



California Community Reinvestment Grants Program Frequently Asked Questions

The answers in this document are applicable to the Grant Solicitation issued on April 22, 2019, and available at www.business.ca.gov/CalCRG.

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General

1. What is the California Community Reinvestment Grants (CalCRG) program?

The CalCRG program is a new grant program that was included in The Adult Use of Marijuana Act (Proposition 64), which was approved by California voters on November 8, 2016. In accordance with the proposition, the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) will award grants to local health departments and qualified community-based nonprofit organizations to support the following activities for communities disproportionately affected by past federal and state drug policies, also known as the War on Drugs:

- Job placement
- Mental health treatment
- Substance use disorder treatment
- System navigation services
- Legal services to address barriers to reentry
- Linkages to medical care

2. How is the CalCRG program funded and how much is available each year?

The CalCRG program is funded by the cannabis excise and cultivation taxes imposed by California Revenue and Taxation Code sections 34011 and 34012, respectively. The funding for the CalCRG program is as follows:

- \$10 million in fiscal year 2018-19 (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019)
- \$20 million in fiscal year 2019-20 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020)¹
- \$30 million in fiscal year 2020-21 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021)¹
- \$40 million in fiscal year 2021-22 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022)¹
- \$50 million in fiscal year 2022-23 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023) and each year thereafter¹

3. May more than one organization partner together and submit a joint/collaborative application?

Yes, however all organizations within the combined application must be an Eligible Applicant (see Eligibility section below for more details).

4. What is the size of the grant, and how long is the grant term?

For applications from a single organization, the minimum amount that may be requested is \$50,000, and the maximum amount is \$300,000. For collaborative applications, the minimum amount that may be requested is \$100,000, and the maximum amount is \$650,000, with a maximum allocation of \$350,000 to any one

¹ Contingent upon sufficient tax proceeds generated.
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organization in the collaboration. The grant term, or performance period, is 24 months. The total awarded amount is for the entire grant term.

5. Are the grant funds awarded before or after the grantee provides the services proposed in its grant application?

The CalCRG program is based on a reimbursement model, where the grantee will submit an invoice after the qualifying services have been rendered. However, in some instances grantees may receive up to 20 percent of their grant as an advance payment based on a needs assessment.

6. Can an organization submit more than one application?

An organization may submit one standalone application and may be a participant in one collaborative application, however an organization may not receive more than \$350,000 between the two applications.

7. Does the CalCRG program have a “match” requirement in which an applicant must secure funding from other sources to be eligible for a grant?

No.

8. If an organization is awarded a grant this fiscal year, will it be able to apply for another grant next fiscal year?

Yes, a grantee may apply again in a subsequent grant solicitation period to secure additional funding, even if it is still in the process of completing the requirements of its prior grant agreement. The grantee’s progress and performance of its existing grant will be considered when evaluating subsequent grant applications.

9. Some grant programs only provide funding for direct costs; are indirect costs allowed for the CalCRG program?

Yes, the CalCRG program allows for indirect costs, but such costs may not exceed 17 percent of the total grant awarded. An indirect cost breakdown is required in the grant application and will be evaluated.

10. Funding from Proposition 64 was allocated for youth development and youth prevention services. Is this the same program as the CalCRG program?

A large percentage of the youth prevention and education efforts included in Proposition 64 will be funded by the Youth Education, Prevention, Early Intervention and Treatment Account, with the funding disbursed to the State Department of Health Care Service. For the CalCRG program, Proposition 64 specified the six funding categories referenced in question one above.

11. Can an organization submit an application proposing services in more than one funding category?

Yes.

12. If an applicant includes an ineligible cost in their budget, may a lower amount be awarded than what was requested, or will the application be denied?

GO-Biz may adjust the budget and award amount.

Eligibility

1. Who may apply for the grants from the CalCRG program?

Local Health Departments (LHDs) and Community-based Nonprofit Organizations (CBOs) may apply for grants from the CalCRG program. Please see the “Eligible Applicants” section of the Grant Solicitation available at:

www.business.ca.gov/CalCRG for complete eligibility requirements.

2. Can for profit organizations apply as a single organization applicant, lead applicant, or be listed as partners in a collaborative application?

No.

3. Do all partners in a collaborative application need to be identified at the time an application is submitted?

Yes.

4. Do all partners in a collaborative application need to be allocated funding?

Yes.

5. Can collaborative applications include local governments or municipalities if the lead applicant is an LHD or CBO?

No. All partners in a collaborative application must be an Eligible Applicant as defined in the grant solicitation.

6. Do collaborative applications need to address all eligible funding categories?

No, however collaborative applications that meaningfully demonstrate a whole-person care approach may be awarded preference points. Please see the “Preference Points” section of the Grant Solicitation for complete details.

7. May an organization use a fiscal sponsor for the CalCRG program?

Yes, nonprofit organizations/projects may use an organization with tax-exempt status as a fiscal sponsor. For the section of the application that asks for the applicant’s Federal Employer Identification Number, Secretary of State Entity

Number, or Registry of Charitable Trust Number, if the fiscally sponsored organization does not have its own numbers, enter the applicable numbers of the fiscal sponsor. Please also upload a copy of the agreement between the fiscal sponsor and the organization, as well as a copy of the fiscal sponsor's Form 990.

8. Are there any geographic eligibility requirements for the CalCRG program?

Yes, the CalCRG program statute requires the funding for this program to be used for services provided to communities “disproportionately impacted by past federal and state drug policies”. As a result, the CalCRG program identified specific counties and census tracts that are eligible. Applicants may propose services in multiple eligible counties or census tracts. Please see the “Geographic Eligibility” section of the Grant Solicitation available at www.business.ca.gov/CalCRG for complete details.

9. Since the CalCRG program is funded by cannabis excise and cultivation taxes, if my municipality forgoes legalized cannabis sales, is my organization disqualified from applying?

No, your organization is not disqualified from applying. Organizations serving communities within such jurisdictions are still able to apply for CalCRG funding if all eligibility requirements are met.

10. Are there any citizenship requirements for the populations my organization can serve with CalCRG funding?

No.

11. Are classifications such as community health workers, case managers, and “Promotoras” eligible classifications for funding?

Yes, these are allowable classifications if the services provided by individuals in these classifications are within the funding categories referenced in question one in the “General” section of this document.

12. Are services only intended for adults or can services be directed to the youth population?

Services may be directed toward youth and/or adult clients, but the applicant must describe how the population they are proposing to serve has been affected by past federal and state drug policies.

13. Are eligible service recipients limited to those who have served in prison only or may they include those who have been in jail?

There are two sections of the Grant Solicitation that discuss the formerly incarcerated population. For the Legal Services to Address Barriers to Reentry funding category, eligible services must be geared towards helping clients reenter society after incarceration in jail or prison. Family members may be included in legal

services relating to the denial of housing applications if the denial is due to the record of a formerly incarcerated individual. In the “Priority Populations and Community” section of the Grant Solicitation, preference points may be awarded in some instances if an applicant has a history of providing services to clients that have been formerly incarcerated in prison. Jail is not included in this definition for purposes of allocating preference points.

14. Can we include clients who have been incarcerated in county jail for services under the Legal Services to Address Barriers to Reentry funding category?

Yes.

15. Can we include clients who are reentering society from juvenile detention under the Legal Services to Address Barriers to Reentry funding category?

Yes.

16. Where do we find information regarding the Attorney General’s Registry of Charitable Trusts?

Please visit <https://oag.ca.gov/charities> for more information regarding this eligibility requirement.

17. Can funds be used for capital improvements on already rented or owned properties?

Funding may be used for capital improvements to an existing facility that supports eligible service delivery. The proposal should describe how the improvements are necessary to support the services proposed in the application.

Application

1. How do I apply for grant from the CalCRG program?

The online application portal is available via a link at www.business.ca.gov/CalCRG. A detailed Online Application Portal User Guide, which outlines the steps to create an account and application, is also available at the above referenced website.

2. When are applications due?

All applications for this fiscal year must be completed and submitted via the online application portal no later than May 16, 2019, at 11:59 p.m. (Pacific Time).

3. What criteria will the CalCRG program use to evaluate my application?

The application review process and detailed scoring criteria can be found in the Grant Solicitation, which is available at www.business.ca.gov/CalCRG.

4. Are there any program priorities or preference points for certain activities?

Yes, current CalCRG program priorities include proposals from organizations led by individuals directly impacted by the War on Drugs, organizations that serve

individuals formerly incarcerated in prison, organizations placing individuals in jobs, organizations implementing trauma-informed care, and collaborative applications demonstrating a whole person care approach. Preference points will be allocated to proposals that match current CalCRG program priorities. Please see the Preference Points section of the Grant Solicitation, which is available at: www.business.ca.gov/CalCRG, for additional details.

5. The application asks a question about the applicant's ability to continue to provide the proposed services in the future without additional CalCRG funding in future years; how will the answer to this question be evaluated?

There isn't a right or wrong answer to this question. The answer to this question is meant to help the CalCRG team understand your organization's current financial conditions.

6. What are the character limits for questions in the application?

Each narrative question in the application has a specific character limit which can be viewed after creating an application in the online application portal.

7. Are the character limits intended to be a guide in how lengthy you want the responses to be?

No. Our intention in creating the character limits is to ensure applicants have sufficient opportunity to explain their responses fully. It is up to the applicant to determine how much detail to include in their responses.

8. Can multiple people work on one application?

Yes. Each person (i.e. user) will need their own account to access the online portal. The user who created the application will then to add each additional user access to the application. Please see the Online Application Portal User Guide located at www.business.ca.gov/CalCRG for more information.

9. Can multiple counties be selected in the Geographic Eligibility section of the Application Information section?

No. Select the county where the majority of the proposed services and/or the priority population are located. Additional counties where services will be provided can be discussed in the narrative portion of the application.

10. Can multiple census tract numbers be listed?

Yes, however it is not required to list all census tracts. Additional census tracts can be discussed in the narrative portion of the application.

11. For collaborative applications, should the required documentation listed in the Grant Solicitation be uploaded for the lead and all collaborative partners?

The required documents listed in the Grant Solicitation must be uploaded for the lead applicant only. However, if desired, the lead applicant may upload Organizational Charts, Biographies/Resumes, and/or Form 990s for partner organizations. Partner organizations must be included in the Budget Spreadsheet and as a part of Work Plan/Timeline.

12. Does the online application portal allow users to save their progress and come back to it later?

Yes.

13. If an organization files a Form 990-EZ instead of a Form 990, how do we complete the Form 990, Exempt Organization Tax Return Information section?

In this section, for the first question, select “No” in the drop down and mark the section as complete. However, please upload the Form 990-EZ in the Required/Supporting Documentation section.

Contact Information

If any additional assistance is needed, please email CalCRG@gobiz.ca.gov or call 916-322-2683.