

Round 4 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Q & A

Last Updated January 31, 2025

General

1. Will there be Round 5 this year, and will it be similar to Round 4?
Answer: Yes. We will launch Round 5 in Q3 of this year; it will be focused on Capital related grants.
2. How can I schedule the phone interview to see if my project qualifies under the Systems Change opportunity?
Answer: Please email the program development team at calaimgrants@caloptima.org.
3. Will the Bidder's Conference presentation slides be available for download?
Answer: Yes. They will be sent to all registrants for this meeting and posted on the webpage: <https://www.caloptima.org/en/About/CurrentInitiatives/CalAIM/FundingOpportunities>.

Application/portal Questions

4. Can an organization apply for both an Equity and Systems Change grant?
Answer: No. Organizations can only submit one proposal in this round.
5. Can an organization still apply if they do not have audited financials?
Answer: Yes, please email the program development team at calaimgrants@caloptima.org so we can provide guidance on alternatives.

Proposal Review Process and Grant Award

6. If you receive less than 3 Systems Change grants, will the award amount potentially increase?
Answer: No.
7. Can we apply for \$1.5 million per year for each year for 3 years or does \$1.5 million need to cover all three years?
Answer: No; the total request across all three years must not exceed \$1.5 million.

Applicant Eligibility

8. If I am an affiliate of a larger non-profit, may I submit their operating budget to fulfill the \$200k minimum since our affiliate branch is just starting out?
Answer: No.
9. Is the \$200K requirement for grantor references really about experience managing large sums of money?
Answer: Applications of the Systems Change priority are asked to submit references from previous funders for grants of \$200K and over to demonstrate the organization's capacity for managing large scale projects and having the financial processes in place to handle such large investments.
10. Can fiscally sponsored organizations apply for a Systems Change grant?

Answer: An organization with a fiscal sponsor is eligible to apply. However, the requirement for references from funders previously providing grants at least \$200K in value would apply only to grants they have managed for your organization (not grants to the fiscal sponsor entity or other organizations they sponsor). Those references are worth 5 points in the scoring criteria.

11. Can we provide multiple partner grants to achieve the \$200K hurdle for System Change?
Answer: No. Applications of the Systems Change priority are asked to submit references from previous funders for grants \$200K and over to demonstrate the organization's capacity for managing large scale projects and having the financial processes in place to handle such large investments.
12. Can we include partners in our application (funded or unfunded by this grant)?
Answer: Yes.
13. Is there a Point in Time count minimum requirement in order to apply for the grant?
Answer: No.
14. Are cities eligible to apply?
Answer: Yes.
15. Do we have to already be providing Enhanced Care Management or Community Supports in order to apply for the Systems Change grant?
Answer: No.
16. If the agency has a \$9 million annual budget, are we eligible to apply for a Systems Change grant?
Answer: Yes. The maximum budget requirements is only associated with Equity Grants.

Acceptable Uses of Funding

17. Is there an opportunity to receive start-up funds?
Answer: Possibly; depending on if the proposal meets the objectives of the funding priority. Please submit your application so we can fully review.
18. Can Equity funding be used to hire additional staff or purchase tangible items (e.g., furnishings, washing machines, vehicles, etc.) for a residential treatment facility?
Answer: As long as you can connect your program/services to people's housing stability, we are open to any budget expenditure that supports the proposed program.
19. Can funds be used to produce permanent supportive housing units?
Answer: Depends on priority area; it could possibly fit within an Equity grant proposal if all other requirements are met within the priority.
20. Can the funds be used to pay rent or transitional rent and possibly guaranteed income payments?
Answer: We cannot fund rent and/or lobbying activities. We encourage interested applicants to thoroughly review the NOFO requirements and evaluation criteria to understand the intent of this broad funding opportunity.
21. Would providing transitional housing/emergency shelter units qualify?
22. Answer: Depends on priority area; it could possibly fit within an Equity Grant proposal if all other requirements are met within the priority.
23. Can you please elaborate on vouchers [as an example of a Systems Change proposal topic] When you spoke about things we can apply for regarding prevention of homelessness.
Answer: Several examples of potential Systems Change topics are presented in the notice of funding opportunity, including using vouchers as a component of a homelessness prevention program. How an organization decides to tackle that should be presented in the proposal. CalOptima Health is not

prescribing how vouchers might or should be incorporated; that is at the discretion of the applicant to design, propose and communicate.