

California Health Facilities Financing Authority Investment in Mental Health Wellness Grant Program for Children and Youth

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Revised: July 2023

About the Program Overall

What types of projects may be funded by the Investment in Mental Health Wellness Grant Program for Children and Youth (“CY Grant Program”)?

The CY Grant Program may fund capital projects for programs that offer mental health crisis services for children and youth, 21 years of age and younger, and family respite care services for the caregivers of those individuals. Funding is limited to the following specific types of programs: crisis stabilization, crisis residential treatment, mobile crisis support teams, and family respite care. (Section 7313 (l), (m), (o), and (bb) of the regulations).

Where can I find the CY Grant Program application, regulations, and statute?

The application, regulations, and statute can be found on the Investment in Mental Health Wellness Grant Programs page of the California Health Facilities Financing Authority’s (“CHFFA” or “Authority”) website.

How often will grant opportunities under the CY Grant Program be available?

The CY Grant Program is a one-time competitive grant program with limited funding available. The Authority has conducted four funding rounds resulting in \$31,750,917 in Capital Funding grant awards. A fifth funding round was opened, without limitations to the county maximums, and with an application submission deadline of July 28, 2023, 5:00 PM (Pacific Time). All funding designated for Family Respite Care facilities has been awarded, therefore CHFFA will no longer be accepting applications for Family Respite Care facilities. If funds remain after the fifth funding round, then subsequent funding rounds may be opened. If a subsequent funding round is opened, the application submission deadline will be posted on the [Investment in Mental Health Wellness Grant Programs](#) page of CHFFA’s website (Section 7317 of the regulations).

What is Family Respite Care?

For the purposes of the CY Grant Program, Family Respite Care is short-term care for a child or youth receiving mental health services and assistance provided to their families in order to offer temporary relief and sustain family health and wellbeing. The type of Family Respite Care needed to meet the community needs is determined by the applicant, there are no program requirements or specific licensing requirements. The purpose of Family Respite Care is to give a break to caregivers from the demanding responsibilities of caregiving in order to reduce stress in the home and to allow them to continue to care for a child or youth with a mental health illness (Section 7313 (o) of the regulations).

What type of data is expected to be provided in an application for the evaluation criteria on outcomes?

The application must show a plan of what outcomes will be tracked and how the outcomes will be measured. The application asks for the methodology, timeline, and assignment of responsibility to measure and demonstrate outcomes of the Program (Section 7319 (a)(3) and 7319.1 (a)(3) of the regulations).

Children Crisis Residential Program

What is a Children’s Crisis Residential Program?

A Crisis Residential Treatment Program for children and youth is also called a Children’s Crisis Residential Program (CCRP). A CCRP is licensed by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) as a Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program and has a mental health program approved by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). CCRPs serve children experiencing an acute mental health crisis as an alternative to psychiatric hospitalization. A CCRP must receive licensing from CDSS and program approval by DHCS.

Is there a minimum or maximum number of beds required for a Children’s Crisis Residential Program stand-alone model?

According to DHCS, the posted [CCRP Interim Standards](#) do not include specific guidance regarding a minimum or maximum number of beds in the requirements for the CCRP certificate. However, bed limitations are incorporated through reference in the [CCRP Interim Standards](#) by requiring compliance with California Code of Regulations, Title 9, [Section 1840.334: Crisis Residential Treatment Services Contact and Site Requirements](#) and the [CDSS Interim Licensing Standards, Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program, Subchapter 3, Children’s Crisis Residential Program, Section 87098.87 Buildings And Grounds](#), which specifies that “Children’s Crisis Residential Programs shall be limited to fewer than 16 beds, with at least 50 percent of those beds in single-occupancy rooms as per Health and Safety Code 1562.03(a)(3).” Therefore, CDSS licensing requirements determine the maximum number of beds. Please also confirm with DHCS. Specific questions can be emailed directly to CCRP@dhcs.ca.gov.

How is ongoing room and board funded for a Children’s Crisis Residential Program? Is it Medi-Cal reimbursable?

According to DHCS, the Medi-Cal reimbursement is available for the provision of Specialty Mental Health Services as specified in the DHCS’s [CCRP Interim Standards](#). CDSS processes reimbursement for ongoing room and board provided by facilities that are licensed through CDSS as a short-term residential therapeutic program. Please also confirm with DHCS. Specific questions can be emailed directly to CCRP@dhcs.ca.gov.

Where can I find more information regarding the Children’s Crisis Residential Program?

According to DHCS, information regarding the CCRP can be found on the [Mental Health Program Certification Section](#) page of the DHCS website. Specific questions can be emailed directly to CCRP@dhcs.ca.gov.

Eligibility

What are eligible applicants?

Counties or counties applying jointly are eligible to apply. Counties also may designate a private nonprofit corporation or public agency to be a co-applicant and a designated Grantee, but only a county may apply as a Lead Grantee. (Section 7314 (a) of the regulations)

Are for-profit corporations eligible to receive grant funds?

For-profit corporations cannot be an Applicant or designated Grantee and cannot receive grant funds. The grant funds only can be given to a Lead Grantee or designated Grantee. Counties/Grantees may contract with for-profit corporations to provide program services.

There are two cities (Berkeley and Tri-Cities) that function as counties for the purpose of being the public managed care plan for mental health services. Would these cities be able to apply?

No, a city cannot apply. Only a county or counties applying jointly can apply for and receive grant funding from the Authority.

May a private nonprofit corporation receive grant funds to acquire equipment and furnishings and fund information technology costs?

No. A County must request and receive grant funds for and maintain ownership of all equipment (including mobile crisis support team vehicles), furnishings, and IT hardware and software for the useful life of the asset.

May a private nonprofit corporation receive grant funds to acquire real property and to construct and/or renovate on real property?

Yes. A county or counties applying jointly may designate a private non-profit corporation or public agency to acquire real property with grant funds and utilize grant funds for construction or renovation. Please reference Section 7325.1 of the regulations for the requirements with which the designated private nonprofit or public agency must comply.

Can a county apply for CY Grant Program funding if it has an open grant with CHFFA?

Yes, a county that has an open grant with CHFFA can apply.

Application

Will the applications be approved on a rolling basis, or will counties be notified when the application submission period closes?

Applications are submitted during an application submission period, and the submission deadlines are announced on the [Investment in Mental Health Wellness Grant Programs](#) page of CHFFA's website. The first funding round application submission period ended on February 28, 2019, the second funding round application submission period ended on January 29, 2021, the third funding round application submission period ended on October 29, 2021, the fourth funding round application submission period ended on July 29, 2022. and the fifth funding round application submission period will end on July 28, 2023. If funds remain after the fifth funding round, then subsequent funding

rounds may be opened. If a subsequent funding round is opened, the application submission period will be posted on the [Investment in Mental Health Wellness Grant Programs](#) page of CHFFA's website (Section 7317 of the regulations).

How does an applicant submit a grant application?

Beginning with the fourth funding round, all CY Grant Program applications will be required to be submitted online. A link to the online application is located on the [Investment in Mental Health Wellness Grant Programs](#) page of CHFFA's website.

Which browsers are supported by the online application?

It is advised to use Google Chrome, Firefox, or Safari when utilizing the online application, as other browsers are not supported.

Is there a version of the application that can be used as a guide when completing the online application?

CHFFA's website will have a PDF version of the application that the applicant can reference when completing the online application.

How should the timeline, budgets, graphs, and charts be provided?

Timelines, budgets, graphs, and charts may be referenced in the narrative as attachments and uploaded in the appropriate sections in the online application. The only acceptable file upload types are: .doc, .docx, .pdf, .jpeg, .png, .ppt, .ppts, .xls, and .xlsx.

Will a grant not be awarded if the applicant receives a score of zero in any of the Evaluation Criteria?

Applications receiving a score of zero points in Evaluation Criteria 1 and 2 shall not be considered for an Initial Allocation (Section 7320 (e)(2) of the regulations). Additionally, applications shall score a minimum of 35 points in Evaluation Criteria 4 to be considered for an Initial Allocation (Section 7320 (e)(1) of the regulations).

Funding

What is the amount of grant funding available statewide?

- A total of \$27,267,000 was available to be awarded statewide in Capital Funding under the CY Grant Program and \$11,766,144 in additional funds, forfeited from the Investment in Mental Health Wellness Grant Program, was made available for the CY Grant Program. After four funding rounds, \$31,750,917 was awarded in Capital Funding. Currently there is approximately \$10.8 million for allocation in subsequent funding rounds.
- A total of \$4 million was available to be awarded for MCST annual Personnel Funding. After four funding rounds, \$3,807,263 was awarded in MCST annual Personnel Funding, leaving approximately \$200 thousand for allocation in subsequent funding rounds.

If a county was awarded funding in the first, second, third, or fourth funding rounds, will it be eligible to apply for additional funding in a future funding round?

Yes, a county receiving funding in one round may still apply for additional funding in subsequent funding rounds (Section 7318 (d) and (e) of the regulations).

What are considered eligible costs under the CY Grant Program?

Eligible costs include:

- Purchase of real property (Section 7315(a)(1) of the regulations)
- Construction or renovation (Section 7315 (a)(2) of the regulations), which may include hardscaping and/or landscaping essential to the completion of the project not to exceed 5% of total grant award (Section 7315 (a)(2)(E) of the regulations)
- Furnishings and/or equipment (Section 7315 (a)(3) of the regulations)
- Purchase of vehicles for Mobile Crisis Support Teams and maintenance contracts for up to two years (Section 7315 (a)(4) of the regulations)
- Information technology software and hardware (not to exceed 1% of total grant amount, except when approved by the Authority, and only upon justification that the additional information technology costs are necessary for the project to achieve the desired goals and outcomes set forth in Section 7319 and 7319.1 of the regulations) (Section 7315 (a)(5) of the regulations)
- Up to three months of program startup or expansion costs consisting of training, personnel salaries, and personnel benefits (Section 7315 (a)(6) of the regulations)
- Personnel Funding for employee salaries and benefits specific to the staff funded by a Grant for the Mobile Crisis Support Team(s) (Section 7315 (b) of the regulations)

Are feasibility studies considered an eligible expense?

No. Feasibility studies are not a grant requirement and, therefore, not considered as an eligible expense.

Will there be a minimum number of awards in each county population size range?

Awards based on county population size (county maximums) only applied to the first funding round, which closed on February 28, 2019. For subsequent funding rounds, there are no county maximums and no minimum number of awards in each county population size range. Applicants will be awarded based on the scores received on their applications (from the highest scoring to the lowest scoring application) as determined by the Authority (Section 7320 (c) of the regulations).

What is the grant period?

The grant period is the time period from the date of the Final Allocation to the date set by the Authority for the grant to end (Section 7313 (w) of the regulations).

Is there a deadline for expending grant funds?

The deadline set by the state legislature for which all funds are to be awarded is June 30, 2024 and for which all grants funds are to be expended and disbursed is June 30, 2026. However, grant funds must be incurred within the grant period (Section 7315 (d) of the regulations), which may be sooner than the legislative deadline. The grant period will vary depending on several factors (e.g., when the county or counties applying jointly specified that the program will be operational).

Below is a breakdown of funding sources, funding amounts for the various programs, and award and disbursement deadlines. In addition to the breakdown below, any additional funds forfeited in the Investment in Mental Health Wellness Grant Program will be made available for CY Grant Program funding.

Breakdown of Funding Sources

Program	2019-2020 Budget	
	General Fund Reappropriation	MHSA Funds
Crisis Residential Treatment		\$ 5,899,000
Crisis Stabilization Unit		8,851,000
Mobile Crisis Support Teams		8,850,000
Family Respite Care		2,950,000
Additional funds	\$ 11,766,144*	717,000
Totals	\$ 11,766,144	\$ 27,267,000
Award Deadline	6/30/2024	
Disbursement Deadline	6/30/2026	
Total Capital Funding Available	\$39,033,144	

*Amounts in excess of \$6,717,000.00 forfeited from the Investment in Mental Health Wellness Grant Program (SB82, 2013)

Are grant funds still available for Family Respite Care projects?

The CY Grant Program was allotted approximately \$2.9 million to fund Family Respite Care Projects. All of the allotted funds have been awarded, and therefore, beginning with the third funding round, CHFFA will not be able to award any family respite care projects.

When does the three-month startup period begin?

The county determines when the three-month startup period begins, as long as the three months are consecutive and are near the time the program begins providing services.

Can funding be requested for furnishings and/or equipment for expanding a program without the purchase or renovation of a facility?

Yes, as long as the application demonstrates that the project will expand access to and capacity for community-based mental health crisis services for children and youth and their families.

Does Personnel Funding include costs for vehicles, furnishings and/or equipment, IT purchases, and/or program startup or expansion?

Personnel Funding is only to fund the staff of the Mobile Crisis Support Teams. Other capital expenditures associated with Mobile Crisis Support Teams may be submitted for consideration of their eligibility under the Capital Funding category.

What time period applies to Mobile Crisis Personnel Funding?

If a Grantee is awarded Personnel Funding, CHFFA will award an annual amount that may be funded for up to five years of Mobile Crisis Support Team staffing. Generally, the time period begins when program services have begun. Annual Personnel Funding amounts, subsequent to the initial year granted, are subject to availability of annual budget appropriations by the Legislature.

When applying for the purchase of vehicles for a Mobile Crisis Support Team, does an existing program need to expand the number of staff on the team to be eligible?

Yes, in order to meet the legislative intent of expanding services the existing program will need to increase staffing to serve additional children and youth clients.

Project Readiness, Feasibility, Sustainability, and Release of Funds

Does the term “readiness” mean the project is complete and ready to offer services or that the plan for the project is ready to begin (e.g., starting renovation)?

The term “readiness” refers to how soon the primary activities associated with the grant project (e.g., renovation, facility acquisition) can begin. A project need not be “ready” to be considered for a grant, but rather needs to present a plan that shows likeliness of readiness within the timeframe listed under Section 7319 (a)(4)(H) and 7319.1 (a)(4)(F) of the regulations. “Readiness” does not refer to program services; rather, it means that the project has all applicable approvals and/or documents for the project to begin (Section 7313 (ff) of the regulations).

How long must the program(s) be sustainable after the project period ends?

The program(s) must be sustainable for at least the useful life of the project, which is determined by the county’s legal counsel or accounting division (Section 7323 (e) of the regulations). “Sustainable” is defined in Section 7313 (kk) of the regulations as the program having “reasonably foreseeable funding to operate on a continuous basis, or at least for the useful life of the project.”

What is the anticipated timeline from application submission to funding? When will the Authority release funds to the grantees?

While the Authority would like to disburse funds as quickly as possible, the timeline will vary depending on the number of applications to be evaluated, any appeals of initial allocations to be decided at a public meeting, and the ability for a grantee to meet all of the requirements necessary for the Authority to release grant funds per Section 7325 of the regulations.

May grant funds be used to renovate a property owned by the contracted service provider?

Yes, grant funds may be used to renovate a property owned by the contracted service provider as long as the Grantee and service provider enter into a lease agreement that complies with Section 7326 of the regulations.

In order for funds to be released, why must the Grantee provide a letter from the Grantee's legal counsel or an authorized officer certifying that the lease agreement (if applicable) conforms to Section 7326 of the CY Grant Program regulations?

This requirement is to ensure that lease agreements (if the county is leasing) conform to the requirements as specified in Section 7326 (a)(1) through (a)(5) of the regulations. By requiring review of the lease by the Grantee's legal counsel, the Authority can be assured that the stipulations applicable to lease agreements are met. The Authority does a cursory review of each lease agreement, but the responsibility for compliance rests with the Grantee (Section 7326(a) of the regulations).