



## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item  
Meeting of December 9, 2006**

**DATE:** November 13, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Virginia Department of Health Grant for Pandemic Influenza Preparedness

**C. M. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Accept a grant from Virginia Department of Health, Pan Flu Grant Phase II.
2. Appropriate \$93, 688 from Virginia Department of Health (101.364100) to the Department of Human Services (101.55001).

**ISSUES:** None

**SUMMARY:** The Virginia Department of Health grant will be used to enhance local public health preparedness for pandemic influenza through outreach and education to relevant stakeholders in Arlington.

**BACKGROUND:** The nature of a pandemic is that should it occur it is likely to strike the nation quickly, necessitating pre-planning on both state and local levels. In an effort to stimulate preparedness for pandemic influenza, the federal government has provided emergency supplemental funds to the states. As a result, the Virginia Department of Health provided a \$93,688 grant to enhance public health preparedness in Arlington.

**DISCUSSION:** Pandemic influenza could be a threat to the Arlington community. With estimates that a significant portion (20-50%) of the population would be affected during a pandemic, it is critical that preparedness not be limited to public health agencies alone. All levels of government have identified the need for local public health agencies to reach out to their communities: to engage diverse community stakeholders in planning activities, so that communities, like Arlington, are prepared for a pandemic.

This Phase II grant will continue to enhance public health and community preparedness by:

- Holding additional Pandemic Influenza Summits to educate non-profit, business, educational, faith-based and County organizations about pandemic influenza, its impact, the need for personal and organizational preparedness, and disease prevention strategies.
- Providing outreach to the community-at-large, emphasizing education about pandemic influenza, disease prevention strategies and personal preparedness.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None. There is no impact to local funding.

County Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

Staff: Reuben Varghese, Department of Human Services