

California Equitable Recovery Initiative

FAQ

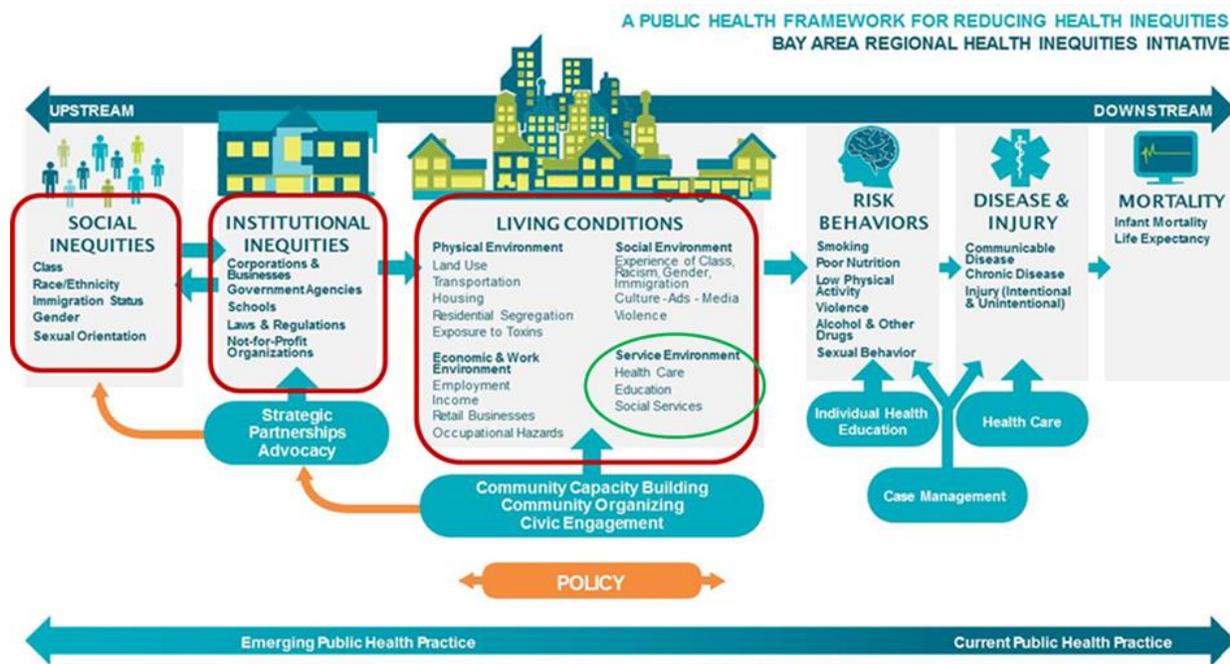
Definitions

Direct services means **services that are provided by employees or volunteers who have contact or who interact with clients on a regular basis.**

Systemic change is **where relationships between different aspects of the system have changed towards new outcomes and goals.** And it's driven by transformational, not incremental change

Systems change **captures the idea of addressing the causes, rather than the symptoms, of a societal issue by taking a holistic (or 'systemic') view.**

A Letter of Support is optional. If you propose training activities, these must be for staff of the organization as this will increase systemic capacity and not direct service training to community members. The training itself must align with this funding opportunity.



This is the Bay Area Regional Health Inequities (BARHII) framework, which CDPH OHE has adopted as its guiding framework. Proposed activities must fall within the three “upstream” categories on the left side of the graphic (shown in red boxes) that have the strongest influence

on health and COVID-19 health outcomes: 1) Social Inequities, 2) Institutional Inequities, and 3) Living Conditions. The lists in each category are examples but are not the only areas allowable in addressing inequities and living conditions. The strategies can be, but are not limited to, the following (shown in blue and orange bubbles): strategic partnerships, advocacy, community capacity building, community organizing, civic engagement, and (non-legislative) policy change.

Downstream activities that address risk behaviors, individual health education, case management or health care through downstream strategies (individual health education, case management, and health care) are NOT allowable. Provision of direct services such as healthcare, education, and social services, identified in the green circle are also NOT allowable. However, an Applicant can propose an activity where there is a system or innovative solution to address the lack of such services. Allowable activities will have an upstream approach to addressing COVID-19, rather than downstream response and rescue activities.

Questions and Answers

Q: Can the agency applying be a direct service providing agency?

A: No.

Q: Even if the proposed project is a capacity building or coalition building project and not direct services?

A: No.

Q: We are a mental health services agency, but would not apply to provide direct services. Are we eligible?

A: No. Direct service agencies are not eligible for this funding even if they are providing non direct services.

Q: Are independent public agencies eligible to apply?

A: No.

Q: Is 501(c) (6) non-profit - Chamber of Commerce an eligible entity to apply?

A: No

Q: Can we subgrant to a 501c4?

A: No.

Q: Would training and placement assistance at paid living wage rates for Community Health Workers and Medical Secretaries be an eligible activity?

A: Yes, only if not direct services

Q: Can we use subcontractors?

A: Yes

Q: Are you only considering organizations that subcontract?

A: No, not only, but will consider them.

Q: You mentioned that you would like to see many subcontractors - what if the lead agency has capacity to do most of the work?

A: We do not require subcontractors, but you can fund subcontractors to support in project implementation and/or collaboration.

Q: Is there an approximate percentage that should go to subcontractors?

A: No.

Q: Can the grant be used to hire staff?

A: Yes, but the positions being funded need to align with the proposed activities.

Q: Can you please clarify the allowable indirect?

A: The RFA has a 20% cap for indirect, but the budget template has a different percentage? Which indirect rate should applicants use? The indirect should be no more than 20%.

Q: We really need money to hire staff, is that considered indirect?

A: This is a direct cost, and you can hire staff with this funding.

Q: Can you please go back to the detailed description on Indirect Costs (is it 20% of overall budget, less than 25% of personnel costs, or other criteria)? Just seeking clarification please.

A: 20% is the allowable indirect cost limit.

Q: Can funds be used for community leader stipends?

A: Yes.

Q: My fiscal sponsor is a health clinic; and we do not conduct any activities collaboratively with them. Can I still apply?

A: The same eligibility requirements apply to fiscal sponsor, so in this case, no.

Q: How are you defining "(Social) Health Maintenance Organizations"?

A: A social health maintenance organization is a health care insurance plan offering a complete range of coverage and benefits, including: personal care services, hearing aids, dental care, eyeglasses, prescription drug and chronic care benefits, short-term nursing home care and medical transportation services

Q: Is the grant open to media organizations working to provide information to communities disproportionately impacted by covid?

A: No, no communications are allowed

Q: To clarify, First 5 Monterey County provides funding for services for young children and families, such as home visiting, parenting education, etc.. We are not a 501 C3, but we are a government agency, and formally noted as an "independent public agency."

A: No.

Q: Am I correct in understanding that County government agencies are not eligible to apply?

A: County government agencies are not eligible.

Q: With awards disbursed between Feb and April, is it best to start program in May or June 2023?

A: This depends on when the contract is executed.

Q: How do you define “new program”?

A: A new program is a project that is new to your organization.

Q: Can you please clarify whether a project needs to be new?

A: No, it does not need to be new.

Q: Could this funding support a new aspect of current programming?

A: Yes, this funding can build off of existing projects.

Q: Can we apply for multiple school sites across school districts in CA?

A: Yes, projects can be statewide, but need to ensure that the services are not direct services.

Q: Can you provide activities examples? Primarily to Build a healthy and resilient future for priority communities.

A: Refer to the funding guidelines that list examples of potential projects.

Q: Would providing training for educators across school districts on supporting the mental health needs of their students be an eligible activity?

A: Yes, but a competitive application would be more than training.

Q: Can we be part of a coalition in two different parts of the state?

A: Yes.

Q: Our community has a cohort of essential service nonprofits providers. Could we apply?

A: As long as you don't provide direct services you are eligible.

Q: Will the end date of our current project be a factor in deciding whether or not to provide new funding for the next stage of our currently funded project (if that's what we apply for)?

A: No.

Q: Is there a focus on awarding small, grassroots organizations who are capable of providing services/meeting objectives?

A: No specific focus on size of organizations, but we do encourage small grassroots CBOs to apply.

Q: If we do Entrepreneur & Job readiness training can we apply?

A: This is a direct service, so no.

Q: Are community-based organizations who are partnered with schools considered as organizations that would be under academic institutions?

A: No, a partner organization is different and allowable, as long as the academic institution does not receive this funding.

Q: We noted that mainstream/non community health facilities didn't know how to reach our community in terms of messages, who people listen to for health advice, how that differs between generations in our community, etc. Would you consider funding a community survey of these and other questions that can be shared with community members and health organizations to better serve our community and address health disparities in the future?

A: Yes, community engagement activities are allowed, especially to develop informed messaging to the priority communities.

Q: Is the CERI program looking to fund ONLY housing, economic development and educational programs that address social determinants of health related to the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic?

A: It's not only housing, this funding will address the social determinants of health. Please refer to the guidelines.

Q: Would an org that provides doula care to priority communities be eligible? Births happen in hospitals or healthcare centers.

A: No.

Q: Would CBOs who have a call center serving as a bridge between communities and other programs be eligible?

A: Yes, especially if this applies for ESL speakers.

Q: Under the housing related area, would the provision of Housing navigation and eviction assistance/rental assistance be allowable activities under the scope of work?

A: Providing rental assistance is a direct service so no, but developing a plan to address housing and these issues are allowed.

Q: Would advocating for financial literacy/planning programs be eligible for funding?

A: Yes.

Q: Would assisting w public benefits application assistance be covered by this grant?

A: No.

Q: To clarify, if we are a community resource center, and we also provide therapeutic services/mental health counseling, are we not eligible?

A: No.

Q: Or is the program we provide with the grant funds not allowed to be directed to mental health/clinical activities?

A: No.

Q: For the "Advance housing stability strategies for priority communities" section, would that include direct supportive housing services?

A: No, no direct services are allowed, but if the activities are systems or policy based then they would be allowed.

Q: Are direct services focusing on Social Emotional Learning and academic support in schools allowable?

A: No, but if this activity were a training for staff who work with the schools and students is allowable.

Q: Are any and all direct services not allowed?

A: Yes, direct services are not allowed.

Q: If my organization has many projects and only one is therapy/clinical work can we qualify for funding for the other projects?

A: As long as you're not a direct service provider then yes.

Q: Can projects include an afterschool reading program for youth who've suffered learning loss due to COVID-19 or does this count as direct service?

A: That is a direct service so not allowed.

Q: Would supporting the community efforts to establish a tenant's housing union be eligible?

A: Yes.

Q: I think my question relates to the definition of "Support interim and long-term housing solutions that bring unsheltered people indoors immediately". Our non-profit teaches Social emotional learning and stress reduction techniques to kids and teens in underserved areas of CA. Would this be something this grant could fund?

A: If this is in a plan and/or a training program for staff then yes, but if it's a direct service then no.

Q: We are a behavioral health center treating MH and SUD. We also have a Navigation Center. If we design a project through our Navigation Center, which does not involve direct services will this be ok to apply?

A: No because the lead applicant is a direct service provider.

Q: Would capital expenses for a project (e.g., building construction for housing of priority populations) be eligible?

A: No.

Q: We're a CBO that provides direct services to people experiencing homelessness. Can we apply for a capital project to increase community capacity?

A: No.

Q: For domestic violence and housing stability direct services programs, what would be some examples of eligible direct costs?

A: Those activities listed are direct services; however, if you were to develop a plan to address the root causes of domestic violence and housing would be allowed.

Q: Proposed services of the chamber will be focused on supporting efforts to prioritize stimulus funding for small business and nonprofits.

A: We would need more information on this activity, but it appears allowable.

Q: Also, considering capacity building and policy advocacy on addressing gaps in health care services for refugees and immigrants.

A: Yes, this is a systemic approach to address issues.

Q: Would training and technical assistance to direct service providers be eligible?

A: Yes, assuming the training aligns to this funding.

Q: An organization whose National Center is based in another state but does work and has an office in California is not eligible?

A: The work must fund the CA office and the work in CA.

Q: How about organizations that teach Yoga/Breathing Techniques that help build immunity, resilience?

A: That is a direct service so no.

Q: Can we apply though the programs can be offered to the general public not to any specific community?

A: No.

Q: Could funding be used to continue racial equity planning with a broad consortium that includes CBOs and healthcare entities?

A: Yes, this is systemic change activities.

Q: Regarding this funding guideline in the RFA: "Promote economic opportunity for priority communities" - would this include programs that offer training opportunities to immigrant families on self-employment and entrepreneurship?

A: No, as that is a direct service.

Q: Do we have to report on prior COVID related funding, or only current funding?

A: Only current funding

Q: Would comprehensive sexual health programming/workshops for the community to address the gaps sex ed in LGBTQ+ communities qualify?

A: This is a direct service so no.

Q: Would paying for a new development director be considered improving capacity? The agency has never had a development director and could really use someone to increase their capacity to raise funds. Or could funds be used for a grant writer?

A: No, as these (grant writer and development director) positions are not specifically aligned to the funding activity; however, if the position being funded is aligned then you can use this funding to hire new staff.

Q: The slideshow seemed to suggest the funding needed to be for a new program or building off an existing program and mentioned it could not supplant current funding. If a program currently exists but does not have funding established for 2023-24, would it be eligible?

A: Yes, if it aligns to this funding opportunity.

Q: Our organization is actually changing fiscal sponsors on 2/15/2023. We have an MOU already set up. Could we apply under the new fiscal sponsor since the grant start date is in Feb 2023?

A: Yes, as long as the new fiscal sponsor meets eligibility requirements.

Q: How do you define legislative advocacy and policy change?

A: Please refer to the guidelines.

Q: Is direct service delivery to clients an allowable activity i.e. promoting economic opportunity through job development services??

A: No.

Q: Does this RFA require the applicant nonprofit to have Audited Financial documents? Or an annual budget approved by the board?

A: No, but you need to complete a budget and narrative.

Q: Training entrepreneurs is not allowed as it is direct service but the examples in the RFA include "Provide training and embed organizational policies". Can you please explain the discrepancy?

A: The training must be for organizational staff to increase capacity, but can not be a training to community members as that is a direct service.

Q: Will you request revisions to the budget to funded organizations?

A: This depends if it's needed, for example, if a budget changes during the grant period.

Q: Does the size of the served population matter?

A: No.

Q: We cover services in 2 counties. Can we include both counties in our application?

A: Yes.

Q: Can you provide an example of community priority?

A: Please refer to the RFA, priority communities list.

Q: Wee a CBO that provides direct services to people experiencing homelessness. Can we apply for a capital project to increase community capacity?

A: No.

Q: One of the systemic issues for undocumented /immigrant families is access to legal providers. Am I understanding correctly that using the funds for creating the infrastructure of a network of legal access is the appropriate use of grant funds but not providing the fees for families to see an attorney?

A: Yes.

Q: If we are working on a project for agency systems change to address the whole family through case management to work with them through the immediate crisis needs into financial education, educational needs, benefits and community resource linkages and longer-term family health and well-being goals. Does this appear as a valid project?

A: No, case management is a direct service.

Q: One listed example is to "Support interim and long-term housing solutions that bring unsheltered people indoors immediately" but elsewhere the RFA says that Direct Services (including housing assistance) is not allowable. What type of support for interim and long-term housing solutions is allowable?

A: An example of an activity would be to develop a housing plan, a housing advisory committee to advocate for systemic changes.

Q: What is your expectation for proposed projects to result in policy or systems change given that the project timeframe is 15 months and PSE changes often take longer?

A: We understand that 15 months is not enough time to make change; however, this funding can be used to begin, expand, or build upon these projects.

Q: We have a small Black population less than 2%. Does that matter?

A: No, as long as it's a community on the priority list, and if not on the list, you need to provide an explanation with data.

Q: For the optional letter of support, are there bonus points or other priority scoring for applicants who do submit a letter of support?

A: No.

Q: Will the end date of our current project be a factor in deciding whether to provide new funding for the next stage of our currently funded project?

A: No.

Q: Can we provide vouchers to impacted community members for housing as a project?

A: No, that is a direct services.

Q: If the subcontractor is a non-profit based out of state that does work in California, would that be allowed?

A: They need to have an office in CA and their work is in CA.

Q: Can mileage be charged?

A: Yes, please follow the CALHR travel claim rates.

Q: Are incentives to participants of this grant an allowable expense?

A: Yes.

Q: Would a CBO that provides direct services and engages in systems change/policy work be eligible for a project that is focused on systems change/policy work only?

A: If the applicant entity is considered a direct service provider then no.

Q: If we encourage other grassroots CBOs to apply can subcontractors be the same subcontractors listed in their application?

A: Subcontractors can only be listed on one application.

Q: If an organization has a policy and advocacy program, can we use this funding to engage youth in leadership, policy and advocacy?

A: Yes, as long as the applicant organization is not a direct service provider.

Q: If an entity has the Health Ambassador grant, can they still qualify for this grant?

A: Yes.

Q: If we are funded through CCPH 3.0, can we apply for this funding?

A: Yes.

Q: If the grant funding period is early 2023 and goes through May 2024, when would the first funding reimbursement begin?

A: This depends on when the contract is executed.

Q: Our case managers help foster mentorship relationships for youth; is this case management considered direct service and therefore ineligible?

A: Case management is a direct service so not eligible for this funding.

Q: We are a non-profit community service provider that is trying to expand our certified enrollers to be able to help members impacted by COVID-19 to enroll in CalFresh, Medi-Cal, Covered CA. Would this type of project be eligible?

A: That is a direct service so no that is not eligible.

Q: We are a nonprofit that includes Permanent supportive housing as well as transitional housing - would either of these be eligible?

A: It depends on what is specifically being funded.

Q: We assist in helping run mobile vaccination clinics by helping provide bilingual services and registration at COVID-19 clinics. Would this be considered direct service?

A: Yes.

Q: How deeply are you looking at systems change? For example, our CBO is developing a community research practice for community experiences/knowledge to inform advocacy and policy change needs. Could this grant support research activities with the outcome of recommendations for systems/policy changes?

A: Yes, but a competitive application cannot be solely on research.

Q: Would the purchase of technology equipment for students be an eligible expense?

A: Yes.

Q: Will we be given copies of the deck?

A: They will be posted on our website.

Q: After reading the grant further it seems like hospitals , clinics, healthcare providers and HMOs are not eligible to apply and not allowed to be subcontractors for funding, can you please confirm?

A: That is correct. these entities are ineligible to apply.

Q: Are the communities listed by priority?

A: No, they are not.

Q: How do you define a CBO?

A: RFA will have eligibility criteria indicating which CBOs can apply. A community-based organization with a 501(c)(3), or e fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3).

Q: Would the State prefer to fund new projects?

A: No preference. CBOs can build off of existing projects.

Q: Does the CBO have to serve the entire state?

A: No, can be regional, a single area, or multiple.

Q: If a hospital holds a non-profit status, are they still ineligible?

A: Yes, they would be considered ineligible.

Q: Federal Qualified Health Center is ineligible?

A: Yes.

Q: Do vaccine clinics count as prohibited activity Healthcare and other direct services?

A: Yes, not allowable.

Q: Can a subcontractor in our grant application also be a lead applicant in a different application?

A: No, only once.

Q: What's the pool of funding that is available?

A: CDC health disparities grant that we rebranded to be called CERI (CA equitable recovery initiative).

Q: What is the rationale for academic institutions being ineligible?

A: They are already getting millions of dollars and we only have 2.6M to give out to 10-15 CBOs.

Q: Are you prioritizing BIPOC led orgs?

A: No priority among the priority communities listed out on RFA.

Q: Can we get access to regions previously covered under the pilot project?

A: Website will link the old pilot projects webpage. Last slide of ppt also has the link.

Q: Will this grant be reimbursement-based, or disbursed in one or more advance payments? The RFA doesn't specify.

A: Reimbursement based.

Q: Is direct rental assistance or hotel vouchers allowed in the budget?

A: No, this is a direct service.

Q: Our small group provides parenting classes, childbirth education, and doula services. We have a fiscal sponsor, could we apply?

A: No.

Q: Are after school education programs eligible for this funding?

A: No, this is a direct service.

Q: We're a foster care agency with behavioral health services, are we eligible?

A: No.

Q: If our agency does direct services primarily, but we have a policy department and we are asking for a policy focused program, can we still apply?

A: Yes, if your agency is an eligible entity.

Q: Does CHW/promotores work qualify?

A: Yes, as long as not direct service.

Q: If we are a behavioral health organization that also has a prevention department, can we apply?

A: No.

Q: Would paying for a new development director be considered improving capacity?

A: Yes, you can fund staff.

Q: Projects that are focused on Job Development, Career Opportunities and higher wages, are they eligible?

A: Yes.

Q: Can grant funds be used for educational development?

A: Yes, just make sure not direct service.

Q: Would hybrid CBOs that house both research and service projects be eligible to apply?

A: No.

Q: Can community schools work with parents and students be considered?

A: No, it's an academic entity.

Q: Is a financial literacy program in high schools eligible?

A: This is a direct service, so no. but if you can make it not direct service, like a school policy then yes.

Q: Can you give some examples of types of projects that fit your desired scope for this funding?

A: Please see RFA.

Q: Would a non-profit 501c (3) organization that does hospital-based intervention be ineligible?

A: Correct, ineligible.

Q: Is an afterschool program operated in a different California city by a behavioral health agency eligible?

A: No.

Q: So PPP is prior COVID funding?

A: Yes.

Q: Existing COVID-19 funding includes federal funds too (in addition to local/state), right?

A: Yes.

Q: Is there going to be a grant review panel and if so, who will be on that panel?

A: The Center at Sierra Health Foundation is managing the review team, with CDPH input.

Q: Can we use funds to pay existing staff to continue the project?

A: Yes.

Q: Would a CBO 501c3 partner that does medical translation (for an eligible population) be eligible for funding or in-kind services only?

A: In-kind.

Q: If a fiscal sponsor will be used, can that organization submit more than one proposal (i.e., sponsor more than one program)?

A: No, each entity can only be in 1 application.

Q: Can City's apply?

A: No.

Q: Does the new end date of the current grant impact our new application?

A: No.

Q: Just to confirm, if we did receive COVID Funding from the County can we still apply for this one?

A: Yes, but you must answer that question for current awardees of covid funding from state or county.

Q: If we are doing a small business project. Could we give some of them money to small business as support?

A: That's a direct service, so not allowable.

Q: What are some of the eligible uses of funding?

A: The RFA lists out eligibility.

Q: Are current 2iS awardees eligible to apply?

A: More information is required to answer this question. Prior or current funding does not impact eligibility.

Q: Would projects that focus youth-led / youth leadership development, intergenerational community building, etc. be eligible?

A: Yes.

Q: Would promoting new and rising health concerns (public health) qualify? If we have access to say, testing kits, can we use this funding to distribute these materials (that is not considered direct services, correct?)

A: Yes for the first question, and no for the second question.

Q: For the W9 requirement, do you need a wet signature and/or a recently dated form? Or does one that we have on file with an electronic signature work?

A: Electronic signature is fine.

Q: Would including a letter of support influence who is awarded?

A: No.

Q: Will unpaid partnerships with school districts strengthen proposals focused on education system/policy change?

A: Potentially.

Q: Do you require a match for this grant?

A: No.

Q: Can we include funding for out of state travel if it's directly relevant to the CA program?

A: Yes.

Q: Are youth serving organizations encouraged to apply and are there different guidelines youth orgs?

A: Yes, same guidelines.

Q: Are organizations with a smaller organizational budget weighted the same to larger organizations?

A: There is no weight due to budget size. Proposed budgets should be appropriate to both the organization and the proposed project.

Q: In terms of geographic considerations, will the high priority regions be listed or will applicants need to argue that our region was disproportionately impacted by COVID-19?

A: Your application should demonstrate the need of your community.

Q: Since there is a minimal amount of funding, is there a priority given to organizations that have the capacity to serve multiple counties, regions, or offer state wide access. Is funding for a project focus on serving one county, and or one city?

A: In addition to the listed criteria, factors that inform the final slate of funded partners include demographic diversity, geographic coverage and programmatic approaches. The California Department of Public Health holds final decision-making authority in selecting funded projects.

Q: There was a slide that referenced geographic priority areas as areas most affected by COVID 19. I think that is what we are all asking about. Does the general pandemic related loan forgiveness count as COVID funding? Would that disqualify us?

A: Yes, general pandemic related loan forgiveness counts as COVID funding, but would not disqualify you.

Q: Please let me know if you have target or priority cities and or counties.

A: There are not priority cities, counties or geographic areas, however geographic coverage will be considered in the factors that inform the final slate of funded partners. For example, all 10 awards will not only go to organizations within Contra Costa County.

Q: In the webinar, you referenced "creating a housing plan" a couple times as something that would be an appropriate request for funding. Could you help me understand what that means? It's not direct service, so not with an individual experiencing housing insecurity. Do you mean funding for something like a city planner, who would create housing plans for communities? Is that what you mean?

A: That can be a potential way of creating a housing plan. Can also include creating an advisory board to gather recs, then hiring city planners to create a plan, etc.

Q: What about funding that would move the Continuum of Care from the county to it's own individual entity. We would request funding to do research on the models of CoCs all over-- some have it structured as a separate non-profit, some have an entity that manages the CoC. With the funding we'd look into different models and get a good recommendation as to what would be best for our community. The homeless services system is growing rapidly in Humboldt County, and as we grow, we need to figure out what would be best for our community in a system-level way.

A: Yes allowable.

Q: We are the only homeless service provider that provides county-wide services and the whole spectrum of services for people experiencing homelessness. We're going to work on software program conversion for our organization, that would have a case management element, but also property management elements as well. Would this be considered system-level work that's not direct service?

A: In pilot projects RFA, we said no for software but we didn't specify this in the RFA. This could be allowable, but want to see end goals of what software can do and impact.

Q: Finally, we're wanting to design a property management department to better serve people who have been housed in long-term transitional or permanent supportive housing through our organization. Would that be considered direct service?

A: The design can be allowable, but the funding of property managers to be serving residents is a direct service.

Q: The RFA states that research is an unallowable activity. Does this include activities such as conducting a community needs assessment and focus groups to understand what kinds of inequities were caused by COVID-19 among our priority population?

A: Yes, this is allowed.

Q: I reviewed the webinar, slides and RFA for eligibility to apply, but I am unclear. I heard you say that First 5's are ineligible. Some First 5's around the state are located within a county

government agency, however in Monterey County we are an independent public agency. Our tax status is a 501 (c) 4. Would we be eligible to apply or be eligible to be a subcontractor of a CBO?

A: Unfortunately, you would be ineligible as both an applicant and subcontractor.

Q: My client currently works with a school training teachers and staff on cultural sensitivity. Can we use their youth as a council for input (along with other youth)? Can we rent their community room for planning meetings for the duration of the CERI grant if funded? Can we pay their part-time worker to be liaison of youth council?

A: Yes to all three questions.

Q: Project proposes to provides startups micro enterprises who completes the training with a stipend between/1000-\$5000. Permissible?

A: This doesn't seem very allowable. Usually stipends are going towards advisory council members or community leader who is participating in the project, not going towards startups.

Q: We are a CBO 501c3 that provides direct service through our Family Resource Center. We are thinking to submit a proposal as part of a cohort of Family Resource Centers to develop our capacity as a cohesive network to do broader systems work. Would we be eligible? Also, we saw that direct service providers aren't eligible but a cohort of essential service non profit providers is eligible so long as the cohort/project isn't providing direct service. Does that mean that the proposal activities aren't direct service or that none of the essential service providers provide direct service?

A: We decided that direct service entities are not eligible even if they are not providing direct services. We are not entirely sure what you mean by essential service cohort – is that a direct service entity? If yes, then it is allowable.

Q: On page 14 of the FAQs, it states that "If the applicant entity is considered a direct service provider, then no" they are not eligible to apply *even if they are proposing a policy-based project*. Then on page 18, this question is asked: "If our agency does direct services primarily, but we have a policy department and we are asking for a policy focused program, can we still apply?" The response is Yes. I would like some clarity on whether a CBO who is primarily a direct service provider is eligible to apply for a *policy-based and systems project*.

A: Having a CBO in this capacity apply is unallowable. Direct service providers cannot be eligible even if they are proposing non direct service jobs.