



Goodhue County  
**Health and Human Services**

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**DATE:** October 28, 2024  
**TO:** Goodhue County Board  
**FROM:** Nina Arneson, Goodhue County HHS Director  
**RE:** Out of State Travel Request

**BACKGROUND:**

The Local Public Health Association (LPHA) will cover the cost for Jessica Seide, GCHHS Communication Specialist, to participate in the NACCHO Preparedness Summit on April 29 - May 2, 2025, in San Antonio, TX.

The conference is hosted by National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). It is the longest-running national public health preparedness conference. This conference is attended by all levels of governmental public health (federal, state, and local) as well as emergency managers, volunteer organizations, healthcare coalitions and researchers.

The conference theme is "Pathways to Recovery in the Aftermath of Disasters." It features sessions, demonstrations, research findings, best practices, tools and other resources. The Preparedness Summit will help Jessica bring timely and relevant scientific information back to her day-to-day work. The new GCHHS Communication Specialist role, approved by HHS Board in April 2024, is 40% funded by the Response Sustainability Grant (RSG). Therefore, in this new role, Jessica is dedicating 16 hours a week on average to grant duties that focus on the intersection of communication and emergency preparedness.

The MDH RSG funds were allocated by the state legislature in 2023 and are ongoing, base funding. Goodhue County's current RSG work plan includes expanding relationships with the media, culturally specific communication projects, and message development. Jessica will also maintain existing plans addressing risk communication and social media and participate in training and exercising on managing misinformation and disinformation.

The LPHA scholarship will cover \$2,500 of costs of the conference, including conference registration, travel (airfare and travel to/from the airport), hotel, and meals. The MDH Response Sustainability Grant (RSG) will cover staff time.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The GCHHS Department recommends approval of this request.