693,000 for preparation of PHE unwind readiness reports for enrollees, partners and the state. These reports will inform the development of a plan for conducting 1.5 million Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare renewals over a 12-month period.

A portion of the funds may be used for administrative costs. Any remaining funds can be spent on eligible PHE unwind expenses incurred prior to February 15, 2023.

Jodi Harpstead Digitally signed by Jodi Harpstead
Date: 2023.02.07 13:07:05 -06'00'
Department Head Signature

2/7/2023
Date