

#### 4 – BIOTERRORISM & PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS

1. **Program Area:** Community Services
2. **Agencies and Departments involved:** Health Care Agency (HCA)
3. **New or previously identified in earlier Strategic Financial Plans, if previously identified what has changed and why:** Previously Identified
4. **Description of the project/program – what it is and what it will achieve:**

The Department of Defense and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Recovery and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States Act established the Public Health Preparedness and Response for Bioterrorism Cooperative Agreement Program. This program, managed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is intended to improve our national public health infrastructure.

In developing the Public Health Preparedness and Response Plan, HCA has reviewed the critical capacities needed to prepare and respond to bioterrorism, infectious disease outbreaks, and other public health threats and emergencies. The Agency has developed a plan to assure these capacities can be met and is in the process of developing exercises to test our plan thereby identifying gaps in preparedness and improving our ability to respond to a terrorist threat. The plan focuses on six critical focus areas: Preparedness Planning & Readiness Assessment; Surveillance and Epidemiology; Laboratory Response Network/Capacity for Biologic Agents; Health Alert Network/Communications and Information Technology; Risk Communication and Health Information Dissemination; and Education and Training.
5. **Potential Funding Sources:** Federal funding is provided through a cooperative agreement with the California Department of Health Services. Additional State and Federal grant opportunities are available.
6. **Cost – estimate and identify separately one-time and ongoing costs:** \$4,407,555 for FY 2004-05, \$35,260,440 for FYs 2005-06 through 2012-13.
7. **Community Awareness (stakeholders):** Orange County residents, medical providers, and public safety agencies
8. **Personnel – will the program/project require additional staffing? If so, estimate number of positions:** No, 19 positions were approved in FY2002-03 budget for bioterrorism preparedness.
9. **Mandated or discretionary:** Discretionary
10. **Implementation period if funding were available:** One year for full implementation.