



**COVID-19 Mitigation Project Round 2
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

Updated: June 13, 2023

Question	Answer
Application	
Can we save and exit the application and then continue on a different day?	Yes. Click the “Save my progress and resume later” button if you will not be active in the application (be sure to save the email that is sent to your inbox and to write down the password somewhere).
Where can I find the RFA app?	The RFA can be found here .
My organization is interested in applying for this COVID-19 Mitigation Project Funding. We have two completely separate programs who would like to apply - is that permissible, or are we limited to one proposal per organization?	Organizations may submit only one application per organization. You may propose to provide COVID-19 Mitigation Project services at multiple organizational locations, and or programs, with your one application.
I would like some clarification on the "DHCS License and/or Certification" requirement, which applies to organizations providing treatment services. Could you kindly provide further details on the specific license or certification you are looking for?	Organizations that provide services which require a State of California license to operate must submit the applicable license. For example, an organization providing recovery and treatment services must submit their DHCS Residential Treatment License/Certificate.
How to outline timeline in the proposal narrative?	The proposal narrative should outline the project timeline and provide a description of the beginning, middle and ending stages of the project.
Is there a minimum amount threshold for grant requests?	There is not a minimum request amount. Please put forth a budget which supports the proposed activities as described in the proposal narrative.
Is it best if we applied with another community org to make our application stronger?	It is up to the applicant to determine how they choose to apply. Single organizations can apply for up to \$125,000. Funding requests over \$125,000 must include a regrating strategy.
The narrative question re: regrating, do we just put N/A and then the 200-word narrative or just NA. We are not regrating.	If you did request over \$125k you are not required to regrat. For this project narrative question, since you are not regrating, please put N/A.
If there are organizations that may be invited to submit an application for a subgrant afterwards, do they need to sign an MOU at this time?	Organizations that propose a regrating strategy must submit signed Memorandums of Understanding with proposed and/or confirmed regrating partners.

<p>Which organizations need to provide a copy of the DHCS License? It notes "organizations that are providing treatment services". We provide treatment through our numerous clinic locations at our clinic; however, we will only be providing Covid-19 education and Covid-19 mitigation through this grant opportunity (no rapid testing). Does that mean we do not have to provide a copy, or do we still need to provide a copy because - in day-to-day operations - we provide treatment services to patients.</p>	<p>Organizations that provide services which require a State of California license to operate must submit the applicable license. For example, an organization providing recovery and treatment services must submit their DHCS Residential Treatment License/Certificate.</p>
<p>How may I receive the application?</p>	<p>The application link can be found in the Request for Applications.</p>
<p>Allowable Expenses/Use of Funds</p>	
<p>According to the guidance, this grant supports "...the maintenance of healthy environments in behavioral health settings for staff and individuals engaged in mental health or substance use disorder care." Does this mean that funds could be spend on rental costs for extra space to limit or prevent transmission of the COVID-19 virus?</p>	<p>No more than 5 percent of the total contract award may be used for administrative and infrastructure development costs. Please reference the Funding Restrictions listed on page 7 of the RFA. Additional details can be found in the RFA Appendix A-Standard Funding Restrictions on page 14.</p>
<p>For creating a healthy environment, can funding be applied toward staff who can help create a healthy environment ongoingly? I.e. Funding positions in charge of ensuring there are no tripping hazards, conditions are clean and safe, making necessary repairs, remodeling for living enhancements, etc. all of which contribute to not only a safer physical environment but a more peaceful state of mind for guests (while reducing the risk of spreading illness).</p>	<p>Yes, funding can be used to support staff positions which support funded COVID-19 Mitigation Project activities. Funded staff must support one, or more, of the three project strategies: COVID-19 testing education, COVID-19 testing , and COVID-19 mitigation efforts. The proposal narrative, budget and budget justification should outline the proposed activities and the staff support needed to conduct them. Please review the CDC Framework for Implementation of COVID-19 Mitigation (CDC.gov) for examples of COVID-19 mitigation efforts which support creating a healthy environment.</p>
<p>Are Mobile Units considered "On Site"? Can we use funds for Mobile Units costs?</p>	<p>Yes, awarded funds can be used for COVID-19 testing through mobile units. Testing must be conducted for the service population which is identified in the RFA.</p>
<p>Can additional funds be requested to renovate former urgent care to be used for the project?</p>	<p>Please review the funding restrictions and Appendix A in the RFA to determine eligibility. Proposed activities must meet the funding intent to support COVID-19 mitigation efforts. The budget, budget justification and narrative should demonstrate how the proposed activities meet the funding intent.</p>
<p>Can funds be used to distribute PPE to the Mental Health clients that visit our Mental Health Clinic at Rafiki Coalition?</p>	<p>Yes, the distribution of PPE to mental health clients aligns with the funding intent.</p>
<p>The guideline states that funding will not support providing "take home tests" but does support distributing tests.</p> <p>Will funding support providing the type of rapid tests that are the same as tests taken at home but that are administered onsite? Or does the funding require the setup of a lab for a different type of onsite testing.</p>	<p>The purchase of COVID-19 tests, including home tests, is allowable when testing is conducted on-site. The purchase of COVID-19 home tests to distribute for off-site testing is not an allowable expense or activity. The funding requirements do not dictate the type of COVID-19 tests applicants must use.</p>

Are matching funds required for this grant? What is the likelihood of The Center awarding smaller nonprofits?	Matching funds is not a requirement of this grant. Please note all applicants have an equal chance of being selected and are funding decisions are dependent on how well the application meets the funding intent.
Can a portion of the funds be used to lease mobile offices to provide services under the grant?	No more than 5 percent of the total contract award may be used for administrative and infrastructure development costs. Please reference the Funding Restrictions listed on page 7 of the RFA. Additional details can be found in the RFA Appendix A-Standard Funding Restrictions on page 14.
Can we offer incentives for vaccinations?	COVID-19 vaccination efforts are ineligible and do not meet the funding intent of the COVID-19 Mitigation Project.
If you cannot fund rapid test kits, can you get test kits by re-granting an agency that has rapid test kits?	The purchase of COVID-19 tests, including home tests, is allowable when testing is conducted on-site. The purchase of COVID-19 home tests to distribute for off-site testing is not an allowable expense or activity. The activities and expenses of regranting partners must meet the intent of the funding opportunity.
Could funds be used to pay for sick leave for staff that have tested positive for COVID-19, thereby incentivizing them to be able to stay home and prevent the spread to other staff and our participants?	Requests for staffing should support staff efforts of planning, coordinating, facilitating, or implementing one, or more, of the strategies on behalf of the agency.
What about fixing bathrooms, or paying a portion of water or propane?	Please review the RFA for more information on the funding restrictions and example scopes of work. Proposed activities must meet the funding intent to support COVID-19 mitigation efforts. The narrative, budget and budget justification should demonstrate how the proposed activities and costs will meet the funding intent.
Can the funds be used for staff who provide testing	Awarded funds can be used for staff costs related to implementing the proposed COVID-19 Mitigation Project.
Hello, we have stood up a provider warmline (telehealth program) to respond to FQHC providers' questions around testing and therapeutics. Since the requesting providers are from FQHCs treating unhoused, BH/MH and SUD, would this program qualify? Our organization meets eligibility requirements.	The project is eligible if the proposed activities are to implement one, or more, of the three COVID-19 Mitigation Project strategies of COVID-19 testing education, testing and/or mitigation efforts.
would drug testing be considered a cost we could budget for since it helps stop the spread of disease?	Activities that meet the funding intent are one, or more, of the following three COVID-19 Mitigation Project strategies of COVID-19 testing education, testing and/or mitigation efforts. Please review the RFA for examples of scopes of work. The narrative, budget and budget justification should demonstrate how the proposed activities will meet the funding intent.

<p>Is laundry considered a COVID-19 mitigation strategy and, therefore, an allowable expense? If showers are an allowable use of funds, it seems counterproductive if individuals then put on the same dirty clothes they had on before. If laundry is allowable, would this include costs incurred at a laundromat? The purchase and installation of washing machines? Laundry detergent?</p>	<p>The proposed activities should support one, or more, of the three strategies- COVID-19 testing education, COVID-19 testing, or COVID-19 mitigation efforts. When proposing an activity, such as showers or laundry, the narrative should describe how these activities support one, or more, of the three strategies, such as COVID-19 mitigation efforts in a homeless shelter. The narrative and budget justification should also describe how supplies such as hand sanitizer, masks, laundry detergent support the strategies.</p>
<p>Can costs of lighting, electricity, food, water, related, be included for creating a healthy environment?</p>	<p>No more than 5 percent of the total grant award may be used for administrative and infrastructure development costs. Costs must be related to the funding intent and the narrative questions and budget justification must articulate how these costs support the proposed activities around mitigation efforts. Please reference the Funding Restrictions listed on page 7 of the RFA. Additional details can be found in the RFA Appendix A-Standard Funding Restrictions on page 14.</p>
<p>Would the cost of bedding or mattresses etc. be considered a mitigation cost?</p>	<p>The project is eligible if the proposed activities are to implement one, or more, of the three COVID-19 Mitigation Project strategies of COVID-19 testing education, testing and/or mitigation efforts. Please review the RFA for examples of scopes of work. The narrative, budget and budget justification should demonstrate how the proposed activities will meet the funding intent.</p>
<p>Can this funding be used to help support the salaries of existing behavioral / mental health staff or the hiring of new BH/MH staff?</p>	<p>Yes, funding can be used to support existing and or new staff positions which support funded COVID-19 Mitigation Project activities. Funded staff must support one, or more, of the three project strategies: COVID-19 testing education, COVID-19 testing, and COVID-19 mitigation efforts.</p>
<p>Are there any other limitations that we cannot charge under this grant such as facility cost/maintenance, utilities, etc.?</p>	<p>No more than 5 percent of the total contract award may be used for administrative and infrastructure development costs. Please reference the Funding Restrictions listed on page 7 of the RFA. Additional details can be found in the RFA Appendix A-Standard Funding Restrictions on page 14.</p>
<p>So it's allowable to provide hygiene and PPE but not testing kits?</p>	<p>Testing, hygiene kits and personal protection equipment are allowable. COVID-19 testing is allowable when testing is conducted on-site, or at a designated alternative testing site. The purchase of COVID-19 home tests to distribute for off-site testing is not an allowable expense or activity.</p>
<p>For homeless shelters, are cleaning crews/contracted deep cleanings applicable expenses for covid mitigation?</p>	<p>Yes, funding cleaning crews or contracts for deep cleanings aligns with the COVID-19 Mitigation Project strategy of COVID-19 mitigation efforts.</p>
<p>What are allowable types of PPE that we can propose to purchase with the grant? It is just masks, gloves and hand sanitizer? Or are there other types of PPE allowed?</p>	<p>Personal protection equipment should be items that mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 in behavioral health settings and/or with unhoused individuals. Examples include, but are not limited to, showers for unhoused individuals or sanitation wipes.</p>

Allowable incentives that help them stay safer outside?	Awarded funds are to be used to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19. For example, awarded funds can be used to purchase hygiene kits and setting up shower facilities for unhoused community members. The narrative, budget and budget justification should demonstrate how the proposed activities will meet the funding intent.
Can this grant be used to help support the activities of staff who are going to homeless shelters and encampments to inform and educate unhoused persons about the importance of getting tested and/or vaccinated for COVID-19 and where to access the testing and vaccinations?	Yes, funding can be used to support staff positions which support funded COVID-19 Mitigation Project activities. Staff must support one, or more, of the three project strategies: COVID-19 testing education, COVID-19 testing, and COVID-19 mitigation efforts. The proposal narrative, budget and budget justification should outline the proposed activities and the staff support needed to conduct the activities.
Does the funding allow for incentives as an allowable expense?	Please reference the Funding Restrictions listed on page 7 of the RFA. Additional details can be found in the RFA Appendix A- Standard Funding Restrictions on page 14.
Budget/Budget Template	
We have had problems with the budget template on MAC. Is there any guidance	We will look into this, thank you!
Is there an unprotected budget template we may use, or can we by chance have access to the password?	The budget template is password protected only for cells you may not edit. All cells where applicants may edit should be unlocked.
The second tab "Budget Justification" is password protected. Do we need access to that one, or are we only to fill out the first tab?	You will also need to complete the second sheet - budget justification tab. Columns B, D, and F are password protected because they are not meant to be changed as the information you entered in tab 1 have automatically transferred over to these columns. Column H, "Budget Justification," is unlocked and you should be able to provide the necessary information for each requested line-item.
I have tried to get the budget worksheet opened. However, the worksheet is in protected mode. Can you please send a copy that is not protected?	The budget template is password protected only for cells you may not edit. All cells where applicants may edit should be unlocked.
Shouldn't the formula for Cells E30 and G30 be a % of the Total Salary / Wages (Cell E27 / G27) instead of a % of Total Personnel (Cell E32 / G32)? By using Total Personnel, the percentage is essentially allowing organizations to include a percentage of the percentage (double-dipping).	This percentage is not a fringe benefits calculation and is instead intended to show indirect compensation as a percentage of total compensation. The purpose of providing this information in this view is so that the Center can determine the reasonability of benefits provided in comparison to the total compensation provided to employees.
According to the budget template, the maximum budget amount should not exceed \$100,000. However, as our organization is not regranting, we are requesting a budget of \$125,000. Should we enter \$100,000 as the requested budget amount and \$25,000 in the Remaining column?	Please ignore the \$100,000k limit on the budget. The maximum request is still \$500,000 with requests over \$125k requiring a regranting strategy.
Budget - in RFA can request up to 500k for 18 months. Link says proposed budget cannot exceed 100k for 17 months. Need clarification.	There was an error and has been updated. Please reference the link in the online application.

Can you explain the difference between mileage and local travel?	Mileage is any mileage reimbursements for the use of personal vehicles and local travel costs may be gas if a company vehicle is utilized, rental cars, etc.
is there a cap for Indirect cost charged to this grant?	Indirect costs under this opportunity are limited to a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC), as defined in 45 CFR Part 75.
Shouldn't the formula for Indirect Expenses be a % of the total Personnel (i.e. E32) plus total Direct Expenses (i.e. E91), instead of E97?	As a standard practice, the Center has utilized a total cost methodology for the subrecipient's indirect cost rate, meaning that the indirect rate is limited to 10% of the total award.
The budget document has a note that the proposed budget cannot exceed \$100,000, however the RFP notes that requests can be up to \$500,000 with a regranting strategy, and \$125,000 without a regranting strategy. Can you please specify which limit we should adhere to—the one in the budget document or the one in the RFP?	Please adhere to the limit in the RFA – requests can be up to \$500,000 (regranting strategy required if over \$125k). The limit in the budget was a typo. We did update the budget link in the online application if you would like to use that template, but it is not necessary.
What is the allowable for the indirect...10%? 15%?	Indirect costs under this opportunity are limited to a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC), as defined in 45 CFR Part 75.
Contract Requirements	
Will the sub grantees be required to do the quarterly requirements?	Applicant organizations should select regranting partners who can carry out project activities that fit the funding intent and can meet the contract data and financial report requirements. If awarded, the lead organization must report all data, including performance measures, facilitated by the regranting partners.
If our organization were to receive funding under this grant, would we be required to provide the names of specific individuals who receive services in our reports?	Organizations are required to provide numbers served in the quarterly data reports and are not asked to provide clients' names.
Are we expected to report on all of the metrics listed in the Reporting section RFA (ex. "Number of Social Media Posts?")	Funded organizations will be required to report on the metrics related to the COVID-19 Mitigation Project activities. Applicants must choose one, or more, of the three strategies (COVID-19 testing education, COVID-19 testing, and/or COVID-19 mitigation efforts), but are not required to conduct all three. For example, if the funded services are to only provide on-site COVID-19 testing to clients and staff, the organization would not report on social media posts, if COVID-19 testing education is not one of their selected strategies.
Eligibility	
We have a trauma informed curriculum for service providers in various sectors (behavioral health systems, probation, schools, etc.). Does this qualify?	Yes. Providing trauma informed training for service providers meets the eligibility criteria.
Can any 501(c)(3) organizations apply? Or do 501(c)(3) organizations that apply need certain certifications or licenses?	Licenses are only required for treatment centers; 501c3 organizations can apply. Please review the Eligibility Criteria on page 6 RFA for more information.
Can you apply for this grant if you already applied for the MAT funding opportunity / can you receive both grants?	Yes, you are able to apply for this grant if you also receive federal funding from another grant.

Can a private mental health coordinator be eligible for the granting?	Community base applicants who do not meet the funding requirements may apply with a fiscal sponsor. Please reference the Eligibility Criteria for more guidance.
Can we use funds to subsidize at a for profit / business?	For profit businesses are not eligible under this funding intent. Please reference the Eligibility Criteria for more guidance.
Are we eligible to participate in this project if we are currently funding for one other project through Sierra health foundation?	Yes, you are able to apply for this funding opportunity if you also receive funding from The Center or Sierra Health Foundation for other projects.
Are applicants eligible to participate in this project if we are currently funding for one other project through Sierra health foundation?	Yes, you are able to apply for this grant if you also receive funding from Sierra Health for another project however, you are not eligible for this funding opportunity if you have a current COVID-19 Mitigation Project contract.
We are a 501c3 working with homeless and transitional housing. Do we need to partner with certified agency, or can we apply on our own?	Your organization meets the RFA eligibility requirements and can apply for the funding opportunity.
We are hoping to apply for this grant but are unsure if we qualify	Your organization can apply if you are a 501c3. Fiscal sponsors are also accepted in the case your organization is not a 501c3. As a healing hub, your organization aligns with the eligibility criteria.
Would a private Catholic High School be eligible to receive funds for a Behavior Health Counselor to help mitigate growing mental health issues that were exacerbated during, and now after COVID?	Unfortunately, schools do not meet the eligibility criteria.
We are a coalition of community organizations that came together in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and we have a fiscal sponsor.	A coalition of organizations with a fiscal sponsor is eligible to apply.
Eligibility Criteria - a participating center does more on suicide prevention. Is it eligible?	Yes, this would qualify.
I wanted to confirm whether the Public Health Departments, with its onsite and mobile clinic unit program, qualifies as a County provider for this grant, or if we do not meet the eligibility criteria?	Your department meets the eligibility requirements to apply.
Unsure if my organization is eligible because we didn't do covid related outreach or covid testing	Please review the Eligibility Criteria and the project scope of work. Applicants should determine if they have the capacity to implement one of the three COVID-19 Mitigation Project strategies.
I have an eligibility question, we are a local health department who has a team of staff working with PEH to deliver vaccines, testing, and harm reduction strategies, are we eligible applicants?	Yes, county health departments are eligible to apply for this funding opportunity.
for profit homeless housing shelter can directly apply for this grant or be one of the regranting organizations	Eligible organizations include licensed, certified, or otherwise qualified mental health disorder and/or substance use disorder provider(s), Tribal organization, County provider, or 501(c)(3) community-based organizations.

<p>How do you define "connected to the behavioral health system?" Can this include individuals who we are trying to get into care but may not be in care currently?</p>	<p>Yes, individuals who are dealing with a co-occurring issue, and are trying to get care may qualify for COVID-19 Mitigation Project services.</p>
<p>Can you please provide some clarity on what organizations are qualified and eligible for funding? We have provided mental health services for several decades—however, we are not licensed or certified. Do we need licensure or certification to be eligible? If we aren't licensed or certified, does this impact the likelihood of our application being approved for funding?</p>	<p>Your organization does not have to be a licensed provider, but should meet the other requirements, such as a tribal organization or 501(c)(3) community-based organization.</p>
<p>How to bring community into the org into covid testing and education? Is group therapy an eligible incentive?</p>	<p>Group therapy meets the scope of work if a staff member is providing one of the three COVID-19 Mitigation Project strategies at the group session(s). The budget, budget justification and narrative should demonstrate how group therapy meets the funding intent.</p>
<p>If a CBO has been a grantee for Sierra Health program like CWOP, are they encouraged to apply and are eligible for this CMP?</p>	<p>Yes, you are able to apply for this funding opportunity if you received funding in the past from The Center or Sierra Health Foundation for other projects.</p>
<p>Can you please clarify if this opportunity is only for licensed nonprofit organizations?</p>	<p>Your organization does not have to be a licensed provider, but should meet the other requirements, such as a tribal organization or 501(c)(3) community-based organization.</p>
<p>When you say that the applicant must have a mission focus on providing behavioral health services, does that mean that our mission statement must include that service or can our mission statement more generally include services towards the well-being of a specific population?</p>	<p>Applicants should demonstrate that their mission and services including providing mental health and/or substance use prevention, intervention, and/or treatment services.</p>
<p>Our mission is not to provide BH/MH services to youth, young adults, unhoused persons. Our mission is to support community wellbeing (which, includes emotional wellness). Would an organization that provides nonclinical emotional support be eligible to apply (we do not have a license)? For example, staff who are peer support specialists leading emotional support groups in their community for CalHOPE.</p>	<p>Organizations that provide nonclinical emotional wellbeing, mental health and/or substance use prevention, intervention, and/or treatment services are eligible to apply for funding.</p>
<p>Is there a maximum operating budget/revenue limitation that would disqualify an organization to apply?</p>	<p>Indirect costs under this opportunity are limited to a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC), as defined in 45 CFR Part 75. Please reference page 7 of the RFA for a full list of funding restrictions. Additional details can be found in the RFA Appendix A-Standard Funding Restrictions on page 14.</p>
<p>We are a 501c3 with licensed psychologist ... are we eligible?</p>	<p>If you are a 501(c)(3) community-based organization such as a Federally Qualified Health Centers, Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics, crisis care mobile unit programs, harm reduction service providers, recovery residences, transitional housing facilities, homeless shelters, opioid treatment programs, or office-based opioid treatment providers with established and trusted community relationships, you would be eligible to apply.</p>

If an organization is currently being funded by another Sierra Center Funding organization for another project, can they still apply for this RFA?	Yes, you are able to apply for this funding opportunity if you also receive funding from The Center or Sierra Health Foundation for other projects.
Federal Requirements	
Do we have to submit anything else in the federal grants system?	Please reference the Federal Compliance section of the RFA on pages 8-9 for a complete list of federal requirements.
How does the application through Sierra Health correlate to receiving our SAM UEI?	It is a requirement of federal funding that awarded organizations have a Unique Entity ID (SAM).
Other	
Can you please comment on how this initiative is related or not related to the Health Ambassador program also overseen by the Center?	This funding opportunity is separate from other Center programs. It is focused on COVID-19 mitigation efforts, please reference pages 4-5 RFA for the Scope of Work and example activities. Applicants who have contracts with The Center for different funding opportunities may apply for this opportunity.
On page 6 of the RFP, under Eligibility Criteria, it says there is a separate application process for current subrecipients of the COVID-19 Mitigation Project. What is this separate process?	Currently funded COVID-19 Mitigation Project organizations are not eligible for this new round of funding. Currently funded organizations who have meet the eligibility requirements of submitting all required reporting in a timely manner will be invited to apply for additional funds. Communication has been sent out to currently funded CMP organizations about this augmentation opportunity and the invite only application will be emailed in June.
Is there a cost per deliverable maximum?	Consistent with a fixed price, deliverable-based agreement, applicants will receive fixed-price amounts established for the successful completion of each negotiated deliverable, rather than payment for actual time and material costs incurred during the agreement period.
Org received funding in 2021. Is it for us?	Organizations that received COVID-19 Mitigation Project awards in 2021 are not eligible to apply for this RFA. A separate augmentation application will be sent in June as an invite-only application.
When is the expected grant award notice?	The expected award announcements will occur in August 2023.
If we're providing trauma informed curriculum, do I need to have the DHCS license?	If you are a 501(c)(3) community-based organization, for example harm reduction service provider, you would be eligible to apply.
2021 exlucsn. Elaboration requested	Organizations that received COVID-19 Mitigation Project awards in 2021 are not eligible to apply for this RFA. A separate augmentation application will be sent in June as an invite-only application.
Can the client administer the rapid test or does a staff need to administer it?	COVID-19 testing should be administered on-site and not be distributed for home testing.
CDC has stopped posting the CDC Framework for Implementation of COVID-19 Mitigation (CDC.gov) document mentioned in the RFA and FAQs - do you have access to a copy of this, as the CDC no longer provides it?	Please reference the Center for Disease Control and Prevention Guidance of COVID-19 webpage for more information. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/guidance.html
How many grants are expected to be awarded?	This is a competitive funding opportunity and the amount of contracts awarded is dependent on the total amount requested.

Is there a list of projects funded in the past?	The Center will provide a list of funded projects.
When will office hours be held?	Office Hour: Wednesday, June 7, 2023, from 10 –11 a.m. PST

Project Activities/Scope of Work

Can project proposals expand and/or extend pre-existing covid-19 mitigation projects the center has already funded or is presently funding?	Yes, proposed projects can expand on existing COVID-19 projects, as long as they are not COVID-19 Mitigation Project contract funded in 2022. Current COVID-19 Mitigation Project contracts have a separate application process which will be released in mid-June.
Can we distribute PPE equipment to mental health clients?	The distribution of personal protection equipment is included in the RFA as an example activity that meets the funding intent.
Does this grant support BH, SUD and/or MH counseling and other interventions to help people solve healthcare problems that would make them more susceptible to catching COVID-19?	The funding opportunity does not support behavioral health, substance use disorder or mental health counseling and other interventions to help people solve healthcare problems. The funding is intended to support the following COVID-19 Mitigation Project strategies: COVID-19 testing education, COVID-19 testing, and COVID-19 mitigation efforts. Project activities must serve youth, young adults, and adults engaged in mental health or substance use disorder care and/or serve unhoused individuals and must be conducted at behavioral health sites and/or encampments, transitional housing, or homeless shelters.
Is testing conducted at encampments via mobile units allowable?	Yes, providing COVID-19 testing on-site at encampments, transitional housing, or homeless shelters to unhoused members of the community is allowable under this funding opportunity.
Does this grant fund education through media campaigns?	Project activities must serve youth, young adults, and adults engaged in mental health or substance use disorder care and/or serve unhoused individuals and must be conducted at behavioral health sites and/or encampments, transitional housing, or homeless shelters. Please reference the Scope of Work on pages 4-5 of the RFA for a list of example COVID-19 testing education activities.
Does the PPE have to specifically be for the purpose of testing administration or can it be for broader COVID mitigation purposes?	Personal protection equipment can be used for COVID-19 mitigation efforts and/or testing administration.
Can you give other examples of mitigation efforts. We are a drug and alcohol treatment center.	Mitigation efforts could include but are not limited to: distribution of personal protection equipment, installing an air filtration system, or putting up plastic barriers in the intake area.
Is funding restricted for mitigation and COVID outreach education activities to those living in unsheltered areas (homeless encampments) since it is not a traditional BH setting, and we may not be able to confirm whether they have co-occurring disorders?	COVID-19 Mitigation Project activities conducted at encampments, transitional housing, or homeless shelters to unhoused individuals are allowable under this funding opportunity. Project activities can also be conducted at behavioral health sites and/or designated alternative COVID-19 testing sites. Project activities must serve youth, young adults, and adults engaged in mental health or substance use disorder care and/or serve unhoused individuals.

<p>Will we need to show a measurable impact on staff and/or clients? The application asks us to "list 3-7 expected direct outcomes of the proposed activities" and to "describe your project team's capacity to document, monitor, or evaluate project activities, outputs, and outcomes." This is harder to do if our project is centered around improved ventilation systems and purchasing PPE.</p>	<p>The RFA requires listing a minimum of three expected directed outcomes of the proposed activities. Please note in your proposal at least three outcomes related to the impact on your organization's services, clients or staff when implementing COVID-19 mitigation efforts.</p>
<p>Regranting</p>	
<p>Please elaborate on the regranting requirement. Would the primary awardee be able to create and oversee a straightforward application process, with selection criteria approved by the Sierra Health Foundation, and select its subcontractors OR would this have to be a more elaborate RFP/solicitation process?</p>	<p>Applicants should propose a regranting strategy that gets funding awards to grassroots, community-based organizations that are able to extend the objectives of the COVID-19 Mitigation Project. Regranting partners are required to submit required data and expenses to the lead organizations to meet funding report requirements. Therefore, lead organizations should select regranting partners who can meet the contract data and financial report requirements and carry out project activities which fit the intent of the funding opportunity. It is up to the lead organization to determine how they will select their regranting partners. Memorandums of Understanding between the applicant organization and potential, or confirmed, regranting partners are required application attachments.</p>
<p>The application includes the following question: "Who are you planning to regrant for this funding opportunity, if awarded? Provide the legal name/s of each organization. Separate the organizations by comma. If regranting, would that automatically be considered a collaborative/coalition application and therefore require MOUs?"</p>	<p>Organizations that propose a regranting strategy must submit signed Memorandums of Understanding with proposed and/or confirmed regranting partners.</p>
<p>Does the organization requesting more than \$125,000 have to regrant all excess funds above this amount? Would a primary organization be able to apply for a \$250,000 grant, regranting another \$250,000?</p>	<p>Awarded funds over \$125,000 must be regranting to grassroots, community-based organizations that are able to extend the objectives of the COVID-19 Mitigation Project. For example, if a lead organization is awarded \$300,000, they may use \$125,000 to implement their COVID-19 Mitigation Project activities, and must regrant the remaining \$175,000 to their selected regranting partners. Lead organizations should select regranting partners who can meet the contract data and financial report requirements and carry out project activities which fit the intent of the funding opportunity.</p>
<p>Does each regrant need to be 125K or less?</p>	<p>Applicants requesting more than \$125,000 must regrant awarded funds over \$125,000. It is up to the applicant to determine the number of regranting partners and the amount each regranting partner will receive based on the partners' scope of work and project activities. Memorandums of Understanding between the applicant organization and potential, or confirmed, regranting partners are required application attachments.</p>

Do the organizations we regrant to have to historically fit the RFA criteria or is it services (i.e.. Covid testing) they can implement through the funds regrant to them?	Applicants should select regranting partners who are grassroots, community-based organizations that are able to extend the objectives of the COVID-19 Mitigation Project. Regranting partners must meet the contract data and financial report requirements and carry out project activities which fit the intent of the funding opportunity.
Does the entire amount above \$125,000 need to be regrant or can we regrant a portion of that?	Yes, applicant organizations who are regranting funds may use up to \$125,000 of the awarded funds for their organization's proposed project activities and must regrant requested funds over \$125,000. It is up to the applicant to determine the number of regranting partners and the amount each regranting partner will receive based on the partners' scope of work and project activities.
If an organization doesn't get the grant themselves, can they list themselves as a re-grantee for another grantee org to fund?	Organizations may only submit one application for this funding request.
Do you have to regrant?	You are required to regrant if you request \$125,000 and up to \$500,000.
Does the regranting requirement mean that if you receive more than \$125,000 you must have a subcontractor and some of the funds must go to another agency?	If an applicant organization is requesting more than \$125,000, they are required to regrant funds to other eligible organizations such as grassroots, community-based organizations that are able to extend the objectives of the COVID-19 Mitigation Project.
Are faith-based organizations/groups eligible for the regranting?	Community based organizations must be a 501c3, or can apply with a fiscal agent. Please review the Eligible Criteria for more information.
What are the differences, if any, between regranting and subcontracting?	The Center defines subcontracting as when The Center awards funds to an organization, the organization is then a subrecipient of The Center. The Center defines regranting as when a subrecipient of The Center distributes awarded funds to other organizations to deepen the reach and scope of the funded project.
Are there standard/federally approved practices related to regranting we should know about/will need to follow as we develop our regranting strategy?	Awarded organizations that propose to regrant funds must include signed Memorandums of Understanding(s) with their application. The signed MOU(s) should identify the organizations who will receive regranting funds and the roles and responsibilities of each party. In addition, awarded organizations must collect required data from all organizations receiving regranting funds. There are no additional requirements or practices.
What if we have multiple locations? Would that be appropriate for regranting?	Regranting strategies are to bring in regranting partners outside of the applicant organization. Applicants may apply for \$125,000 or under, to serve one, or more, of their organization's location without including a regranting strategy.

<p>What does the regranting look like? Are they limited to a certain amount?</p>	<p>Applicants are to regrant funds if they apply for funds over \$125,000. The lead applicant is to distribute award funds over \$125,000 to regranting partners. It is up to the applicant to determine the number of regranting partners, and their award amount based on the regranting partners scope of work and deliverables. Applications with a regranting strategy must include signed Memorandums of Understanding. If awarded, lead applicants are to submit data and financial reports reflective of their work and that of their regranting partners.</p>
<p>Does the regranting strategy need to be a written policy?</p>	<p>Awarded organizations that propose to regrant funds must include signed Memorandums of Understanding(s) with their application. The signed MOU(s) should identify the organizations who will receive regranting funds and the roles and responsibilities of each party. The MOU should support information provided in the narrative questions regarding the regranting strategy.</p>
<p>Are there any financial controls/administrative processes pertinent to regranting federal funds that are different in any way from how we subcontract to other partners?</p>	<p>It is up to the applicant organization to determine the financial controls for the regranting of funds. If awarded, the lead organization is required to submit annual financial reports and quarterly data reports for the contract term. Reports are to be comprehensive and include required information from the lead organization and regranting partners. Lead organizations should have practices in place to collect the required reporting information to meet reporting requirements.</p>
<p>We typically formalize an MOU with our subcontractors. Will an MOU be required for regranting? Or a contract? Will we need to require other documentation?</p>	<p>Awarded organizations that propose to regrant funds must include signed Memorandums of Understanding(s) with their application. The signed MOU(s) should identify the organizations who will receive regranting funds and the roles and responsibilities of each party. The MOU should support information provided in the narrative questions regarding the regranting strategy. If awarded, the lead organization is required to submit annual financial reports and quarterly data reports for the contract term. Reports are to be comprehensive and include required information from the lead organization and regranting partners. Lead organizations should have practices in place to collect the required reporting information to meet reporting requirements.</p>

<p>Per the regranting question in the RFP, agencies are able to select partners through various ways, being required only to describe the process to be used to regrant funds. Is this correct?</p>	<p>Applicants should propose a regranting strategy that gets funding awards to grassroots, community-based organizations that are able to extend the objectives of the COVID-19 Mitigation Project. It is up to the applicant to determine the number of regranting partners and the amount each regranting partner will receive based on the partners' scope of work and project activities. Memorandums of Understanding between the applicant organization and potential, or confirmed, regranting partners are required application attachments. The MOU should support information provided in the narrative questions regarding the regranting strategy.</p>
<p>As a CBO and a 501c3, do we have to regrant? Do we need to regrant? Is there a ratio between our own work and the regranting partners in the project narrative?</p>	<p>Applicants are to regrant funds if they apply for funds over \$125,000. A regranting strategy is not required for funding requests under \$125,000. If regranting, the lead applicant is to distribute award funds over \$125,000 to regranting partners. It is up to the applicant to determine the number of regranting partners and their award amount based on the regranting partners scope of work and deliverables. Applications with a regranting strategy must include signed Memorandums of Understanding. If awarded, lead applicants are to submit data and financial reports reflective of their work and that of their regranting partners.</p>
<p>Are lead agencies required to regrant any funds in excess of the \$125,000 to other organizations? OR can Lead Agencies budget their services for \$250,000 for example, regranting the other \$250,000 between 2 other orgs (\$125,000.00 each)? Please note that the lead agency will be assuming administrative responsibilities and the coalition management costs. Clarification on different funding levels allowed will be appreciated.</p>	<p>Awarded funds over \$125,000 must be regranting to grassroots, community-based organizations that are able to extend the objectives of the COVID-19 Mitigation Project. For example, if a lead organization is awarded \$300,000, they may use \$125,000 to implement their COVID-19 Mitigation Project activities and must regrant the remaining \$175,000 to their selected regranting partners. It is up to the applicant to determine the number of regranting partners and the amount each regranting partner will receive. Regranting partners should be able to carry out project activities that fit the funding intent and can meet the contract data and financial report requirements. Lead organizations are encouraged to determine regranting awards based on partners' proposed scope of work and project activities. No more than 5 percent of the total contract award may be used for administrative and infrastructure development costs. Please reference the Funding Restrictions listed on page 7 of the RFA. Additional details can be found in the RFA Appendix A-Standard Funding Restrictions on page 14.</p>

<p>Are there any impermissible uses of funds that the CBOs we regrant to will need to know about?</p>	<p>Organizations receiving regranting funds must use the funds for activities and expenses as outlined in the RFA. Please reference the RFA for more details. Please reference the Funding Restrictions listed on page 7 of the RFA. Additional details can be found in the RFA Appendix A-Standard Funding Restrictions on page 14.</p>
<p>Does the regranting requirement mean that the primary applicant can only keep \$125,000 and the remainder must be regranting?</p>	<p>Yes, applicant organizations who are regranting funds may use up to \$125,000 of the awarded funds for their organization's proposed project activities and must regrant awarded funds over \$125,000. For example, if an organization is awarded \$225,000, the lead organization could use up to \$125,000 of the awarded funds for their organization's COVID-19 Mitigation Project activities and regrant \$100,000 to their selected regranting partners. It is up to the applicant organization to determine the number of regranting partners and the amount each partner will be awarded based on the partners' scope of work and project activities.</p>
<p>Does regranting or lack thereof impact competitiveness?</p>	<p>Applicants will be reviewed on how the proposed activities and budget match the funding intent. Please reference the Selection and Evaluation Criteria listed in the RFA on page 8 for more information.</p>
<p>Does this mean that the maximum amount an applicant could plan to keep for our parts of the project is \$125,000 and any funding more than that amount will need to be re-granted to other community partners who would take on part of the project we're planning?</p>	<p>Applicant organizations who are regranting funds may use up to \$125,000 of the awarded funds for their organization's proposed project activities and must regrant awarded funds over \$125,000. Applicants should propose a regranting strategy that gets funding awards to grassroots, community-based organizations that are able to extend the objectives of the COVID-19 Mitigation Project. It is up to the applicant to determine the number of regranting partners and the amount each regranting partner will receive based on the partners' scope of work and project activities.</p>
<p>For the regranting strategy, do funds need to be regranting to non-profits or CBOs? Or can subcontractors be used who are not CBOs to meet this requirement?</p>	<p>Applicants should propose a regranting strategy that gets funding awards to grassroots, community-based organizations that are able to extend the objectives of the COVID-19 Mitigation Project. Lead organizations should select regranting partners who can meet the contract data and financial report requirements and carry out project activities which fit the intent of the funding opportunity. Memorandums of Understanding between the applicant organization and potential, or confirmed, regranting partners are required application attachments. Please review the Eligibility Criteria on page 6 RFA for more information.</p>

<p>How much has to be regranted?</p>	<p>Applicant organizations who are regrating funds may use up to \$125,000 of the awarded funds for their organization's proposed project activities and must regrant awarded funds over \$125,000. It is up to the applicant to determine the number of regrating partners and the amount each regrating partner will receive based on the partners' scope of work and project activities.</p>
<p>If an applicant requests more than \$125,000, the applicant organization must share (aka: re-grant) the overage to one or more separate organizations. Correct?</p>	<p>Yes, applicant organizations who are regrating funds may use up to \$125,000 of the awarded funds for their organization's proposed project activities and must regrant requested funds over \$125,000 and up to \$500,000 to their selected regrating partners. Regrating strategies should describe the need and approach for getting these resources to grassroots, community-based organizations that are able to extend the objectives of the COVID-19 Mitigation Project. It is up to the applicant organization to determine the number of regrating partners and the amount each partner will be awarded based on the partners' scope of works and project activities. Memorandums of Understanding between the applicant organization and potential, or confirmed, regrating partners are required application attachments. The MOU should support information provided in the narrative questions regarding the regrating strategy.</p>
<p>Is there a recommendation around number of grantees and amount of specific awards to grantees? (e.g., regrant \$100,000 to 3 grantees)</p>	<p>It is up to the applicant to determine the number of regrating partners and the amount each regrating partner will receive. Applicant organizations should select grassroots, community-based organizations that are able to extend the objectives of the COVID-19 Mitigation Project. Regrating partners should be able to carry out project activities that fit the funding intent and can meet the contract data and financial report requirements. Lead organizations are encouraged to determine regrating awards based on partners' proposed scope of work and project activities.</p>
<p>Is there a recommendation on how much should be regranted?</p>	<p>It is up to the applicant to determine the number of regrating partners and the amount each regrating partner will receive. Applicant organizations should select regrating partners who can carry out project activities that fit the funding intent and can meet the contract data and financial report requirements. The amount each regrating partner will receive should be based on their scope of work and project activities.</p>

<p>Is there guidance on how much of a grant larger than \$125,000 should be regranted?</p>	<p>Yes, applicant organizations who are regrating funds may use up to \$125,000 of the awarded funds for their organization's proposed project activities and must regrant awarded funds over \$125,000. It is up to the applicant organization to determine the number of regrating partners and the amount each partner will be awarded based on the partners' scope of work and project activities. Regrating strategies should describe the need and approach for getting these resources to grassroots, community-based organizations that are able to extend the objectives of the COVID-19 Mitigation Project.</p>
<p>If we choose to request \$500,000, is there a minimum amount that we are required to regrant? Does each regrant need to be 125K or less?</p>	<p>Yes, applicant organizations who are regrating funds may use up to \$125,000 of the awarded funds for their organization's proposed project activities and must regrant requested funds over \$125,000 to their selected regrating partners. For example, if an organization is awarded \$225,000, the lead organization would use \$125,000 of the awarded funds for their organization's COVID-19 Mitigation Project activities and regrant \$100,000 to their selected regrating partner(s). It is up to the applicant organization to determine the number of regrating partners and the amount each partner will be awarded based on the partners' scope of work and project activities. Memorandums of Understanding between the applicant organization and potential, or confirmed, regrating partners are required application attachments.</p>
<p>If you are a CBO and applying for up to \$500,000, do you also have to provide a regrating proposal as well?</p>	<p>Yes, applicant organizations who are regrating funds may use up to \$125,000 of the awarded funds for their organization's proposed project activities. Applicants requesting more than \$125,000 must regrant awarded funds over \$125,000 and up to \$500,000.</p>
<p>Is the primary organization capped at \$125,000 and the \$375,000 must be regranted to collaborating organizations or can the primary organization's budget portion exceed \$125,000?</p>	<p>Applicant organizations who are regrating funds may use up to \$125,000 of the awarded funds for their organization's proposed project activities and must regrant awarded funds over \$125,000 and up to \$500,000. For example, if an organization is awarded \$500,000, the lead organization would use \$125,000 of the awarded funds for their organization's COVID-19 Mitigation Project activities and regrant \$375,000 to their selected regrating partner(s). Regranted funds should be directed to grassroots, community-based organizations that are able to extend the objectives of the COVID-19 Mitigation Project.</p>
Strategies	
<p>Are there any standard of the education outreach?</p>	<p>It is up to the applicant to determine the specifics of their COVID-19 testing education outreach. Education outreach must reach the targeted population, their families and/or staff and providing information on COVID-19 testing and/or COVID-19 mitigation efforts.</p>

To what extent can housing be used as a mitigation strategy?	Proposed activities are to implement one, or more, of the three COVID-19 Mitigation Project strategies of COVID-19 testing education, testing and/or mitigation efforts. Please review the RFA for examples of scopes of work. The narrative, budget and budget justification should demonstrate how the proposed activities will meet the funding intent.
Will educational materials developed under this funding be required to be reviewed by the funder before dissemination?	No. Educational materials for this funding intent do not need to be reviewed and approved by the funder.
Can we implement suggested strategies without doing actual testing?	The funding opportunity is intended to support the following COVID-19 Mitigation Project strategies: COVID-19 testing education, COVID-19 testing , and COVID-19 mitigation efforts. Applicants must choose one, or more, of the three strategies, but are not required to conduct all three.
Target Populations	
Individuals who are residing in a homeless shelter considered unhoused for the grant?	Yes, individuals in homeless shelters, encampments and/or transitional housing are considered unhoused for this funding opportunity.
Can we count anyone who comes into a clinic?	People who receive the COVID-19 Mitigation project services of COVID-19 testing and/or COVID-19 testing education in behavioral health settings, or those who are unhoused can be served through this funding opportunity. This includes staff, clinic patients and/or their family members.
Can the target group include those under incarceration?	Targeted groups must be seeking, or receiving, behavioral health services, or be unhoused individuals.
What about providing health support and COVID-19 relief for the displaced and underserved migrants coming over the border given the recent lift of Title 42?	The funding opportunity is intended to support the following COVID-19 Mitigation Project strategies: COVID-19 testing education, COVID-19 testing, and COVID-19 mitigation efforts. Applicants must choose one, or more, of the three strategies, but are not required to conduct all three. Please review the Funding Opportunity and Background listed in the RFA on pages 3-4 for a list of focus populations to be served by this funding opportunity.
What mechanism is acceptable to identify individuals as "unhoused" as opposed to the general population?	The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines individuals who lack resources and support networks to obtain permanent housing as homeless.
Would participants in outpatient behavioral care meet the target population requirements?	Yes, participants in outpatient behavioral care meet the funding intent.
Webinar Recording + Links	
How can we access this recording?	CMP R2 Proposers' Webinar Recording
Where can we find these slides?	CMP R2 Proposers' Webinar Slide Deck