

# California Health Care and Homelessness Learning Community

## Frequently Asked Questions

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**1. When are Letters of Intent to Apply due?**

We have extended the deadline for Letters of Intent to Apply (LOI) to Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup> (they were previously due September 16<sup>th</sup>).

**2. Do applicants have to wait to hear back if their LOI is accepted prior to submitting an application?**

No. The LOI is a non-binding document that signals an organization's intention to submit an application to the Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS). In order to submit an application, an LOI must first be submitted.

**3. Will the content in the LOI be considered in the scoring of an organization's application or will scoring be based on the application alone?**

The content in the LOI will not be factored into scoring. Scoring will solely be based on the submitted application and supporting materials (i.e., letter of support from leadership and CVs/resumes from core team members).

**4. Can organizations apply with other organizations as a team for participation in the learning community?**

Yes. Partnerships of up to two organizations are permitted, but both organizations should meet the eligibility criteria listed in the request for applications (RFA). The core team (see the [Application](#) for additional details) should be comprised of representatives from both organizations, and letters of support from each applicant organization's senior leadership should be submitted with the application. Applicants should clearly indicate in Question 2 of the application why this partnership is beneficial.

**5. Can an individual participate or is a team required for participation?**

Organizations, not individuals are eligible to apply for participation in the learning community. For organizations that choose to apply, the core team can consist of up to four representatives. Ideally, one member of the team will be in a leadership position, and another will be connected to work on the ground (see the [Application](#) for more details). In addition, preference will be given to organizations who include team members (e.g., emerging leaders) for whom participation would be a meaningful growth opportunity.

**6. Are organizations applying as a team required to include leadership and "on the ground" representation from both organizations in the core team?**

No. Organizations applying as a team are not required to include people in leadership positions from both organizations. The same applies to those connected to work on the ground.

**7. Can Continuums of Care apply to the learning community?**

Continuums of Care (CoCs) are eligible to apply as part of a two organization team, but need to articulate in the application what specific health care work they will be drawing on as participants. The learning community is not going to be focused on housing, and so the connection to health care from all partners participating in a team should be clear.

**8. Will organizations be allowed to invite members outside of the core team to participate in learning community activities?**

Yes. In coordination with CHCS, organizations will be able to invite colleagues with relevant expertise to select learning community conversations and activities. Eligible colleagues include others who work at the

participating organization, as well as individuals who work for partner organizations supporting people experiencing homelessness.

**9. How many organizations are you expecting to be part of the collaborative?**

We intend to select ten applicant organizations for participation in the learning community. A team of two organizations is considered one applicant. This number may increase up to 12 if, through our competitive selection process, we determine that it would be beneficial to expand the participants to include additional highly qualified applicants.

**10. We are a small, rural health care for the homeless program that started two years ago. Would the learning community be interested in a relatively small and new program?**

Yes. We encourage all eligible health care organizations providing health care to people experiencing homelessness to apply for participation in the learning community. We are specifically looking for a diverse array of organizations both in type and geography to enrich discussion throughout the project.

**11. What level of experience should participating staff have and what skillset is required for participation?**

If possible, one member of the core team should be in a leadership position given their ability to facilitate change within an organization and see the big picture related to this work, and one member of the core team should be connected to work on the ground (e.g., care manager, peer recovery specialist, physician, nurse, etc.). Preference will be given to organizations who include core team members for whom this would be a meaningful growth opportunity, including emerging leaders and those earlier in their professional career. Overall, we are looking for people who are dedicated to and passionate about improving health care for people experiencing homelessness, and who will contribute to growing a collaborative network within California of organizations serving this population.

**12. Will there be any regional opportunities for collaboration across counties and/or CoCs?**

CHCS will actively look to make local and regional connections among learning community participants as appropriate and based on the final participant composition. This could take the shape of regional affinity groups, ad hoc conversations with a subset of partners focused on region-specific issues, etc. We also intend to collaborate closely with learning community participants to help shape the content and focus areas of the initiative, and so we will welcome suggestions from participants throughout for where opportunities along these lines may exist and how best to facilitate them within the scope of the project.

**13. Are children experiencing housing insecurity in scope for this project?**

No. Children experiencing housing insecurity are not in scope for this project. Adults experiencing homelessness will be the primary population for this learning community.