



Round 3 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Q & A

Last Updated February 2, 2024

General

1. How can we set up a meeting for 30 minute systems change meeting?
Please email CalAIM@caloptima.org and reference "Systems Change Consult" in the subject line.
2. Will there be another Transitional Housing funding opportunity?
3. There is potential for more funding opportunities in the coming months, but priorities have yet to be confirmed.
4. What definition of homelessness is CalOptima Health using for this funding opportunity?
CalOptima Health uses the Department of Health Care Services definition of homelessness for Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program, of which includes *individuals who are at risk of, have recently been, or are currently experiencing homelessness*.
5. Rental Assistance has never been eligible for HHIP funding. Is there a reason why?
Managed Care Plans are unable to pay for rent.
6. What does CalOptima consider ongoing rental assistance?
Rental assistance is defined as assistance with paying room and board – includes current and future rent as well as arrears.

Application Questions

7. Is there a way we can see a PDF of the application questions?
You can see the application in its entirety after creating a profile and adding placeholder responses within the application itself. Profile information cannot be changed once entered. You may contact the Program Development team at CalAIM@caloptima.org with any application issues.
8. Can you confirm whether a government entity is required to submit a "Statement of Activities"? I believe that is only for non-profits, but if you do require it for government entities, can you explain more about what it is?
No, it is not required for government entities; however, they must submit another financial document to demonstrate capacity and stability.
9. [Equity Grants] Can multiple organizations collaborate on an application? If so, for an Equity application would there be a combined budget limit?
No; collaborative applications are not appropriate for this funding opportunity. The Equity grants budget maximum is \$100k per application.
10. [Systems Change] In terms of "county-wide impact," if a project is dedicated to one area, but it is a model that theoretically could be replicable, does that count as "county-wide?"

The [Round 3 NOFO document](#) states projects may be eligible if it can prove countywide replicability. Systems change consultation call is recommended if your project falls into this category.

11. [Transitional Housing] Would a transitional housing project be excluded if the maximum stay is 18 months and not 2 years?
Any project that allows individuals to stay between 6 and 24 months could be eligible.
12. [Transitional Housing] If the target property is no longer available when the grant is awarded, can we purchase a similar property, with CalOptima's approval?
No; applicants are expected to have site control or a formal agreement with the seller to purchase the property at the time of contract execution. Please see list of acceptable documentation in Q35 response.

Applicant Eligibility

13. Who is eligible to apply?
Organizations that were awarded Capacity or Equity grants as part of the Round 1 funding opportunity are not eligible for a Round 3 Equity grant. Organizations who previously received a Capital grant are eligible to apply under any of the funding opportunity areas.
14. Are cities eligible to apply for the Transitional Housing funding opportunity?
Yes; public entities could also be eligible as these types of projects would likely be based on a partnership with other organizations and/or entities (e.g., developer).
15. Are cities eligible to apply for the Systems Change funding opportunity?
Yes; if they feel their proposed program meets the requirements in the [Round 3 NOFO document](#).
16. Does an organization have to execute a project 100% on their own or are collaborations acceptable?
We invite applicants to elaborate on key collaborations in the program description. However, multiple applications for the same project but from different organizations are not permitted.
17. Can you explain what you mean about not applying for multiple grants?
Applicants may submit one grant application during this round of funding.

Acceptable Uses of Funding

18. Can organizations use funding for administrative costs?
CalOptima Health allows up to 20% of awarded funds to be used toward indirect costs, of which could include administrative costs.
19. Can grant requests be used to pay for services already covered under CalAIM? No.
20. [Equity Grants/Systems Change] Is support for emergency shelters an eligible expenditure?
If projects meet the eligibility criteria, they will be considered during the review process.
21. [Equity Grants/Systems Change] Can funding cover operating costs?
If projects meet the eligibility criteria, they will be considered during the review process.
22. [Equity Grants] Would a re-entry program qualify for an equity grant which essentially connects justice-involved individuals to housing upon re-entry?
Yes; if the proposed program meets the requirements and grant funds will not be used to pay for CalAIM covered services.
23. [Transitional Housing] Can funding for operations be requested in addition to acquisition funds?
Funds awarded through the transitional housing funding opportunity can only be used for capital expenditures, and not ongoing operating costs. Sustainability is a key proposal evaluation criterion.

24. [Transitional Housing] Are we allowed to use the funds to buy a property and then use the property to house men/women that are involved in the Recovery Residence HCA contract?
Yes; if the proposed program meets the requirements outlined in the [Round 3 NOFO document](#).
25. [Transitional Housing] Can funds be used to rehabilitate or upgrade existing transitional housing?
If the project brings online [new units](#), it could qualify; unit rehabilitation would not count toward that number.
26. [Transitional Housing] Our nonprofit currently leases a house that is utilized for transitional housing. The owners are receptive to selling the property to the agency. Would this qualify?
If the project brings online [new units](#), it could qualify.
27. [Transitional Housing] Can capital funding be used toward furnishings and transportation?
Funding can be used toward furnishings, but not transportation.
28. [Transitional Housing] What if it's a project that has both transitional and PSH at the same site – would that organization be eligible?
This capital funding opportunity is for Transitional Housing only. If a proposal for a Transitional/PSH combined project were submitted, the Transitional Housing portion could qualify.
29. [Transitional Housing] If doing post hospitalization, can you use some of the funds to make it more accessible for people exiting the hospital?
If the project brings online [new units](#), it could qualify.
30. [Transitional Housing] How does CalOptima Health define non-congregate vs congregate housing?
Congregate housing provides individuals a certain level of privacy, whereas non-congregate does not. See the housing continuum document attached to the NOFO.
31. [Transitional Housing] Could a project be considered Transitional Housing if multiple families each had their own room while sharing kitchen and living room space?
Depends on how large the facility is; homes are potentially ok. [We encourage applicants to consider whether they would want to live there for up to 2 years.](#)

Proposal Review Process and Grant Award

32. How are grant awards paid?
Payments for Capital grant awards will be made upon contract execution. For Systems Change and Equity grants, an initial payment will be made upon contract execution, with subsequent payments made after each progress report is received and accepted.

Supplementary Material Requirements for All Transitional Housing Applications

33. What needs to be included on the letter of support from the city?
The address and/or location of the property and written confirmation of the city's support of the project type and location.
34. Will a letter from the city confirming the project is appropriately zoned be enough?
Letters must include the address and/or location of the property and written confirmation of the city's support of the project type and location.
35. What is considered to be acceptable documentation for the intent to purchase requirement?
 - Letter from board of directors (least competitive option)
 - Letter of intent to purchase or intent to purchase agreement between seller and your organization
 - Escrow documents (most competitive option)

36. We have a couple properties in mind, but the purchase will be based on the approval of our application for funding. Is there an example of what is acceptable in this case?

Up to two project addresses on an application. Documentation would then be required for both locations. Please see list of acceptable documentation in Q35 response.