

Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program (HHIP) Round 3: Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

CalOptima Health solicits equity, systems change, and transitional housing capital funding requests for people experiencing homelessness.

Application Deadline — February 22, 2024 (5 p.m. PST)

Background

CalOptima Health's mission is to serve member health with excellence and dignity, respecting the value and needs of each person. With a strategic goal of decreasing health inequities, CalOptima Health is engaging in programs and expanding partnerships to better serve members who are at greater risk for poor health outcomes, especially those experiencing homelessness.

CalOptima Health's Board of Directors has shown a strong commitment to the issue of homelessness, as demonstrated by the ongoing allocation of Board reserved funds. The Board's support of these efforts is central to the overarching community investment strategy.

Further, CalOptima Health is participating in the Department of Health Care Services' Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program (HHIP) through which additional funds can be earned. This voluntary program is intended to support delivery and coordination of health and housing services for Medi-Cal members experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness by rewarding and incentivizing Managed Care Plans for taking an active role in reducing and preventing homelessness.

Through this program, CalOptima Health has the opportunity to earn funding by meeting specific program measures that fall under three priority areas:

1. Infrastructure to coordinate and meet member housing needs;
2. Partnerships and capacity to support referrals for services; and
3. Delivery of services and member engagement. In June 2023, CalOptima Health's Board approved the creation of a new priority area, as part of the evolving community investment strategy: Innovation and implementation of strategic interventions (referred to as systems change for the purposes of this NOFO).

The combined resources made available through CalOptima Health board allocated funds and HHIP has to date facilitated broad reaching and meaningful investments across Orange County. This third funding opportunity will focus on equity grants, systems change programs and capital for transitional housing (including recuperative care). **The application period is January 17 – February 22, 2024.**

Community Investment Strategy

CalOptima Health is prioritizing projects and programs that are trauma-informed, inclusive, non-residency restricted, low barrier, and aligned with housing-first and harm-reduction principles. This includes ensuring the “voice of lived experience” is integrated into all phases: design, development, implementation and evaluation.

CalOptima Health is committed to the following:

- Working toward a cohesive, countywide approach to address and prevent homelessness
- Developing equitable systems that distribute resources among a variety of community service providers across all three Orange county Service Planning Areas
- Promoting and facilitating innovation in data collection and sharing, with emphasis on greater integration across systems
- Increasing the number of service providers and the capacity of these providers to add to the overall continuum of care infrastructure throughout Orange County
- Establishing and/or using best practices in providing care by meeting members “where they are” and increasing access to that care
- Delivering culturally competent services to traditionally underrepresented populations (e.g., families, seniors, LGBTQIA+ and Black, Indigenous and People of Color [BIPOC])
- Investment and implementation of programs that add to the available affordable housing pool

Description of Funding Priorities

Applications must demonstrate how the request adds to the existing cadre of services offered in Orange County with a focus on non-duplicative, sustainable programming.

This funding opportunity is purposefully broad in order to solicit as many ideas as possible from organizations across Orange County working to address the homelessness crisis. CalOptima Health will be working to award funds across all three Service Planning Areas unless otherwise noted.

Funding Priority #1: Equity Grants

The objective of this funding priority is to ensure all individuals experiencing homelessness have access to housing and supportive services that center around their lived experience, are reflective of their unique experiences and are culturally appropriate. Applicants who can demonstrate expertise in addressing the needs of specific populations experiencing homelessness, including, but not limited to, BIPOC, transitional aged youth (TAY), older adults (age 55+), LGBTQIA+ populations and justice-involved individuals, will be prioritized during the application review process.

Requirements:

1. Organizations must have an annual operating budget of \$5 million or less.
2. Organizations must demonstrate how they support specific populations experiencing homelessness connecting to permanent supportive or affordable housing.

3. Organizations are not eligible if they've previously received a CalOptima Health HHIP Equity or HHIP Capacity grant in a previous funding round. Participants in CalOptima Health's Nonprofit Healthcare Academy are eligible for this opportunity if they meet the other requirements.

Funding Priority #2: Transitional Housing

The objective of this funding priority is to increase availability and access to transitional housing (including medical transitional housing such as recuperative care) among people experiencing homelessness. An effective and dignified transitional housing project makes available supportive and other medically appropriate services, as applicable, that center on the person's lived experience, are reflective of their unique experiences and are culturally appropriate. Occupancy can range anywhere from six to 24 months. Please see the attached housing continuum document (page 7) for more details on CalOptima Health's perspective on transitional housing and how it fits into the full housing continuum.

Projects that deliberately increase equitable and countywide access to transitional housing will be prioritized along with projects that take a capital approach to addressing an identified transitional or temporary housing service deficit in Orange County. Projects that can launch more quickly will also be prioritized. Creativity is encouraged in bridging the transition from street and/or emergency shelter to more permanent housing.

Examples of transitional housing, for the purposes of this funding opportunity can include but are not limited to the following:

- Recuperative Care
- Short-term Post Hospitalization Housing
- Bridge Housing
- Sober Living Centers
- Residential Recovery Homes

Requirements:

1. Projects must be located within the county of Orange.
2. Applicants must have site control and be able to provide the site address. Site control is not required only in cases where grant funding is being used to purchase the property. However, in those instances the address of the property to be purchased must still be included and there must be formal documentation of intent to purchase.
3. Projects must provide a letter of support for the proposed project from the city in which it is located. The address of the site must be included in the letter of support.
4. Applicants must demonstrate how the project is sustainable once launched including revenue generated as a contracted provider of CalOptima Health Enhanced Care Management and/or Community Supports.
5. Applicants must have prior experience with developing and/or operating transitional housing.
6. Proposed projects must offer a minimum of six months occupancy and up to 24 months.
7. Proposed projects must provide privacy and enable people to perform normal household tasks in a space that is both safe and dignified.
8. Emergency shelter or congregate housing sites are not eligible for this funding opportunity.

Funding Priority #3: Systems Change Projects

This funding priority focuses on addressing homelessness through the development of innovative interventions that are county-wide or have county-wide implications. It is designed to support projects and initiatives that seek and deploy creative and effective solutions to combat homelessness, with a strong emphasis on implementing evidence-based practices and novel approaches.

Successful applicants will develop and pilot groundbreaking programs aimed at reducing homelessness and improving the lives of those affected by it. Some examples include, but are not limited to, addressing student homelessness, equitable access to data and technology solutions such as the Homeless Management Information System, improve quality of services in permanent supportive/other housing, community engagement. This could mean operationalization of a new process, practice, etc.

All applicants will be given the opportunity to meet with staff for a 30-minute phone consultation prior to submission of Systems Change applications to determine if their proposal is appropriate for this funding opportunity. Those phone consultations can be scheduled by submitting a request to CalAIM@caloptima.org. Please title your email “Request for HHIP Systems Change Phone Consult” and we will reply to you with available times.

Requirements:

1. Proposed projects must be implemented county wide or have demonstrable county-wide impact.
2. Applications must clearly articulate the problem to be solved, propose a feasible solution, and demonstrate how success or progress can be achieved.
3. Applicants must clearly demonstrate experience with implementing system-wide interventions and/or programs.

Grant Budgets, Amounts and Duration

| Funding Priority | Grant Request Limit | Total Amount Available | Notes Specific to this Priority | Project Duration |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Equity Grants | No minimum \$100,000 maximum request | \$1 million | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 10 organizations will be selected for funding. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-year projects. |
| Transitional Housing | No minimum \$5 million maximum | Up to \$25 million | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of 5 awards could be made in this category but potentially more. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependent on capital project timeline. • Not restricted to one-year; can be multi-year. |
| Systems Change Projects | \$2 million minimum \$10.18 million maximum | Up to \$10.18 million | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of one award will be made but there is potential for up to five. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects can be from one to three years in duration. |

Payment will be made as defined in the fully executed grant agreement for awarded grants. Capital projects are paid in full upon execution of the contract. **Prohibited budget items include lobbying and ongoing rental assistance.**

Entities Eligible to Apply

1. **Organizations may only submit one (1) application for this funding opportunity.**
2. For Equity grants and Systems Change projects: Applicants must be a 501(c)(3) or equivalent in good standing with the IRS. Equivalent organizations may include tribes, public schools, universities, and local, state or federal government agencies and programs.
3. For Transitional Housing projects: Proposals will be accepted from nonprofit and for-profit organizations, joint ventures, or partnerships that serve the identified purpose of this NOFO.
4. Equity grant applicants must have annual operating budgets less than or equal to \$5 million.
5. Applicants must propose projects or programs that align with the funding opportunity in this document and present a plan that aligns with connecting individuals to permanent/affordable housing or increasing the number of transitional housing units available in Orange County.
6. Applicants that previously received funding from CalOptima Health must be/have been in good standing with the terms of that contract or grant agreement to be eligible for new funding.
7. Funds must benefit actively enrolled CalOptima Health members.
8. Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply for funds when they are ready to implement the activity proposed for funding.
9. There are no requirements for cost sharing, matching or cost participation.

Remember: Carefully review all threshold eligibility requirements. Applicants who fail to meet threshold requirements will be deemed ineligible. Applicants must successfully complete an application and submit it by the deadline to be considered for funding.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

| | Criterion | Maximum Points | Description of basis for assigning points |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------|--|
| 1 | CalOptima Health core value alignment | 15 | Project is trauma-informed, inclusive, non-residency restricted, low barrier, person-centered, and aligned with housing-first and harm-reduction principles. |
| 2 | Program Description | 15 | Program description is clear, concise and |
| 3 | Program Implementation | 10 | Plan is complete and includes specific objectives, logical and feasible activities, as well as clearly defined measures of success. |
| 4 | Sustainability | 10 | Program or projects is sustainable beyond this funding opportunity if funding is awarded or is time-bound and does not require continuous funding. |
| 5 | Readiness | 15 | Projects that can launch soon after grant award will receive more points. |

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|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|---|
| 6 | Experience | 15 | Expertise in providing proposed services and/or implementation of similar projects in the past. Must be clearly articulated in application. |
| 7 | Capacity of Applicant | 10 | Able to demonstrate financial and management capacity to carry out the project, as evidenced in the submission of required materials in application portal. |
| 8 | Evaluation Plan | 10 | Applicant clearly articulates a feasible and well thought out plan for evaluating project success. |
| Total Earnable Points | | 100 | |

Application Timeline

| Action | Date |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Application Released/Portal Opens | 1/17/2024 |
| Round 3 NOFO – Bidder’s Conference <i>* Q&A posted on the Funding Opportunity webpage by 2/5/2024</i> | 1/31/2024 at 11 a.m. PST |
| Application Deadline | 2/22/2024 at 5 p.m. PST |
| Internal Review | 2/23 – 3/8/2024 |
| CalOptima Health Board of Director’s Meeting | 4/4/2024 |
| Announcement of Approved Grants | 4/5/2024 |
| Grants Start Date | 5/1/2024 |

Documents and Portal Access

All documents related to this NOFO and application portal access are available at this site:
<https://www.caloptima.org/en/About/CurrentInitiatives/CalAIM/FundingOpportunities>

Bidder’s Conferences

Join our Bidder’s Conference for this funding opportunity by registering through the link below:








Bidder’s Conference

Date and Time: Wednesday, January 31, 2024, 11 a.m. PST

Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vcAqy2XoQJyATU_vCiSrPg

Questions about the funding opportunity or application? Contact the CalAIM Program Development team at CalAIM@caloptima.org.

ORANGE COUNTY HOUSING NEEDS CONTINUUM

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| Unsheltered Homelessness | Emergency Shelter | Transitional Housing | Medical Transitional and Permanent Housing | Permanent and Supportive Housing | Affordable Rental and Homeownership | Market Rate Rental and Ownership |
| Sanctuary and supported sites for unsheltered individuals lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. | Any facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary shelter for the unhoused. Minimal services are provided, and occupancy is limited to 6 months or less. | Facility that moves unhoused individuals and families into permanent housing. Occupancy 6 to 24 months. Provides privacy and enables normal household tasks and livelihood actions. Fills gap between emergency shelter and permanent housing. | Facility that combines transitional or permanent housing with medical support and/or care for individuals with specific medical conditions who struggle with daily life and need added support. | Facility that combines housing with individualized and voluntary support services to assist the unhoused with high needs such as mental health, disabilities, or substance use. | Long term rental assistance using subsidies to make rent affordable; pays no more than 30% of income for gross household costs, including utilities. Homeownership assistance programs. | Housing where pricing is defined by current real estate market evaluations. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Sleeping and Camping Sites • Safe Parking Sites | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe Weather Shelter • County Shelter System • City Shelters • Church Shelters • Family Shelters • Domestic Violence Shelters • Hotel Vouchers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recuperative Care • Short-Term Post Hospitalization • Bridge Housing • Street Medicine Support Center • Sober Living Centers • Residential Recovery Homes • Treatment Centers • Halfway House • Tiny Homes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisted Living • Skilled Nursing Facilities • PSH/PACE • Recuperative Care/PACE • Rehabilitation Facility | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single Room Occupancy (SRO) • Scattered Site PSH • Full-site PSH • Veteran Housing • Shared Housing • RCFE • Board and Cares • Independent Living Facilities • ADU Program | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rental Subsidy programs • Housing Vouchers • Rapid Rehousing • Shallow subsidies • Mortgage Interest Deduction Program • First time Home Ownership Programs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realtor Assistance • Family inheritance • Generational Wealth |

Bolded= Supported /Funded by CalOptima Health



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