

Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

RFA IPF-001

Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
1	General	I was wondering if it might be possible to record this Friday's meeting at 3 pm about this wonderful funding opportunity!	The Commission's bidder's conferences were not recorded and no additional materials beyond the RFA were displayed.
2	General	We were interested in submitting an application for the RFA IPF-001 and I was wondering if Texas would be eligible or is this is restricted to California only	<p>The applicant must be registered to do business in California. In order to contract with the State of California, all applicants must be able to complete Attachment 8: Contractor Certification Clauses, Attachment 9: Darfur Contracting Act Certification, and Attachment 10: Payee Data Record (STD 204).</p> <p>Please read the complete RFA to understand what is expected of each applicant. Services can only be provided in California.</p>
3	General	Hello I can not locate the actual application and I am interested	<p>The RFA and all relevant documents can be found on the Commission website below:</p> <p>https://bhsoac.ca.gov/connect/grant-funding-opportunities/request-for-proposal-rfp-for-innovation-partnership-fund-ipf-001/</p>
4	General	I am curious if you are able to share any updates regarding the expected timeframe for the Innovation Partnership Fund (RFP release and tentative timeline for submissions).	<p>All key dates are listed in the RFA, which can be found on the Commission website below:</p> <p>https://bhsoac.ca.gov/connect/grant-funding-opportunities/request-for-proposal-rfp-for-innovation-partnership-fund-ipf-001/</p>

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5	General	Can we include graphics or visuals of the innovative product or program in our application, or do you require a text-based version only?	Applications may include 2D graphics or visuals as long as they are inserted into the respective section of the application.
6	General	Is it recommended by CBH to utilize the Attachment Templates and other supporting documents in the RFA for application submissions?	Yes, the provided attachment templates should be used.

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7	General	<p>The RFA presents two different descriptions of priority populations for the IPF, the first is very specific, the second is very broad:</p> <p>(1) Children, youth and/or adults who are chronically homeless or experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness; in, or at risk of being in, the justice system; reentering the community from a correctional facility; in the child welfare system; at risk of conservatorship; and/or at risk of institutionalization. (Page 4)</p> <p>(2) Underserved populations; low-income populations; communities impacted by other behavioral health disparities; other populations, as determined by the Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission. (Page 5)</p> <p>Would you please clarify which description reflects the priority populations for this RFA?</p>	<p>To be eligible, applicants must address the needs of BHSA Priority Populations as specified in Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 5600.3. per WIC section WIC Section 5892(a).</p> <p>Applicants must also address the needs of a minimum of one of the target populations as specified in Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 5845.1.</p>
8	General	<p>I received your Stakeholder Advisory with an RFA for the Innovation Partnership Fund, but I couldn't access the actual RFA.</p> <p>Could you email it to me?</p>	<p>The RFA can be found on the Commission website below:</p> <p>https://bhsoac.ca.gov/connect/grant-funding-opportunities/request-for-proposal-rfp-for-innovation-partnership-fund-ipf-001/</p>
9		<p>Can county BH agencies apply for the large grants? Can all types of county entities apply?</p>	<p>All organizations are eligible to apply for large grants.</p>

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10	General	In the Background section of the RFA there is reference to the open call for concepts and the developed submissions received during the early days. Is there somewhere that we can access and view those submissions?	This information was solicited for research purposes and is considered a working document not available for public view. The result of the research is reflected in this RFA.
11	General	Does this programme apply to an organization based in Kenya?	<p>The applicant must be registered to do business in California. In order to contract with the State of California, all applicants must be able to complete Attachment 8: Contractor Certification Clauses, Attachment 9: Darfur Contracting Act Certification, and Attachment 10: Paye Date Record (STD 204).</p> <p>Please read the complete RFA to understand what is expected of each applicant.</p>
12	General	We are working in a rural area of buikwe and all along we have been working on improving livelihoods view vocational training and we would line also to participate in mental health, is it allowed or you need those with experience in mental health.	<p>The applicant must be registered to do business in California. In order to contract with the State of California, all applicants must be able to complete Attachment 8: Contractor Certification Clauses, Attachment 9: Darfur Contracting Act Certification, and Attachment 10: Paye Date Record (STD 204).</p> <p>Please read the complete RFA to understand what is expected of each applicant. Services can only be provided in California.</p>

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13	General	I am interested in obtaining more information regarding the Innovation Partnership Fund. Specifically, I would like to clarify whether an invitation is required to submit an application for this funding opportunity. If an invitation is not necessary, could you please provide guidance on how we can register and submit our Letter of Intent (LOI) for consideration?	<p>An invitation is not required to apply. Registration is not required to submit materials.</p> <p>Please read the complete RFA to understand application requirements and procedures.</p>
14	General	<p>I saw references indicating the RFP may have been released around March 20 and wanted to confirm whether the full RFP and application materials are now available.</p> <p>If the RFP has been released, I would appreciate any guidance on where to access the full application package and submission portal. If it is still forthcoming, any updated timeline would be very helpful as we plan potential partnerships and proposal development.</p>	<p>The RFA can be found on the Commission website below:</p> <p>https://bhsoac.ca.gov/connect/grant-funding-opportunities/request-for-proposal-rfp-for-innovation-partnership-fund-ipf-001/</p>
15	General	Following up on earlier notes; will this session be recorded for future viewing? I am unable to attend the whole meeting	The Commission's bidder's conferences are not recorded and no additional materials beyond the RFA are provided.

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16	General	Kindly asking if organisations from Zimbabwe can apply for the fund	<p>The applicant must be registered to do business in California. In order to contract with the State of California, all applicants must be able to complete Attachment 8: Contractor Certification Clauses, Attachment 9: Darfur Contracting Act Certification, and Attachment 10: Payee Data Record (STD 204).</p> <p>Please read the complete RFA to understand what is expected of each applicant. Services can only be provided in California.</p>
17	General	<p>Innovation Criteria</p> <p>How does the Commission define “innovation” in the context of community-based, peer-led models that integrate with existing systems (e.g., ECM), rather than creating entirely new clinical services?</p>	<p>The definition of Innovation for the purposes of this RFA is provided on in Section 3, “Definition of Innovation” (page 6). It is the responsibility of the applicant to adequately articulate how the application meets the definition of innovation in the RFA.</p>
18	General	<p>Peer-Led Models</p> <p>Are peer-led recovery organizations eligible as lead applicants, or is a formal county or clinical partner required as the primary applicant?</p>	<p>A county or clinical partner is not required as the primary applicant.</p>

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19	General	<p>Partnership Expectations</p> <p>To what extent must partnerships with county behavioral health departments or ECM providers be formalized at the time of submission (e.g., MOUs vs. letters of support)?</p>	<p>MOUs are not required as part of the application.</p> <p>Please see Addendum 2 changing the Letter of Intent to a Letter of Support</p>
20	General	<p>Evaluation Requirements</p> <p>What level of rigor is expected for evaluation (e.g., internal tracking vs. third-party evaluation), particularly for pilot or early-stage scalable models?</p>	<p>Grantees are expected to collect and report data as detailed in section 6.D as part of the grant deliverables. Grantees will be required to use reported data for quality improvement purposes. Reported data will be used by Commission for evaluation purposes.</p>
21	General	<p>Funding Range & Scope</p> <p>Is there a preferred or typical funding range per award, and are phased or pilot implementations (e.g., county-first rollout) viewed favorably?</p>	<p>There is no preferred funding range. All applications will be scored according to the criteria listed in the RFA.</p>
22	General	<p>Geographic Prioritization</p> <p>Are proposals that focus on high-need regions such as the Central Valley (e.g., Fresno County) prioritized within scoring?</p>	<p>All applications will be scored according to the criteria listed in the RFA.</p>
23	General	<p>Alignment with CalAIM</p> <p>How heavily is alignment with CalAIM and ECM integration weighted in scoring relative to other innovation criteria?</p>	<p>All applications will be scored according to the criteria listed in the RFA.</p>

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24	General	I had a question regarding the Innovation Partnership Fund. Page 11 of the RFA states the following: "The funding available for this RFA is limited to \$20,000,000, with a maximum award of \$500,000 for small grants and \$5 million for large grants." However, page 12 of the RFA states that grant awards for the Small Grants category will be "less than \$500,000." In addition, page 12 also states that grant awards for the Large Grants category will be "\$500,000 and above." Just to make sure that I understand correctly, is the maximum grant amount for the Small Grants category \$500,000 or less, and is the minimum grant amount for the Large Grants category \$500,000 or more?	Small Grants are grant awards of less than \$500,000. Large grants are grant awards \$500,000 and above, with an individual grant ceiling of \$5,000,000. This information will be corrected in RFA IPF-001 Addendum 002.
25	General	Can you confirm that fiscal sponsors are allowed?	Fiscal sponsors are allowed. If the fiscal sponsor is the Applicant they must meet all minimum requirements.
26	General	We are a non-profit (but not a 501(c)3) who is fiscally sponsored by a public high school district. Because of this, we are not eligible to register with the California Secretary of State. Are we still eligible to apply?	Non-profit status is not limited to 501(c)3. However, the applicant must be registered to do business in California.

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27	General	I would like to kindly confirm whether Sierra Leone is eligible to apply for this grant. I have reviewed the details and believe our organization meets the qualifications, but I would appreciate your confirmation regarding Sierra Leone's eligibility.	<p>The applicant must be registered to do business in California. In order to contract with the State of California, all applicants must be able to complete Attachment 8: Contractor Certification Clauses, Attachment 9: Darfur Contracting Act Certification, and Attachment 10: Payee Data Record (STD 204).</p> <p>Please read the complete RFA to understand what is expected of each applicant. Services can only be provided in California.</p>
28	General	<p>I came across your Request for Proposal. I would like to kindly confirm whether Sierra Leone is eligible to apply for this grant.</p> <p>I have reviewed the details and believe our organization meets the qualifications, but I would appreciate your confirmation regarding Sierra Leone's eligibility.</p>	<p>The applicant must be registered to do business in California. In order to contract with the State of California, all applicants must be able to complete Attachment 8: Contractor Certification Clauses, Attachment 9: Darfur Contracting Act Certification, and Attachment 10: Payee Date Record (STD 204).</p> <p>Please read the complete RFA to understand what is expected of each applicant. Services can only be provided in California.</p>
29	General	i request to send us basic information about bid	<p>The RFA can be found on the Commission website below:</p> <p>https://bhsoac.ca.gov/connect/grant-funding-opportunities/request-for-proposal-rfp-for-innovation-partnership-fund-ipf-001/</p>

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30	General	Whether organizations based outside the United States are eligible to apply as lead applicants, or	<p>The applicant must be registered to do business in California. In order to contract with the State of California, all applicants must be able to complete Attachment 8: Contractor Certification Clauses, Attachment 9: Darfur Contracting Act Certification, and Attachment 10: Payee Data Record (STD 204).</p> <p>Please read the complete RFA to understand what is expected of each applicant. Services can only be provided in California.</p>
31	General	Whether international organizations may participate as part of a consortium or partnership with a California-based entity, and if so, what level of involvement is permitted	<p>The applicant must be registered to do business in California. In order to contract with the State of California, all applicants must be able to complete Attachment 8: Contractor Certification Clauses, Attachment 9: Darfur Contracting Act Certification, and Attachment 10: Payee Data Record (STD 204).</p> <p>Please read the complete RFA to understand what is expected of each applicant. Services can only be provided in California.</p>
32	General	I would appreciate any guidance on how international experience and models can be positioned to support California county behavioral health systems within this RFA.	Question is outside of the scope of the RFA and will not be addressed

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33	General	we would appreciate your clarification regarding the eligibility of AUB to apply for this call, considering that AUB is a not-for-profit, private university of higher education established in Lebanon and registered in Lebanon and the USA, and the project will be conducted in Lebanon.	<p>The applicant must be registered to do business in California. In order to contract with the State of California, all applicants must be able to complete Attachment 8: Contractor Certification Clauses, Attachment 9: Darfur Contracting Act Certification, and Attachment 10: Payee Data Record (STD 204).</p> <p>Please read the complete RFA to understand what is expected of each applicant. Services can only be provided in California.</p>
34	General	I registered for the 3pm, but am unable to attend due to an emergency issue. Will this be recorded?	The Commission's bidder's conferences were not recorded and no additional materials beyond the RFA were displayed.
35	Grant Categories page 12	Please clarify if county entities, including county behavioral health agencies are eligible to apply for the large grants?	Large grants are open to all organizations and entities that meet eligibility requirements.
36	General	Could you please forward us RFA?	<p>The RFA can be found on the Commission website below:</p> <p>https://bhsoac.ca.gov/connect/grant-funding-opportunities/request-for-proposal-rfp-for-innovation-partnership-fund-ipf-001/</p>
37	5. Contract Term and Available Funding	<p>Performance Period</p> <p>Please confirm the total performance period for this award. Is the term 30 months, or does it extend through June 30, 2029? If both apply, please clarify the activities expected during any months beyond the core performance period (e.g., closeout only).</p>	The performance period is 30 months from contract execution. However, the contract term will extend to June 30 th , 2029, to provide adequate time for final deliverable payment to be processed.

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38	5. Contract Term and Available Funding	Is IPF Round 1 funding fully appropriated for the entire contract term, or is it subject to annual renewal or future appropriations? If funding levels are reduced during the term, will the scope of work and deliverables be renegotiated accordingly?	Funds will be appropriated for Fiscal Year 2026-27.
39	Attachment 4. Proposed Innovation	Deliverables Schedule and Governing Calendar Will deliverable timelines be aligned to calendar months following contract execution or to the State fiscal year? If these timelines conflict, which schedule will govern?	The deliverable timeline will be aligned to calendar months following contract execution.
40	Confidentiality, PHI, and Applicability of Clause 24 (Exhibit C) Exhibit C, Clause 24 of the sample contract requires compliance with HIPAA, Welfare and Institutions Code § 5328, and 42 CFR § 431.300.	Can the Commission confirm whether this requirement applies only to the extent that the Grantee creates, receives, maintains, or transmits protected or individually identifiable health information (PHI/IHI)?	General data requirements are specified in Section 6.D (Deliverables). Given the unique nature of each project, specific data elements will be determined by the Commission and reflect the scope of the innovation proposed. These elements will be determined post-award and prior to contract execution. Grantees can provide a unique identifier for evaluation purposes and are not required to provide direct identifiers such as social security number (SSN). Data requirements may include indirect identifiers such as gender or race and ethnicity. Data cannot be submitted in aggregate form. Data security standards can be provided to Grantees prior to contract execution.

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41	Confidentiality, PHI, and Applicability of Clause 24 (Exhibit C) Exhibit C, Clause 24 of the sample contract requires compliance with HIPAA, Welfare and Institutions Code § 5328, and 42 CFR § 431.300.	May a Grantee structure its work such that it does not receive or store PHI/IHI, and instead receives only de-identified or aggregated data, without being required to operate as a HIPAA-regulated entity?	General data requirements are specified in Section 6.D (Deliverables). Given the unique nature of each project, specific data elements will be determined by the Commission and reflect the scope of the innovation proposed. These elements will be determined post-award and prior to contract execution. Grantees can provide a unique identifier for evaluation purposes and are not required to provide direct identifiers such as SSN. Data requirements may include indirect identifiers such as gender or race and ethnicity. Data cannot be submitted in aggregate form. Data security standards can be provided to Grantees prior to contract execution.
42	Confidentiality, PHI, and Applicability of Clause 24 (Exhibit C) Exhibit C, Clause 24 of the sample contract requires compliance with HIPAA, Welfare and Institutions Code § 5328, and 42 CFR § 431.300.	Can the Commission confirm that, under this program, Grantees are not expected to receive PHI/IHI, and that all required data submissions (including semi-annual reports, outcomes surveys, and secure data transfers) may be satisfied using de-identified or aggregated data only?	General data requirements are specified in Section 6.D (Deliverables). Given the unique nature of each project, specific data elements will be determined by the Commission and reflect the scope of the innovation proposed. These elements will be determined post-award and prior to contract execution. Grantees can provide a unique identifier for evaluation purposes and are not required to provide direct identifiers such as SSN. Data requirements may include indirect identifiers such as gender or race and ethnicity. Data cannot be submitted in aggregate form. Data security standards can be provided to Grantees prior to contract execution. Do not include any PHI/IHI with your application.

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43	Confidentiality, PHI, and Applicability of Clause 24 (Exhibit C) Exhibit C, Clause 24 of the sample contract requires compliance with HIPAA, Welfare and Institutions Code § 5328, and 42 CFR § 431.300.	Prior to award, will the Commission provide written clarification that (a) the Grantee will not receive PHI/IHI, (b) confidentiality compliance obligations apply only to the extent applicable, and (c) any data provided to the Grantee will be de-identified prior to receipt?	<p>General data requirements are specified in Section 6.D (Deliverables). Given the unique nature of each project, specific data elements will be determined by the Commission and reflect the scope of the innovation proposed. These elements will be determined post-award and prior to contract execution. Grantees can provide a unique identifier for evaluation purposes and are not required to provide direct identifiers such as SSN. Data requirements may include indirect identifiers such as gender or race and ethnicity. Data cannot be submitted in aggregate form. Data security standards can be provided to Grantees prior to contract execution.</p> <p>The Commission does not provide identifiable data to Grantees. Grantees are expected to collect and report data to the Commission as detailed in Section 6.D (pages 17-18).</p> <p>The Commission reserves the right to amend requested data, depending on the scope of the grant.</p> <p>Do not include any PHI/IHI with your application.</p>
44	Appendix 1. Sample Contract Exhibits B and C	Intellectual Property (IP) Clarification How should applicants clearly identify and protect pre-existing intellectual property versus newly developed work product within deliverables to avoid unintended assignment of pre-existing IP to the State?	This question is outside of the scope of the RFA application process and will be addressed if you were to win a grant.

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45	Appendix 1. Sample Contract Exhibits B and C	Subcontractor Review and Approval Process What is the Commission's process and expected timeline for reviewing and approving subcontractors? Please clarify the submission method (e.g., email or portal) and the information required for approval.	The Commission will be efficient in their review. Details will be provided if you are awarded a grant.
46	Appendix 1. Sample Contract Exhibits B and C	In the event the Commission terminates the contract without cause prior to completion, will the Commission consider pro rata acceptance and payment for partially completed deliverables that are usable or provide value?	This will be handled on a case-by-case basis when the situation arises.
47	Appendix 1. Sample Contract Exhibits B and C	Insurance Requirements Will the final contract include required insurance types and coverage limits (e.g., General Liability, Cyber Liability, Professional / Errors & Omissions)? If so, where are these requirements specified, or when will they be provided?	This will be addressed on case-by-case basis, depending on the proposed innovation, whether insurance will be needed.
48	General	On page 12 of the RFA, it states, "Applicants may only submit one (1) application per grant category." Additionally, on page 19, it defines the applicant as "the lead or prime contractor." Is that a person or an agency? For example, if someone is applying from a university, is the person the "applicant" or the university? I'm trying to understand if the limit to 1 application per category applies to the person leading or the place/agency/university where they work.	An Applicant is the entity submitting the application and whose name will be on the grant contract if awarded a grant. The Applicant must meet the minimum requirements.

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49	7.Information Required in the Application D. Proposed Innovation 7.Deliverables a) workplan	Is it required that the County Behavioral Health Services Department serve as the lead agency or maintain active participation in the submission of the RFA for an organization to be eligible to submit a response or is the letter sufficient?	County behavioral health departments are not required to be the lead agency for the application. ATTACHMENT 4-1: Letter of Intent is scored as part of the application and is worth 500 points out of the 13,010 points available.
50	General	Other than funding limits, what are the differences between applying for a small versus large grant?	Category 1 – Small Grants are grant awards of less than \$500,000 and must provide support that the organization is either a community-based organization, non-profit entity, and/or tribal organization.
51	D.7.a.1) Include a Letter of Intent from at least one (1) County Behavioral Health Department that you will collaborate with in developing the Workplan (ATTACHMENT 4-1: Letter of Intent)	And this was the 2 nd session? We had leadership that was unable to attend last minute. With no recording, would there at least be slides available?	The Commission’s bidder’s conferences were not recorded and no additional materials beyond the RFA were displayed.
52	D.7.a.1) Include a Letter of Intent from at least one (1) County Behavioral Health Department that you will collaborate with in developing the Workplan (ATTACHMENT 4-1: Letter of Intent)	When I tried to join it said the hose has not started the meeting. Will there be a recording to watch?	The Commission’s bidder’s conferences were not recorded and no additional materials beyond the RFA were displayed.

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53	D.7.a.1) Include a Letter of Intent from at least one (1) County Behavioral Health Department that you will collaborate with in developing the Workplan (ATTACHMENT 4-1: Letter of Intent)	How will CBH assist applicants in working with County Behavioral Health agencies?	No. The Commission does not facilitate applicants in working with county behavioral health agencies.
54	D.7.a.1) Include a Letter of Intent from at least one (1) County Behavioral Health Department that you will collaborate with in developing the Workplan (ATTACHMENT 4-1: Letter of Intent)	Are County Behavioral Health agencies required to respond to applicants and support applicants proposals?	No. County behavioral health agencies are not required to respond to or support applicant proposals.
55	D.7.a.1) Include a Letter of Intent from at least one (1) County Behavioral Health Department that you will collaborate with in developing the Workplan (ATTACHMENT 4-1: Letter of Intent)	What avenues can applicants explore if their County Behavioral Health agency is not responsive or does not provide information regarding the process to request a letter or explore proposals?	There is no alternative to submit in place of the Letter of Intent. ATTACHMENT 4-1: Letter of Intent is scored as part of the application and is worth 500 points out of the 13,010 points available.

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56	D.7.a.1) Include a Letter of Intent from at least one (1) County Behavioral Health Department that you will collaborate with in developing the Workplan (ATTACHMENT 4-1: Letter of Intent)	How will the Commission ensure applicants have equal access to County Behavioral Health support?	The Commission does not facilitate applicants in working with county behavioral health agencies.
57	D.7.a.1) Include a Letter of Intent from at least one (1) County Behavioral Health Department that you will collaborate with in developing the Workplan (ATTACHMENT 4-1: Letter of Intent)	Counties are currently in the middle of finalizing and submitting final IPs shift to BHSA, deal with enormous budget deficits, while facing unprecedented uncertainty and constantly changing federal policy being completed, while facing unprecedented policy changes and enormous budget deficits. Additionally, some County Behavioral Health agencies are notoriously difficult to engage and work with - will CBH support the collaboration of applicants with County Behavioral Health agencies to ensure equitable scoring across applications in this area?	No. The Commission does not facilitate Applicants in working with county behavioral health agencies.

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58	General	<p>It was quite pity that I couldn't attend the bidders funders conference yesterday.</p> <p>It was due to circumstances beyond my control and clash of time with my official duty- being in exam invigilation.</p> <p>Please I have some few questions I needed to ask in the webinar and will plead to know how to ask the questions.</p>	<p>The RFA contains all the information necessary and provides instructions as to how to ask questions. The RFA can be found on the Commission website below:</p> <p>https://bhsoac.ca.gov/connect/grant-funding-opportunities/request-for-proposal-rfp-for-innovation-partnership-fund-ipf-001/</p>
59	General	<p>where is the projects needed to be done? Can we apply for Ethiopia?</p>	<p>Services for this grant can only be provided in California.</p>
60	General	<p>can we apply with other co-applicant NGOs for a single project?</p>	<p>Only one organization can serve as the Applicant. Applicants can subcontract with other organizations with the approval of the Commission.</p>
61	General	<p>Whether projects implemented outside California (e.g., Sub-Saharan Africa/Kenya) are eligible for consideration under this RFA;</p>	<p>Services for this grant can only be provided in California.</p>
62	General	<p>Whether a partnership model involving a U.S.-based lead organization and an implementing partner in Kenya would meet eligibility requirements;</p>	<p>The Applicant must meet the minimum requirements including being registered to conduct business in California and maintain an “active” status.</p> <p>Services for this grant can only be provided in California.</p>

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63	General	Whether there is any flexibility for global implementation with potential applicability or learning for California’s public behavioral health system	Services for this grant can only be provided in California.
64	General	Is it possible to receive the recording of Friday's Bidders Conference? I registered for one of them, but wasn't able to join.	The Commission’s bidder’s conferences are not recorded and no additional materials beyond the RFA are provided.
65	General	I'm writing to inquire if the Innovation Partnership Fund covers Uganda as well.	<p>The applicant must be registered to do business in California. In order to contract with the State of California, all applicants must be able to complete Attachment 8: Contractor Certification Clauses, Attachment 9: Darfur Contracting Act Certification, and Attachment 10: Payee Date Record (STD 204).</p> <p>Please read the complete RFA to understand what is expected of each applicant. Services can only be provided in California.</p>
66	General	Are Community Based Organizations from Africa eligible to apply?	<p>An Applicant must be registered to do business in California and maintain an “Active” status. In order to contract with the State of California, all applicants must be able to complete Attachment 8: Contractor Certification Clauses, Attachment 9: Darfur Contracting Act Certification, and Attachment 10: Payee Date Record (STD 204).</p> <p>Services for this grant can only be provided in California.</p>

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67	General	by the time I saw an advert for the opportunity on LinkedIn, the conference meeting was done so I didn't attend, is my community based Organization still eligible to apply?	Attending the bidder's conference is not required to apply. Read the RFA to ensure that you meet all of the requirements.
68	Section 5, Contract Term and Available Funding	Is the longest possible term for project activities 30 months? Would it be possible to extend the time for execution of a large grant beyond 30 months, assuming the project remains within the overall budgetary requirements?	The term for project activities is 30 months. This term will not be changed.
69	Section 6E, Deliverable Acceptance	The RFA states deliverables must be approved by the Commission before an invoice is submitted for payment. Does this mean that all project costs (e.g., staff salaries, participant compensation) must be borne by the applicant prior to being "reimbursed" by the Commission at the completion of deliverables?	This is a deliverable based contract. No funds will be paid prior to the receipt and approval of deliverables by the Commission, per the contract terms.
70	Section 7, Information Required in the Application	Is there a total page limit for the application or a page limit for any of its subsections?	Requirement D.2. has a 3-pages response limit. There is no limit on any of the other requirements. Responses should be succinct and to the point of responding to the requirement. There are no additional points for the length of a response

Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

RFA IPF-001

Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
71	Appendix 4, Section D2	Does the three page limit referenced here only refer to section D2?	<p>Requirement D.2. has a 3-pages response limit. There is no limit on any of the other requirements.</p> <p>Responses should be succinct and to the point of responding to the requirement. There are no additional points for the length of a response</p>
72	Section 3, Purpose	For a small grant (under \$500,000), would it be sufficient to identify and design a proposed county-level intervention to improve outcomes for youth mental health, or would a grant also need to test the proposed solution to be competitive?	It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The Commission does not assess eligibility prior to receiving an application.
73	General	Can a public healthcare district serve as the lead applicant under Category 2?	Category 2 grants are open to all organization types who meet the Minimum Requirements stated in Attachment 2 of the RFA.
74	General	Are partnership or a network/ecosystem model required or preferred, and what level of formalization (e.g. MOUs) is expected at the time of submission?	There is no required or preferred model and level of formalization.
75	General	What are the key evaluation priorities for competitive Category 2 proposals (e.g., scale, regional impact, innovation, integration of services)?	All applications will be scored according to the criteria listed in the RFA.
76	General	Are there any specific guidelines or limitations on allowable costs, particularly for staffing, infrastructure, telehealth, or transportation services?	See Addendum 2 for the definition of Allowable Costs

Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

RFA IPF-001

Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
77	General	Are there examples or characteristics of highly competitive proposals that you recommend to applicants when structuring their program?	All applications will be scored according to the criteria listed in the RFA.
78	General	I would like to kindly ask if it would be possible to grant me a one-day extension to submit my application for the Request for Application (RFA) for the Innovation Partnership Fund (IPF-001). I understand that the deadline has already passed, but I would be very grateful if you could allow me this short additional time to complete and submit my application.	The deadline to submit proposals is May 8, 2026, by 12:00 PM (PDT)
79	General	We have recently watched that The Commission for Behavioral Health (CBH) announced a request for applications via Linkdin, therefore we kindly request you to let us know can we submit a RFA from Afghanistan. looking forward to hearing from your side	An Applicant must be registered to do business in California and maintain an “active” status. In order to contract with the State of California, all applicants must be able to complete Attachment 8: Contractor Certification Clauses, Attachment 9: Darfur Contracting Act Certification, and Attachment 10: Payee Date Record (STD 204). Services for this grant can only be provided in California
80	General	Unfortunately I was not able to make the bidders conference. May we still apply and is there a video of the conference?	The Commission’s bidder’s conferences were not recorded and no additional materials beyond the RFA were displayed.
81	General	Is there a link to a reply of the 'Bidders Conference' for this RFA that was held on Friday, March 27, 2026?	The Commission’s bidder’s conferences were not recorded and no additional materials beyond the RFA were displayed.

Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

RFA IPF-001

Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
82	General	We are in the process of submitting an RFA and were unable to attend the Bidder's Conference. Is there a recording that can be shared?	The Commission's bidder's conferences were not recorded and no additional materials beyond the RFA were displayed.
83	General	I'm reaching out to check whether we are eligible for this grant. We attended the webinar but it still is unclear if we can qualify for being past awardees. We previously applied for and received funding in the 2023 grant cycle to support the development of the CHBYI allcove in Watsonville	There are no restrictions that precludes a previous grant awardee from applying for this grant.
84	General	Could you share any available bidding meeting materials (recording, slide deck, or related resources) from Friday's call? One of our Principal Consultants, [REDACTED] tried to join the call on Friday but was only accepted into the meeting room toward the end of the meeting.	The Commission's bidder's conferences were not recorded and no additional materials beyond the RFA were displayed.
85	General	In the event of an award being granted, can the AB20 template be used for the agreement?	This is a Commission issued grant based on a competitive procurement and the Commission contract template will be used for all grants. University contracting templates will not be used.
86	General	I wanted to ask where the application link was located for the IPF opportunity? I am new to the Commission on Behavior Health so I am unsure of the application process.	All key dates are listed in the RFA, which can be found on the COMMISSION website below: https://bhsoac.ca.gov/connect/grant-funding-opportunities/request-for-proposal-rfp-for-innovation-partnership-fund-ipf-001/

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RFA IPF-001

Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
87	EXHIBIT D: Budget & Narrative	Wanting to confirm formulas in Salary Detail Tabs in cell F69 (Subtotal Direct Cost) is supposed to be the sum of F30+F43+F67 and not including F55 (Subtotal Subcontractors)?	The formulas are correct. The Subtotal Direct Cost is a title only and not being used for any calculation.
88	General	I was brought on to develop a proposal on behalf of a local nonprofit organization after the bidder's conferences had already concluded. Is there a place I can find the recording?	The Commission's bidder's conferences were not recorded and no additional materials beyond the RFA were displayed.
89	General	I was scheduled to attend the Bidders Conference IPF (Session 1) webinar on Friday but was unexpectedly out sick and missed it. Would you be able to provide a recording of the webinar or slides?	The Commission's bidder's conferences were not recorded and no additional materials beyond the RFA were displayed.
90	General	Just circling back to see if either of the Bidder's Conferences were recorded?	The Commission's bidder's conferences were not recorded and no additional materials beyond the RFA were displayed.
91	Attachment 4-1: Letter of Intent	Is the expectation that our County Behavioral Health Department will be the middle man of funding for this grant?	Funding is disbursed directly to the applicant. The Commission issues the funds to the Grantee. Please see Addendum 2 change related to the Letter of Intent
92	Attachment 4-1: Letter of Intent	Does our County Behavioral Health Department receive any funding from this grant or have expectations to receive funding from this grant in support of the expected required collaboration?	The Applicant is responsible for determining the amount paid to other entities, including County Behavioral Health Departments, and such costs must be detailed in the Budget Sheet. You may add the line to the Cost Sheet

Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

RFA IPF-001

Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
93	Attachment 7: Bidder Declaration	This is something we will fill out with the information we receive from our expected subcontractors? If this is to change or we have more than what space is provided, do we need to submit multiple or those that are our largest partners?	Submit this form for all subcontractors. Add additional sheets as necessary.
94	General	where can I find the webinar recording and slides, please?	The Commission's bidder's conferences were not recorded and no additional materials beyond the RFA were displayed.
95	General	Is there a recording of the bidder's conference on Mar 27th?	The Commission's bidder's conferences were not recorded and no additional materials beyond the RFA were displayed.
96	General	Can a fiscally sponsored organization receive an Innovation Partnership Fund grant? The organization and its fiscal sponsor are both located in California and have operated for more than 2 years.	Fiscal sponsors are allowed. If the fiscal sponsor is the Applicant, they must meet all minimum requirements.
97	General	How will the specific amount of funding released after each deliverable be determined?	The deliverable amounts will be proposed by the Applicant and approved by the Commission prior to executing a grant contract.
98	General	Is there a certain percentage cap of the overall funding amount that can be invoiced after completing the Workplan?	This is a fixed price, deliverables-based contract. Payment is only made upon successful completion or each deliverable and acceptance by the Commission.
99	Section D. Proposed Innovation	We see a page limit listed for Section D (Proposed Innovation). Can you please confirm that no other sections have required page limits? Thank you!	Requirement D.2. has a 3-pages response limit. There is no limit on any of the other requirements. The RFA states, "Responses should be succinct and to the point of responding to the requirement. There are no additional points for the length of a response."

Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

RFA IPF-001

Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
100	General	Does a program designed for SMI individuals qualify if the priority populations are represented within the client base, rather than being the sole or exclusive focus of the program design?	It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The Commission does not assess eligibility prior to receiving an application.
101	General	Can I apply form Kenya in East Africa?	<p>The applicant must be registered to do business in California. In order to contract with the State of California, all applicants must be able to complete Attachment 8: Contractor Certification Clauses, Attachment 9: Darfur Contracting Act Certification, and Attachment 10: Payee Data Record (STD 204).</p> <p>Please read the complete RFA to understand what is expected of each applicant. Services can only be provided in California.</p>
102	General	I just saw an email about this, will the bidders conference recording be made available?	The Commission’s bidder’s conferences were not recorded and no additional materials beyond the RFA were displayed.
103	General	We are partnering with our local department of behavioral health, if awarded these funds, DBH has requested that these funds be directly awarded to us (a county office of education). Is this a possibility? Our local DBH has stated that they will write a strong letter to support this	Funds will be disbursed to the lead Applicant only. The RFA allows payments to subcontractors/partners
104	General	If our local DBH, writes a strong letter of support, regarding our partnership, is that sufficient to apply for this RFA?	Please see Addendum 2 changing the Letter of Intent to a Letter of Support.

Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

RFA IPF-001

Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
105	D. Deliverables	Is an internal evaluation or a program evaluator a required program activity/component for this RFA?	Data collection and reporting is central to the deliverables outlined in this RFA. Applicants must describe how they will meet these requirements as part of the RFA. We strongly suggest Applicants include any necessary staffing to fulfill the data collection and reporting responsibilities in their cost Sheet and Budget Narrative.
106	General	<p>We would be grateful for your technical guidance and clarification regarding the eligibility parameters for this RFA, specifically:</p> <p>Whether non-governmental organizations (NGOs) headquartered outside the United States, particularly those operating within Nigeria and the broader African region, are eligible to apply as prime applicants; The permissibility and structural considerations for international NGOs to participate through formal partnerships, consortium arrangements, or as sub-recipients with U.S. based entities including organizations domiciled in California; Any specific compliance requirements, regulatory considerations, or restrictions applicable to non-U.S. applicants under this funding mechanism.</p>	<p>The applicant must be registered to do business in California. In order to contract with the State of California, all applicants must be able to complete Attachment 8: Contractor Certification Clauses, Attachment 9: Darfur Contracting Act Certification, and Attachment 10: Payee Data Record (STD 204).</p> <p>Please read the complete RFA to understand what is expected of each applicant. Services can only be provided in California.</p>
107	General	I was registered to attend session 2 of the bidder's conference but the meeting was never started. I am wondering if there is a recording or way to get more information given this issue.	The Commission's bidder's conferences were not recorded and no additional materials beyond the RFA were displayed.

Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

RFA IPF-001

Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
108	Exhibit D: Budget and Narrative	Are there specific restrictions to what should be included in administrative costs?	See Addendum 2 for a definition of Allowable costs, which includes Administration costs.
109	8. Application Instructions	Could we submit letters of support in addition to references and the letter of intent from the county behavioral health department? For example, a letter of support from a potential program partner.	Please see Addendum 2 changing the Letter of Intent to a Letter of Support
110	General	<p>We currently operate a program... With additional funding, we would expand this program to... While the curriculum is standardized and evidence-based, our delivery approach incorporates innovative methods.</p> <p>Would this funding support prevention-focused programming? If so, can this expansion be included alongside other program components under the same grant?</p>	It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The Commission does not assess eligibility prior to receiving an application.
111	General	Would this funding support preventative efforts addressing social media addiction among youth?	It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The Commission does not assess eligibility prior to receiving an application.

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Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
112	General	<p>... currently provides case management and anger management services to justice-involved youth on probation. Many of these youth face significant barriers to employment and are at increased risk of gang involvement due to financial need. To address this, we are planning to launch a YouthWorks store that would offer paid employment and on-the-job training opportunities.</p> <p>Would this workforce development initiative be eligible as part of our proposal?</p>	<p>It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The Commission does not assess eligibility prior to receiving an application.</p>
113	General	<p>The proposal says you can submit a max. of 1 grant per category (Small and Large grants). Are there any limits on being included as a subgrantee in other proposals?</p>	<p>There is only one lead Applicant per application. There are no restrictions on being a subcontractor.</p>
114	General	<p>Are there any character, word, or page limits in the narrative other than to provide a "straightforward, concise explanation of capabilities to satisfy the requirements of this RFA" (page 62)?</p>	<p>Requirement D.2. has a 3-pages response limit. There is no limit on any of the other requirements.</p> <p>The RFA states, "Responses should be succinct and to the point of responding to the requirement. There are no additional points for the length of a response."</p>
115	General	<p>Page 67 of the RFA says "A cover letter shall be considered an integral part of the application," but a cover letter is not included on the list of Required Documents on page 72.</p>	<p>Attachment 1: Application Cover Sheet is the cover letter.</p>

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Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
116	General	Are bidders required to use the Attachments as forms to fill out, OR are they intended as templates so that bidders can create Word docs that include all info. in the Attachments?	Applicants should use the provided attachments for their responses. The RFA is in Word, which allows flexibility for the Applicant to complete
117	General	Confirming that the response to questions D.1. and D.7.a-f. is the Workplan attachment (Appendix 2) so there does not need to be additional narrative response under those sections?	Correct. If a requirement states, “Use APPENDIX 2 – WORKPLAN to respond to this requirement” means that no response is needed on the attachment.
118	General	Could you please share links to the webinar recording and slides?	The Commission’s bidder’s conferences were not recorded and no additional materials beyond the RFA were displayed.
119	General	I wanted to attend this conference, however, had to attend to an emergent situation. Was the event archived or is there a slide deck that can be forwarded for review?	The Commission’s bidder’s conferences were not recorded and no additional materials beyond the RFA were displayed.
120	General	Can funds be used for rehabilitation of the program facility?	It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The Commission does not assess eligibility prior to receiving an application.
121	5	Is the term 30 or 36 months? The RFA states a 7/1/26 - 6/30/29 term, but describes it as a 30 month period	The term for project activities is 30 months. Contract end date reflects additional time necessary for final deliverables to be paid.
122	6	Is the purchase of a wellness center space allowable for this RFA?	It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The Commission does not assess eligibility prior to receiving an application.
123	6	Where can we find a list of allowable/unallowable costs?	See Addendum 2 for the definition of Allowable Costs.

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Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
124	10.A (question C.1.a)	What is meant by “provide support in the form of documentation” here? Copies of our licenses, IRS determination letter, etc.?	The narrative and documentation are two separate responses. Documentation must be in the form of text or 2D graphics/images (ex. Screenshots of org chart, organization webpage, or promotional materials etc.) to be inserted/pasted into the provided attachment.
125	10.A (question D.1.)	When it says to use the work plan to respond to this requirement, do we leave the cell for D.1. empty on Attachment 4?	Correct. Any reference to the Appendix D: Workplan means that the response shall be provided in the Workplan and not the Attachment.
126	10.A (question D.7.1.a)	We need to include a letter of intent from the County to develop the workplan. Does this mean that for the RFA, our organization must collaborate with a County agency to develop the workplan submitted with our application? Or do we submit an initial workplan that we will then collaborate with the County to update once we are awarded?	The workplan deliverable is separate from the workplan provided in the RFA. Once the contract is executed, the Grantee will share a comprehensive workplan within the first 90 days of contract execution and annually thereafter.
127	General	<p>Can you please let me know if you can share a transcript of the call which took place last week?</p> <p>I missed it and would like to receive the RFA to apply for grant funding under this program.</p>	<p>The Commission’s bidder’s conferences were not recorded and no additional materials beyond the RFA were displayed.</p> <p>The RFA and all relevant documents can be found on the Commission website below:</p> <p>https://bhsoac.ca.gov/connect/grant-funding-opportunities/request-for-proposal-rfp-for-innovation-partnership-fund-ipf-001/</p>
128	General	Can I speak to someone regarding technical assistance to submit this proposal for the platform we are building?	This is a competitive procurement, and the Commission cannot hold individual discussions with potential Applicants.

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Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
129	General	Can you confirm whether fiscally sponsored organizations are eligible?	Fiscal sponsors are allowed. If the fiscal sponsor is the Applicant, they must meet all minimum requirements.
130	General	Are the award amounts annual or is an award amount for the entire multi year timeframe?	The grant award is for the term of the grant contract.
131	General	<p>██████████ Train New Trainers Primary Care Fellowships is interested in the Innovation Partnership Fund (IPF) Request for Application (RFA). Based on our brief description below, do we meet the key application requirements:</p> <p><i>[The additional text was not included since it did not include a question]</i></p>	Applicants must demonstrate how they meet application requirements through the application process. The Commission does not predetermine eligibility before receiving an application.
132	General	<p>Can a portion of the funding support a robust evaluation component?</p> <p>We would use a hybrid implementation/effectiveness design for the evaluation, examining not only whether the innovation is working, but implementing lessons learned along the way. This would support expansion post grant period, as well as delivery of the most effective services.</p>	See Addendum 2 for the definition of Allowable Costs.
133	General	I noticed that the start date is July, which is very soon. The RFA mentions that later start dates are possible. What are the latest start dates?	Any changes to start date would need to be approved by the Commission. The latest possible start date is October 1 st , 2026.

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Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
134	General	Also, does the 30 month project period extend from whatever the start date is? For instance, if we began October 1 2026 would the grant funding end April 1, 2029? A later start date would allow more preparation for hiring needed personnel and ensuring innovation success	Yes, the 30 month project period would begin at the contract start date.
135	General	Is it required or encouraged that we work with more than one county? Within a relatively short time frame, such as 30 months, it seems concentrating on one county (especially a large one) could have substantial benefit in terms of innovation success. Implementation lessons and effectiveness data from a single county could be used for expansion efforts after the grant period ends.	All applications will be scored according to the criteria listed in the RFA.
136	General	I was also wondering when the Q&A from the synchronous virtual sessions will be posted online for others to see	The Commission's bidder's conferences were not recorded and no additional materials beyond the RFA were displayed.
137	General	On page 26 of the RFP, it states that "references shall be from organizations that have received products, services, or related support." Can references also be provided from clients who have received services from the applicant?	References may be from clients/individuals. See Addendum 2 for the change.

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Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
138	General	<p>For Profit Lead Applicant Eligibility</p> <p>The RFA states that Category 2 is “open to all organization and entity types.” [REDACTED] is a for-profit, direct-delivery ECM provider. We seek confirmation that for-profit entities are eligible to serve as lead applicants under Category 2, and whether any additional documentation of organizational eligibility will be required at time of submission</p>	<p>A for-profit entity may apply for Category 2. Follow the requirements in the RFA for eligibility.</p>
139	General	<p>Indirect Benefit Mechanism via Medi-Cal MCPs (D.5.c)</p> <p>Section D.5.c requires demonstration of indirect benefit through Medi-Cal managed care plans. HHN operates under existing contracts with IEHP, Molina Healthcare, and CalOptima, through which ECM enrollment is currently facilitated. Do existing ECM enrollment pathways through contracted MCPs satisfy this requirement, or must the project demonstrate a new or expanded referral pathway?</p>	<p>Applicants must meet at least one of the criteria under D.5. to qualify. If the Applicant is using 7.D.5.c to meet this requirement, then the applicant must clearly convey how the innovative solution in the application indirectly benefits county behavioral health programs by increasing the number of clients served through private or commercial insurance, or Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans, thus reducing strain on current county behavioral health programs.</p>

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Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
140	General	<p>Scope of Generative AI Disclosure Obligation</p> <p>The RFA includes a generative AI disclosure requirement. Please clarify whether this applies to the use of AI in proposal development, program/service delivery, or both, and specify the required disclosure method or format for each context</p>	<p>The Generative AI Disclosure applies to the goods and/or services that will be provided as part of the grant. Please review the RFA and follow the State of California’s GenAI disclosures.</p>
141	General	<p>Payment timing and schedule –</p> <p>Will funds be disbursed on a reimbursement basis, an advance/cost-forward basis, or a hybrid schedule tied to contract milestones?</p>	<p>This is a deliverables-based contract. Funds will be disbursed upon the successful completion and the Commission’s acceptance of each deliverable</p>
142	General	<p>Outcome-based withholding –</p> <p>Does CBH reserve any portion of grant funds contingent on demonstrated outcome achievement (e.g., enrollment targets, recidivism reduction, service utilization metrics), and if so, what percentage and at what measurement intervals?</p>	<p>This is a deliverables-based contract. There is no reserve for contingent based outcomes.</p>

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
143	General	<p>Milestone triggers –</p> <p>What are the expectations for milestone reporting and progress monitoring, including reporting frequency (e.g., monthly, quarterly)? Additionally, if disbursement is milestone-based, will milestone definitions and timelines be provided by CBH, co-developed with awardees during contracting, or expected to be proposed and fixed at the time of submission?</p>	<p>This contract is deliverables-based and all deliverables will be paid according to the timeframes indicated in Section 6.D.</p>
144	General	<p>Allowable Use of Grant Funds. Can grant funds be used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staffing and service delivery during startup and implementation ● Technology, data infrastructure, and care coordination platforms ● Workforce development and training programs ● Pilot program implementation costs during the grant period 	<p>See Addendum 2 for the definition of Allowable Costs.</p>

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Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
145	General	<p>Hybrid innovation types –</p> <p>If a proposed innovation spans more than one category (e.g., service delivery plus workforce development), should applicants select a primary type and note secondary components, or does CBH expect a single classification? Will reviewers score hybrid models differently than single-type innovations?</p>	<p>The RFA does not require the Applicant to indicate category type as a part of the application process. The Applicant describes the innovation in a narrative format.</p>
146	General	<p>Workforce development as innovation –</p> <p>Does CBH consider the deployment of a peer navigator or community health worker workforce model embedded within a direct-service ECM program as a qualifying innovation under the "training" category, the "service" category, or a distinct type? This classification affects how HHN structures the program design narrative in D.4 and D.6.</p>	<p>Applicants must demonstrate how they meet application requirements through the application process. The Commission does not predetermine eligibility before receiving an application.</p>
147	General	<p>County LOI Requirements and Signatory Authority</p> <p>Can the required county behavioral health department LOI be signed by a delegated authority (e.g., program manager or division chief), or must it be signed by the director? Additionally, is a single county LOI sufficient, or are LOIs required for each county served, and does submitting multiple LOIs impact scoring?</p>	<p>The LOI/LOS can be signed by a delegated authority within the county behavioral health department.</p> <p>A single LOI/LOS is sufficient.</p>

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Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
148	General	<p>Evaluation Requirements and Structure</p> <p>Will applicants be required to conduct a formal program evaluation? If so, does CBH require or prefer an independent external evaluator, or is an internal QI-based evaluation acceptable?</p>	<p>The Commission does not require external evaluators. However, data collection and reporting is central to the deliverables outlined in this RFA. Applicants must describe how they will meet these requirements as part of the RFA. We strongly suggest Applicants include any necessary staffing to fulfill the data collection and reporting responsibilities in their cost Sheet and Budget Narrative.</p>
149	General	<p>Peer Navigator Lived Experience Documentation</p> <p>For D.6.c, does CBH require formal documentation of lived experience (e.g., certification or self-attestation), or is a narrative description sufficient?</p>	<p>A narrative response is sufficient for D.6.c.</p>
150	General	<p>Outcomes, Metrics, and Definition of Success</p> <p>What outcomes and performance metrics will the Commission prioritize in evaluating proposals? Are there specific system-level outcomes of greatest interest (e.g., reduced hospitalizations, improved engagement, housing stability, workforce expansion), and what thresholds define a “successful” project for funding consideration?</p>	<p>The outcomes and metrics described by the applicant should align with the goals of the BHSA, and either directly or indirectly support county behavioral health departments. The Commission does not define success for the Applicant. The Applicant must clearly convey to the Commission how they define success for their proposed innovation.</p>

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Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
151	General	<p>Implementation Timeline and Planning Period</p> <p>Is there an expected planning or ramp-up period at the start of the grant, or are projects expected to begin full implementation immediately upon contract execution?</p>	<p>There is no planning period as a part of this grant cycle. Any changes to start date would need to be approved by the Commission. The latest possible start date is October 1st, 2026.</p>
152	General	<p>Sustainability Through ECM and Ongoing Funding</p> <p>Can sustainability strategies include transitioning members into ECM for ongoing reimbursement beyond the grant period, and does CBH provide guidance on aligning grant-funded services with long-term reimbursement pathways?</p>	<p>Applicants must demonstrate how they meet application requirements through the application process. The Commission does not predetermine eligibility before receiving an application.</p>
153	2. Background	<p>Can the proposed services and program include undocumented and/or uninsured individuals in the target populations?</p>	<p>The Commission does not designate the insurance status or immigration status of clients served by the Applicant.</p>
154	3. Purpose	<p>Can the proposed services and program include individual, family, and couples therapy?</p>	<p>The RFA does not restrict types of services. However, the Applicant must clearly communicate how the proposed innovation meets the requirements of the RFA.</p>
155	General	<p>I had a quick question regarding RFA IPF-001—would it be permissible for our organization to apply both individually and as part of a group application with other FQHCs?</p>	<p>There is only one lead Applicant for an application.</p>

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Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
156	A. County Behavioral Health Alignment and the Letter of Intent	The RFP states that proposed solutions must “apply to and support county behavioral health programs” but this may be through “indirect support” such as services that reduce demand on county behavioral health. To be clear, is an upstream (i.e., state-level) innovation implemented outside of county behavioral health eligible as long as it reduces downstream burden on county behavioral health systems?	It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation would benefit county behavioral health programs, directly or indirectly, by reducing demand on county behavioral health departments.
157	A. County Behavioral Health Alignment and the Letter of Intent	Further, for applicants whose proposed innovation is implemented upstream, providing indirect support to counties, would a Letter of Intent (LOI) from the relevant state agency satisfy the LOI requirement, or is a separate letter from a county behavioral health department also required even if that is not the direct location of the innovation?	Please see Addendum 2 changing the Letter of Intent to a Letter of Support.
158	B. Data Requirements and Grantee Responsibilities	The RFP states that CBH will specify the data elements required for semi-annual data submissions and reserves the right to amend those requirements. Will the required data elements be defined in the contract at execution, or will they be negotiated during the first 90-day workplan phase?	The data elements will be included in the contract based on the information provided in the application. The Commission reserves the right to amend those requirements, as necessary.

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Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
159	B. Data Requirements and Grantee Responsibilities	The CBH IPF Implementation and Outcomes Survey is referenced as a required deliverable, but the survey instrument does not appear in the RFP. Will the Commission share the survey instrument prior to contract execution, or will grantees have input into the instrument development?	The Outcomes Survey will be designed by the Commission and provided to Grantees prior to contract execution. The survey will be standardized across all Grantees.
160	C. Evaluation and Learning Cohort	The RFP requires participation in an IPF learning cohort. Can the Commission describe the anticipated structure, time commitment, and meeting frequency for the learning cohort? Understanding this is important for staffing and budget planning.	The learning cohort is anticipated to meet quarterly to facilitate shared learnings and best-practices.
161	C. Evaluation and Learning Cohort	The Annual Report requires grantees to submit findings to the county behavioral health department for feedback before submission to the Commission. For applicants working with a state-level partner with indirect benefits to counties, should this review step involve the state partner, a designated county partner, or both?	See Addendum 2 making county behavioral health feedback optional Incorporating feedback from other partners would be at the discretion of the Grantee.

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162	D. Administrative and Application Questions	<p>The budget worksheet includes an “Administrative Expenses” category, which notes that such expenses may not exceed 15% of the total budget. The RFA, however, does not define what constitutes “administrative expenses.” To ensure consistent interpretation across applicants, could the agency please clarify which specific costs should be included in this category? In particular, we seek confirmation that indirect costs—such as those recovered through an approved indirect cost rate to cover organization-wide overhead (e.g., accounting, human resources, facilities, and other shared administrative functions)—are not intended to be included within the 15% administrative expense limitation. Typically, indirect costs are treated as a separate and allowable cost category under federal and state grant guidance, distinct from direct administrative or project management expenses. Furthermore, as this is going to be a fixed price deliverable contract it would be reasonable to conclude that indirect costs are allowable. Clarifying this distinction will help ensure equitable competition and avoid unintentionally limiting the pool of qualified applicants as this type of restriction could affect an organization’s ability to pursue the work.</p>	<p>See Addendum 2 for a definition of Allowable costs, which includes Administration costs.</p>
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Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
163	D. Administrative and Application Questions	We would like to ask a question about the GenAI provision in the RFP to clarify what use(s) require disclosure to the state. For example, may the contractor use AI tools to support administrative tasks, data analysis, etc.? Additionally, will the use of AI influence selection of the contractor, and affect evaluation of the contractor's performance once executed?	Any GenAI used to support any activity that is paid for with this grant needs to be disclosed. All applications will be scored according to the criteria listed in the RFA.
164	D. Administrative and Application Questions	Is it permissible to submit Letters of Reference regarding qualifications of subcontractors, in addition to the 3 letters for the primary Applicant?	Letters of Reference for subcontractors can be submitted, but will not be scored.
165	General	How does the Commission view workforce-integrated models, specifically those that embed supervised trainees, such as residents, into care delivery, as part of an innovation strategy to expand access and address workforce shortages?	Applicants must demonstrate how they meet application requirements through the application process. The Commission does not predetermine eligibility before receiving an application.
166	General	Would the development or integration of a Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU), as part of a broader access and navigation model, be considered within scope for innovation funding, particularly when positioned as an alternative to ED boarding and inpatient admission?	Applicants must demonstrate how they meet application requirements through the application process. The Commission does not predetermine eligibility before receiving an application.

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Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
167	General	Can you clarify the level of county behavioral health partnership expected for a strong application, beyond a Letter of Intent? How important is demonstrated operational integration with county workflows or referral pathways?	Please see Addendum 2 changing the Letter of Intent to a Letter of Support, which addresses the relationship between the Applicant and a county behavioral health department.
168	General	Can you further clarify how the Commission distinguishes between program expansion and true innovation, particularly for models that integrate multiple components, such as access, crisis stabilization, and care navigation, into a single coordinated system?	Applicants must demonstrate how they meet application requirements through the application process. The Commission does not predetermine eligibility before receiving an application.
169	General	How important is the use of real-time data infrastructure, such as Electronic Health Record (EHR)- integrated dashboards, for demonstrating agility and quality improvement in the proposed innovations?	Applicants must successfully demonstrate how they will use data for quality improvement. The Commission does not predetermine how a Grantee accomplishes this task.
170	General	Where can we watch the recording of the bidders conference for RFA IPF-001?	The Commission's bidder's conferences were not recorded and no additional materials beyond the RFA were displayed.
171	General	We have another question about the CBH Innovation Partnership Fund -- will there be a start-of-contract advance made to awardees?	This is a deliverable based contract and payment will be made upon receipt and acceptance of deliverables specified in Section 6.D.

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Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
172	Sections 3 (Purpose), 5 (Contract Term & Available Funding), 6 (Scope of Work)	Are IPF funds permitted to be used for renovation, refurbishment, or minor capital improvements to an existing applicant-owned or leased facility (for example, converting space into a behavioral-health-serving community center), provided that the improvements are directly tied to delivering the proposed innovation and serving BHSA priority populations?	See Addendum 2 for the definition of Allowable Costs.
173	General	If permissible, are there any limitations or restrictions on the type or percentage of grant funds that may be used for facility-related costs (e.g., build-out, furnishings, safety upgrades)?	See Addendum 2 for the definition of Allowable Costs.
174	Section 3 (Definition of Innovation)	To what extent may peer-led support groups, recovery-oriented groups (including AA or AA-informed models), or community-based group interventions be considered innovative for purposes of this RFA if they are adapted for underserved or rural populations, integrated into county behavioral health workflows, or delivered in culturally specific or non-traditional settings?	Applicants must demonstrate how they meet application requirements through the application process. The Commission does not predetermine eligibility before receiving an application.
175	General	Would such models be considered responsive if the delivery approach, population served, or system integration is new, even if the underlying model is well established?	Applicants must demonstrate how they meet application requirements through the application process. The Commission does not predetermine eligibility before receiving an application.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
176	Sections 3 (Purpose), 6 (Scope of Work), Cross-Cutting Elements	Many individuals within BHSA priority populations experience significant social determinants of health (SDOH) challenges such as housing instability, food insecurity, or transportation barriers. May proposed projects include SDOH-focused services or supports (e.g., navigation, resource linkage, stabilization activities) as part of the innovation, when these activities are integrated with behavioral health prevention, early intervention, or recovery supports?	Applicants must demonstrate how they meet application requirements through the application process. The Commission does not predetermine eligibility before receiving an application.
177	General	Are there boundaries or limitations regarding the extent to which SDOH services may be included while remaining eligible under IPF funding?	Applicants must demonstrate how they meet application requirements through the application process. The Commission does not predetermine eligibility before receiving an application.
178	Sections 3 (Cross-Cutting Elements), 6 (Scope of Work), Data & Quality Improvement Requirements	For peer support, prevention-focused, or group-based interventions (including recovery groups), what types of outcomes or success measures are considered acceptable or preferred by the Commission? Specifically, are process and engagement measures (such as participation, retention, access improvements), client-reported outcomes, qualitative feedback, or community-defined indicators acceptable alongside required surveys and data submissions when traditional clinical outcomes are not immediately measurable?	The outcomes and metrics described by the applicant should align with the goals of the BHSA, and either directly or indirectly support county behavioral health departments. The Commission does not define success for the Applicant. The Applicant must clearly convey to the Commission how they define success for their proposed innovation.

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Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
179	Section 7 (Information Required in the Application); Contract & Subcontract Provisions	Is it allowable for applicants to subcontract specialized roles, such as implementing a train-the-trainer model where an external expert trains staff or peers who then deliver the innovation locally? If permitted, are there any limitations regarding the proportion of work performed by subcontractors or expectations for documentation at the application stage versus post-award?	Subcontracting is allowed. There are no specific limitations in this RFA, but the Bidder Declaration (GSPD-05-105) states, “Bids must propose that certified bidders provide a commercially useful function for the resulting contract or the bid will be deemed non-responsive and rejected by the State.” Certified bidders are considered the Applicants.
180	Section 3 (Definition of Innovation), Cross-Cutting Elements (Public-Private Partnerships)	Are applicants permitted to partner with or subcontract telehealth or digital behavioral health providers (including for-profit technology or telehealth vendors) as part of their proposed innovation? If so, what expectations exist regarding integration with county behavioral health systems, data sharing, or workflow alignment to ensure clear benefit to county behavioral health programs?	The Commission does not determine or limit what technology Grantees use. The Commission has no requirement of data sharing between county behavioral health and the Grantee.
181	General / Clarifying Question	Does the Commission prioritize system-level impact, scalability, and sustainability over the novelty of individual program components, particularly when applicants are adapting existing or evidence-informed models for new populations, geographies, or delivery settings?	All applications will be scored according to the criteria listed in the RFA.

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Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
182	General	County role and Letters of Intent: Are there any limitations on the number of County Behavioral Health Departments that may participate in or support a single application, and how should multi-county partnerships be reflected in the required Letter of Intent?	<p>Please see Addendum 2 changing the Letter of Intent to a Letter of Support.</p> <p>There is no restriction in the number of behavioral health departments that can be included in an application,</p>
183	General	Definition of innovation: For counties that have previously implemented or piloted promising models, how does the Commission distinguish between a “clear break from the status quo” and an innovation that meaningfully adapts, expands, or scales a model in a new or transformative way? We are currently bringing in more people in the community that are recognized as healers to work with our people on health and culture, like sweats (purification ceremonies).	The definition of Innovation for the purposes of this RFA is provided on in Section 3, “Definition of Innovation” (page 6). It is the responsibility of the applicant to adequately articulate how the application meets the definition of innovation in the RFA.
184	General	Grant category considerations: Are there any evaluation or review considerations counties should be aware of when an applicant organization is determining whether to apply under the Small Grant category, the Large Grant category, or both?	Large and small grants are defined by the amount of funding and eligible organization type, not by evaluation expectations.
185	General	UIHS was awarded a grant from BHCIP for a new stand alone facility - we see this as a strategic opportunity for innovation and treatment. Does that cause any conflict or competing interests?	See Addendum 2 for the definition of Allowable Costs and understand that these grant funds may not be used to supplant, existing financial and resource commitments of the applicant for their proposed program unit.

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Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
186	General	Is it required that an applicant collaborate with its County Behavioral Health Department?	Please see Addendum 2 changing the Letter of Intent to a Letter of Support, which addresses the relationship between the Applicant and a county behavioral health department.
187	General	If the answer to question 1 is "Yes," is the Letter of Intent (LOI), which both the Applicant and the County Behavioral Health Department must sign (see: Attachment 4-1), the only LOI an applicant must submit?	Please see Addendum 2 changing the Letter of Intent to a Letter of Support, which addresses the relationship between the Applicant and a county behavioral health department.
188	General	██████████ does not publish an annual report. Is it OK for ██████ not to meet this requirement as stated in Attachment 4, D.7.e?	No. Contract deliverables are a requirement to receive grant funds.
189	General	How many references are required (see: Attachment 4, D.7.e)?	The Applicant is required to provide three (3) References.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
190	General	<p>Section 5.A – Minimum Qualifications (B.1.) Our organization, [REDACTED] was incorporated as a California Nonprofit Corporation on September 24, 2024. As of the application deadline of May 8, 2026, we will have been operational for approximately 19 months</p> <p>Does our organization meet the minimum qualification requirement of two (2) years of operation, and if not, are there alternative forms of documentation (such as prior programmatic activity, fiscal sponsorship history, or founding team experience) that may be considered to demonstrate operational capacity?</p>	<p>There are two (2) separate requirements for the Minimum Qualifications. All Applicants must meet each one individually.</p>
191	Section 5B: Grant Categories	<p>Can you confirm that a for-profit private behavioral health practice is eligible to apply as a lead applicant under Category 2, with no restrictions based on organizational structure?</p>	<p>All organizations are eligible to apply for large grants.</p>
192	Section 5A: Eligibility Criteria	<p>Is there a requirement for the applicant to have an existing formal contract or MOU with a county behavioral health department at the time of application, or is demonstrated alignment and an active intent to partner sufficient for eligibility?</p>	<p>Existing MOUs with county behavioral health departments are not required as part of the application.</p>

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
193	Section 5A: Eligibility Criteria	Are services delivered off-site in community settings -- such as school campuses, faith community sites, homeless shelters, and community centers -- eligible as funded activities under Category 2? If so, are there any requirements around formal site agreements or MOUs with those locations?	There is no restriction on off-site service delivery. Applicants are responsible for determining if MOUs are necessary with partner organizations, and are responsible for executing any necessary MOUs.
194	Section 6B IPF Application Requirements	Is telehealth, in addition to in person, an eligible delivery modality for services funded through this grant? If so, are there any restrictions on the proportion of services delivered via telehealth?	There is no restriction on service delivery modality.
195	Section 6B IPF Application Requirements	For proposed groups serving individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders, how does CBH recommend applicants classify these services within the application - as mental health, substance use disorder, or cooccurring? Does the classification affect eligibility or scoring?	The Commission does not specify how Applicants classify their services. All applications will be scored according to the criteria listed in the RFA.
196	Section 6B IPF Application Requirements	For applicants proposing a community-embedded delivery model serving multiple settings rather than a single clinic site, is there a preference for naming specific county or community partners at the time of application, or are proposals demonstrating clear intent and readiness to partner also competitive?	All applications will be scored according to the criteria listed in the RFA.

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Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
197	Section 6B IPF Application Requirements	Is the development of a replicable model package (including fidelity protocols, facilitator guides, and outcome documentation designed for adoption by county behavioral health departments or other community-based organizations) an eligible and scorable use of grant funds?	<p>It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The Commission does not assess eligibility prior to receiving an application.</p> <p>All applications will be scored according to the criteria listed in the RFA.</p>
198	Attachment 2: Minimum Qualification	As a local government entity, we do not register with the California Secretary of State as business entities do. Should we submit our City Charter or another form to satisfy the B.2 requirement for the Minimum Qualification form?	You may provide any document that supports you are a local government entity.
199	ATTACHMENT 7: BIDDER DECLARATION (GSPD-05-105)	Our procurement rules require us to go through a competitive RFP process for subcontractors, so we cannot name them in applications, for the Bidder Declaration form can we put TBD for subcontractors?	Explain your procurement rules in the Application as to why you cannot name the subcontractors at this point in time. If awarded a grant, this will need to be completed once subcontractors are identified.

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Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
200	Required Documents ATTACHMENT 11: FINAL SUBMISSION CHECKLIST	The table of contents and workplan are not reflected in the submission checklist or Required Documents section, should the table of contents be the first page and should the work plan be included after Attachment 4: Proposed Innovation? Additionally, should the budget and budget narrative be the last document as it is listed in the checklist but not the required documents section.	There is no requirement as to the specific order of the documents in your application.
201	ATTACHMENT 3: APPLICANT BACKGROUND ATTACHMENT 4: PROPOSED INNOVATION	Is there a word count or page limit for the narratives, specifically attachments 3 and 4?	Requirement D.2. has a 3-pages response limit. There is no limit on any of the other requirements. Responses should be succinct and to the point of responding to the requirement. There are no additional points for the length of a response
202	2. Background	Do applicants have to propose to serve all of the priority populations mentioned on pg. 4 or some?	Eligibility requirements are listed on page 11.
203	2. Background	What age range does BHSA define as children and youth?	Children are defined as birth through 15 years, and youth as 16 to 25 years of age.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
204	EXHIBIT D: BUDGET AND NARRATIVE	Is there a grant administration guideline document available where allowable/unallowable expenses are detailed? If not, is a vehicle, food, and nursing supplies allowable?	See Addendum 2 for the definition of Allowable Costs.
205	D. Contract Performance	We are planning to expand a team with this funding, and the hiring process will take time. Is a six-month planning process allowable? This is considering that the contract performance section states services are expected to begin upon contract execution.	There is no planning period as a part of this grant cycle. Any changes to start date would need to be approved by the Commission. The latest possible start date is October 1 st , 2026.
206	EXHIBIT D: BUDGET AND NARRATIVE	Is there a description for each of the categories of the budget? More specifically, what is the difference between program expenses and operational expenses?	There is no additional information besides what is included in the Exhibit D. Applicants can choose how they would categorize the costs.
207	Required Documents	Attachment 12: Questions Template is included in the required documents list for submission on pg. 33? Does it need to be included in the submission?	Attachment 12: Questions Template is not a required document for submitting an application. See Addendum 2 for clarification.
208	County Partnership Expectations	Is a formal partnership with a county behavioral health department required at the time of application, or can applicants propose a model designed to align with and support county systems with partnership development occurring post-award?	A formal partnership is not required at the time of the application. Please see Addendum 2 changing the Letter of Intent to a Letter of Support.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
209	Integration with Medi-Cal / Insurance	To what extent should proposed projects demonstrate integration with existing Medi-Cal or insurance reimbursement structures as part of long-term sustainability?	It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The Commission does not assess eligibility prior to receiving an application.
210	Definition of “Innovation”	Would scaling and systematizing an already operational, integrated care model (e.g., combining medical evaluation, behavioral services, and caregiver support into a rapid-access pipeline) meet the threshold for innovation, particularly if it significantly improves access and outcomes?	It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The Commission does not assess eligibility prior to receiving an application.
211	Allowable Use of Funds	Can funds be used for infrastructure development (e.g., care coordination systems, staffing models, and technology platforms) in addition to direct service delivery?	See Addendum 2 for the definition of Allowable Costs.
212	Geographic Scope	Should proposals focus on a single county/region, or is a multi-county or scalable statewide model preferred?	There is no preferred number of counties. All applications will be scored according to the criteria listed in the RFA.
213	Evaluation & Outcomes	Are there specific outcome measures or evaluation frameworks the Commission expects applicants to incorporate, or should applicants propose their own metrics aligned with project goals?	The outcomes and metrics described by the applicant should align with the goals of the BHSA, and either directly or indirectly support county behavioral health departments.

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Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
214	Category 2 Collaboration	For larger-scale proposals, is collaboration with multiple partners (e.g., schools, community organizations, or healthcare providers) viewed favorably or expected?	All applications will be scored according to the criteria listed in the RFA.
215	Referenced throughout the RFA as “County behavioral health programs”	Could you please clarify the anticipated sources of client referrals under the RFA? If awarded, should applicants expect referrals only from Behavioral Health departments, or potentially from other county departments as well? Understanding this would help us better estimate the capacity needed to effectively serve referred clients.	The Commission does not determine referral sources for Applicants.
216	General	Is a recording from the IPF Bidders Conference available?	The Commission’s bidder’s conferences were not recorded and no additional materials beyond the RFA were displayed.
217	General	<p>I am seeking clarification regarding the allowability and application of indirect cost rates for the Innovation Partnership Fund (IPF-001) Request for Application.</p> <p>Does this grant require applicants to use a specific indirect cost rate or impose a maximum cap on indirect costs? If not, may applicants apply their federally negotiated indirect cost rate (NICRA) or the 10% de minimis rate in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200?</p>	<p>See Addendum 2 for a definition of Allowable costs, which includes Administration costs.</p> <p>For the purposes of this RFA, the Commission uses Administration costs and not Indirect costs.</p>

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
218	General	Additionally, are there any program-specific guidelines or restrictions on how indirect costs should be allocated or documented for this funding opportunity?	Exhibit D: Budget and Narrative contains a line for Administration Costs.
219	5.B.2.a. (pg 12) “Applicants may apply for a single grant category (i.e., only a Category 1 - Small Grant or only a Category 2 - Large Grant) or for both grant categories (i.e., a Category 1 - Small Grant and a Category 2 - Large Grant)”	When University of California programs apply for a grant, the campus is technically the applicant. Does this mean that each University of California campus can only apply for a single grant in each category? Or can multiple, separate programs, serving different populations with different staff, each apply for grants?	See Addendum 2, which allows each campus under the University of California to be an Applicant and submit an application for each category. If a program within the UC is a registered non-profit, they may apply as a non-profit organization separate from the UC.
220	7.B.3. (pg 20) “Category 1 – Small Grants – Provide support that your organization is either a community-based organization, non-profit entity, and/or tribal organization.”	Are University of California applicants eligible for Category 1 Small Grants? By statute, the University is a non-profit entity, but can also be classified as a institution of higher education or as a part of state government.	See Addendum 2, which allows each campus under the University of California to be an Applicant and submit an application for each category. If a program within the UC is a registered non-profit, they may apply as a non-profit organization separate from the UC.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
221	7.E.2. (pg 25) This is a deliverables-based contract. Contractor will only be paid for the successful completion of the deliverables and activities listed on the Cost Sheet. Payments will be made no more frequent than on a quarterly basis.	Will initial funding for start-up costs be provided before deliverables can be met and reported? What is the anticipated time lapse between submission of documentation of completing deliverables and approval? What is the anticipated time lapse between submission of an invoice and payment?	This is a fixed price, deliverables-based contract. Payment is only made upon successful completion of each deliverable and acceptance by the Commission. The timeframe for approving deliverables is based on a case-by-case basis, depending on the quality and completeness of each deliverable. Per the Prompt Payment Act, the State has 45 days from acceptance of an invoice until payment must be made.
222	7.D.2. (pg 21) “... Your response should not exceed three pages.”	The Innovations section should not exceed three pages. Are there any word or page limits for any of the other narrative sections of the application?	Requirement D.2. has a 3-pages response limit. There is no limit on any of the other requirements. Responses should be succinct and to the point of responding to the requirement. There are no additional points for the length of a response
223	Section 9. Submission, B. Required Application Format	Are we required to submit each Attachment in the format that is provided in the RFA, or can we modify the formatting? For example, each Attachment has the CBH logo in the header. Can we edit the header or footer to include our organization’s name?	The body of each attachment should be used, as tables are provided for your response. An Applicant may modify the header and footer to be consistent with their application.
224	Exhibit B. Budget and Narrative	Exhibit B asks for “AGREEMENT #”, “NAME OF AGREEMENT”, and “FISCAL YEAR.” What should we put in these cells	Leave these fields blank.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
225	Page 11, Section 5 Contract Term	The RFP states that the term of this contract will be from July 1, 2026, through June 20, 2029. This equals 36 months. However, in the same paragraph, the RFP refers to the “30-month contract.” Can CBH please clarify this discrepancy?	The performance period is 30 months from contract execution. However, the contract term will extend to June 30 th , 2029, to provide adequate time for final deliverable payment to be processed.
226	Page 26, Subsection E Cost Sheet	CBH again states that the “applicant is required to propose annual costs for the thirty (30) month term of this agreement”; however the contract term previously stated on page 11 is 36 months. Can CBH please clarify this discrepancy?	The performance period is 30 months from contract execution. However, the contract term will extend to June 30 th , 2029, to provide adequate time for final deliverable payment to be processed.
227	Page 12, Section 5.B.b Category 2 – Large Grants	The RFP states that individual large grants will have a ceiling of \$5,000,000, a minimum of 3 grants will be awarded, and \$16,000,000 total is available. If 3 grants are awarded, this totals \$15,000,000. Is the ceiling \$5,000,000 for a minimum of 3 grants with a total of \$15,000,000 available, or \$5,333,333 for a minimum of 3 grants with a total of \$16,000,000 available?	The RFA states the minimum number of grants that will be awarded and not the maximum number of grants. Grant amounts requested for the Large category can range from \$500,000 to \$5,000,000.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
228	Page 16, Section 6 Scope of Work, subsection C Grantee Responsibilities	Item 4 states that Contractors must “Administer a CBH IPF Implementation and Outcomes Survey to project staff and clients at least twice per year.” Is this survey created by CBH for Contractors to use?	The survey is proposed and created by the Contractor.
229	Page 16, Section 6, subsection C Grantee Responsibilities	Item 5 states that Contractors must “Collect and report service-level and client-level data, as determined by the Commission, for evaluation and quality improvement purposes.” Has this service-level and client-level data already been determined by the Commission? If so, can CBH please share the required data? If it has not yet been determined, when and how will the required data be determined?	General data requirements are specified in Section 6.D (Deliverables). Given the unique nature of each project, specific data elements will be determined by the Commission and reflect the scope of the innovation proposed. These elements will be determined post-award and prior to contract execution.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
230	Page 20, Section 7, subsection C Applicant Background	The RFP states Applicants must “Describe how long your organization has been in existence, including your mission, core activities, and organizational structure.” Under this, the RFP says, “Provide support in the form of documentation.” Is this referring to the “copy or screen shot of your California Secretary of State certification” to be included with Attachment 2? What information needs to be provided in the narrative section?	<p>No. Being registered to do business in California is a separate requirement. Attachment 3: application background requires a narrative description of the organization’s mission, core activities, and organizational structure, as well as documentation (ex. org chart, screen shots of the organization’s webpage or images of promotional material etc.) to substantiate the narrative provided.</p> <p>Applicants need to decide the type of documentation they feel supports the stated requirement. The Commission does not require a specific type of documentation for this requirement.</p>
231	Page 21, Section 8, subsection D Proposed Innovation	CBH asks proposers to “describe” certain things under each requirement. Are those lettered items the “criteria”? In other words, for “3. Meets the Definition of Innovation”, are “a-d” the aforementioned criteria that applicants must meet at least one of?	Your understanding is correct.
232	Page 30, Section 8, subsection H Signature of Bid (Application)	The RFA says, “A cover letter shall be considered an integral part of the application.” Is the cover letter mentioned here the same as Attachment 1, Cover Sheet, or is an additional cover letter required?	Yes. Attachment 1: Application Cover Sheet is the cover letter.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
233	Page 34, Section 10 Scoring Process	The RFA states, “The following information is required for all applications.” The section then goes on to describe the application scoring process, which doesn’t seem to outline any information required in the application. Could CBH please clarify what information this section is required for all applications?	Section 7 identifies the requirements that need to be addressed in the application. Section 10 explains how that information will be scored. There is no additional information being requested in Section 10.
234	Page 50, Attachment 3, subsection C.1.a	C.1.a asks proposers to “provide support in the form of documentation.” Where should proposers attach this documentation and how should we reference it?	Documentation must be in the form of text or 2D graphics/images (ex. Screenshots of org chart, organization webpage, or promotional materials etc.) to be inserted/pasted into the provided attachment. Applicants can provide the documentation anywhere in the Application that is easy to find. The reference could be the page number or other easily identifiable information.
235	Page 49, all attachments	CBH has not included any word or page counts for the attachments and their prompts. Can CBH please state if there are word or page counts for each attachment?	Requirement D.2. has a 3-pages response limit. There is no limit on any of the other requirements.
236	Page 49, Attachment 2: Minimum Qualifications	Attachment 2’s instructions say to “reference the location of the application where documentation is located”. Should Applicants attach the requested supporting documentation directly after each attachment? If not, where should Applicants include supporting documentation?	Applicants can decide where they want to include supporting documentation in their application that would be easy to find.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
237	Page 52, Attachment 4: Proposed Innovation	D.1., instructions say to “use appendix 2 – workplan to respond to this requirement.” Should we embed the workplan in the template box, or should we attach the workplan separately, reference it in the box, and leave the box blank?	Appendix 2 is a standalone document and the integrity of the document needs to be maintained with your Application. Applicants have the discretion of determining where to include in their application that is easy to find and legible to read.
238	Attachment 3: Applicant Background	Item C.1. and C.1.a state “describe your organization, including your mission, core activities, and organizational structure. C.1.a Provide support in the form of documentation.” Do Applicants need to provide a separate document to support the description of our mission, core activities, and organizational structure? Is item C.1.a only asking for an organizational chart?	<p>The narrative and documentation are two separate responses. Documentation must be in the form of text or 2D graphics/images (ex. Screenshots of org chart, organization webpage, or promotional materials etc.) to be inserted/pasted into the provided attachment.</p> <p>The actual C.1. requirement stated in Section 7 is, “Describe how long your organization has been in existence, including your mission, core activities, and organizational structure.”</p> <p>See Addendum 1 for the requirement clarification.</p> <p>Applicants need to provide enough support to address the requirement.</p>
239	Attachment 3: Proposed Innovation	Items D.1 and D.7.a-f all specify that Applicants should use a different attachment or appendix to reply to those prompts. Do we need to include each item’s question and answer boxes in our response to refer to the other attachments or can we omit these items from the narrative in our final response (as they will be covered by the workplan or letter)?	For all requirements in which the Attachment states, “Use APPENDIX 2 – WORKPLAN to respond to this requirement,” the response for those requirements only needs to be provided on the Appendix 2 -Workplan and not on the Attachment.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
240	Section 5.B.1.b	<p><u>Eligibility and Competitiveness of Private Foundations as Lead Applicants</u></p> <p>The RFA indicates that Category 2 (Large Grants) is open to all organization types (Section 5.B.1.b), and encourages collaborative, cross-sector partnerships.</p> <p>Can the Commission confirm that private foundations are eligible to serve as the lead applicant for an IPF grant?</p> <p>Additionally, are there any considerations in the scoring process related to the type of lead applicant (e.g., foundation vs. service provider vs. public agency)?</p> <p>For example, would applications led by a foundation—serving as a convener, funder, and systems partner, with implementation carried out by provider organizations—be considered equally competitive, assuming all other requirements are met?</p>	<p>All organizations are eligible to apply for Large grants. Large grants are open to all organization types including private foundations.</p> <p>All applications will be scored according to the criteria listed in the RFA.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The Commission does not assess eligibility prior to receiving an application.</p> <p>The Scoring Process stated in the RFA addresses how all applications will be scored.</p>

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
241	Section 7.B and Section 10	<p><u>Applicant Experience and Prior State Funding</u></p> <p>The RFA outlines minimum qualifications related to organizational experience and capacity (Section 7.B) and describes a competitive scoring process (Section 10).</p> <p>Can the Commission clarify whether prior experience receiving or managing State of California contracts or grant funding is a factor in scoring?</p> <p>Specifically, if an applicant meets all minimum qualifications and demonstrates strong organizational capacity and relevant project experience, but has not previously received State funding, will this be considered neutral in scoring, or could it be viewed as a disadvantage?</p>	<p>All applications will be scored according to the criteria listed in the RFA.</p> <p>The Scoring Process stated in the RFA addresses how all applications will be scored.</p>

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242	<p>Section 6.B.4 and Section 7.D7.a</p>	<p><u>Implementation Partnerships and County Contracting Status</u></p> <p>The RFA emphasizes that proposed innovations must support county behavioral health programs (Section 6.B.4) and include collaboration with county behavioral health departments (e.g., Workplan requirements and Letter of Intent).</p> <p>Can the Commission clarify expectations regarding the types of implementation partners included in an application?</p> <p>Specifically:</p> <p>a) Is there a preference or scoring advantage for implementation partners that are currently contracted providers with County Behavioral Health Services?</p> <p>b) In addition to benefiting programs and services contracted with County BHS, would applications that also support the delivery of innovative services to Managed Medi-Cal recipients and/or CYBHI Fee Schedule school-based behavioral health services be considered equally responsive to the intent of the RFA, particularly if the proposed project demonstrates clear indirect or direct benefit to county contracted systems?</p> <p>c) How should applicants best demonstrate alignment with and support for county</p>	<p>a) The Scoring Process stated in the RFA addresses how all applications will be scored.</p> <p>b) The Scoring Process stated in the RFA addresses how all applications will be scored.</p> <p>c) It is up to the Applicant to determine how to best respond to the requirements. Also, please see Addendum 2 changing the Letter of Intent to a Letter of Support.</p>
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Questions and Responses 2

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
		behavioral health systems when working with a mix of county-contracted and non-county-contracted partners other than a signed letter of intent (Section 7.D.7.a) included in the RFP package?	
243	Section 3	<p><u>Definition of Innovation – Scaling Proven Models</u></p> <p>The RFA defines innovation as including “new or adapted/expanded approaches” and allows for scaling efforts that may not yet be widely implemented in California (Section 3).</p> <p>Can the Commission clarify how applications will be evaluated when proposing the scaling of a well-established, evidence-based model that has demonstrated effectiveness in other settings but has not yet been widely adopted within California’s public behavioral health system?</p> <p>Specifically, will scaling a proven model (with strong evidence of outcomes and cost-effectiveness) be considered fully responsive to the “innovation” criteria, particularly when the proposed work represents a significant departure from current system practices in California?</p>	<p>Applicants must demonstrate how they meet application requirements through the application process. The Commission does not predetermine eligibility before receiving an application. All applications will be scored according to the criteria listed in the RFA.</p> <p>The Scoring Process stated in the RFA addresses how all applications will be scored.</p>

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
244	Section 6.A	<p><u>Evaluation Priorities – Clinical Outcomes vs. System Efficiency</u></p> <p>The RFA outlines goals related to improving outcomes, access, and system performance (Section 6.A), including reducing system burden and improving efficiency.</p> <p>Can the Commission provide additional guidance on how applications will be evaluated with respect to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical outcomes (e.g., symptom reduction, recovery) • System-level outcomes (e.g., reduced wait times, increased throughput, cost per episode) <p>Specifically, will proposals that demonstrate the potential to improve both clinical outcomes and system efficiency (e.g., serving more individuals effectively within existing resources) be prioritized?</p>	<p>All applications will be scored according to the criteria listed in the RFA.</p>
245	Section 7 (Minimum Qualifications)	<p>Can an established community-based organization—with its own governance, staffing, and operational history—but without independent nonprofit or California Secretary of State registration, apply through a fiscal sponsor that meets all eligibility requirements and serves as the legal Applicant?</p>	<p>Fiscal sponsors are allowed. If the fiscal sponsor is the Applicant, they must meet all minimum requirements.</p>

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
246	Section 7 (Minimum Qualifications)	If a fiscal sponsorship is allowed as the lead Applicant, can the sponsored community-based organization be identified as the primary implementing entity of the proposed innovation?	Fiscal sponsors are allowed. If the fiscal sponsor is the Applicant, they must meet all minimum requirements. There is no requirement as to the type of organizations that may be included in the application.
247	Section 7 (Minimum Qualifications)	If a fiscal sponsorship is allowed as the lead Applicant, for purposes of meeting minimum qualifications (e.g., years of operation), can the operational history and programmatic experience of the community-based organization be considered, or must these requirements be met solely by the fiscal sponsor as the legal Applicant?	Fiscal sponsors are allowed. If the fiscal sponsor is the Applicant, they must meet all minimum requirements. Experience from subcontractors or any other organization collaborating with the Applicants cannot be used.
248	Section 7 (Minimum Qualifications)	If a fiscal sponsorship is allowed as the lead Applicant, what documentation is required or helpful to demonstrate the relationship between a fiscal sponsor and an established community-based organization (e.g., fiscal sponsorship agreement, delineation of roles and responsibilities, governance structure)?	It is up to the Applicant to determine the appropriate documentation to be provided to support their application.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
249	Section 7 (Minimum Qualifications) and Appendix 1: Sample Contract Exhibits B and C	<p>Section 7 acknowledges that collaborative applications and subcontractors are allowable in which a specific lead Applicant serves as the prime contractor. Is it allowable for the lead Applicant to allocate a portion of awarded funds to partner organizations (e.g., community-based organizations or nonprofits) through subcontracts to support implementation?</p> <p>If so, is there a minimum amount of information requested about subcontractors specific to the application process itself? (beyond obtaining the Commission’s approval prior to entering any subcontract as laid out in “EXHIBIT C SAMPLE GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.”</p> <p>If so, are there any limitations or requirements regarding the proportion of funds that may be allocated to subcontractors?</p>	<p>Subcontracts are allowed and it is up to the Applicant and proposed subcontractor to determine the amount of payment. Subcontractor information is requested on Exhibit D – Budget and Narrative.</p>

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
250	<p>Section D. Deliverables (pg. 16). Topic:</p> <p>Semi-annual Data Submission</p>	<p>1. As a HIPAA-covered entity, we are only able to share de-identified or aggregate data and must apply the minimum necessary standard for HIPAA and for our organization privacy requirements. We want to confirm the scope, safeguards, and compliance alignment for the semi-annual data submissions before proceeding.” We’re especially mindful of this statement: “The Commission reserves the right to amend requested data, depending on the scope of the grant.” Given our mandated privacy requirements. We’re wondering if:</p> <p>a. You can provide a data dictionary listing fields requested?</p> <p>b. The submission requires any direct identifiers (e.g., name, address, SSN)? *If yes, we cannot provide these.</p> <p>c. Submission needs to include indirect identifiers (e.g., DOB, ZIP code, service dates) that could enable re-identification?</p> <p>d. Can the data be submitted in aggregate or de-identified form?</p> <p>What are your safeguards for data transmission and protection?</p>	<p>General data requirements are specified in Section 6.D (Deliverables). Given the unique nature of each project, specific data elements will be determined by the Commission and reflect the scope of the innovation proposed. These elements will be determined post-award and prior to contract execution.</p> <p>Grantees can provide a unique identifier for evaluation purposes and are not required to provide direct identifiers.</p> <p>Data submissions may include indirect identifiers.</p> <p>Data cannot be submitted in aggregate form.</p> <p>Data security standards can be provided to Grantees prior to contract execution.</p>

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
251	Section E. Deliverables Acceptance (pg. 18) Topic: This is a deliverables-based contract.	To ensure alignment with our internal financial policies, can you confirm our understanding that this deliverables-based contract requires the grantee to incur and carry costs upfront, with payment issued only after deliverables are submitted and approved?	This is a deliverables-based contract. No funds will be paid prior to the receipt and approval of deliverables by the Commission, per the contract terms.
252	Attachment 7: Bidder Declaration Form (pg. 69)	Regarding the Bidder Declaration Form: would organizations partnering with the lead applicant be considered subcontractors (for example, a healthcare plan partnering with a nonprofit)? Relatedly, is a direct partnership with a county office required, or is it sufficient that the county office has an opportunity to provide input and that the proposed work supports a county led initiative?	Any entity or organization providing services under this contract that is not the Applicant is considered a subcontractor. Please see Addendum 2 changing the Letter of Intent to a Letter of Support.
253	Section 7: Information Required in the Application (pg. 19)	As a lead applicant, can you confirm whether our organization would be solely responsible for covering all upfront costs (given the deliverables-based reimbursement structure), as well as for the performance, compliance, and data submissions of all partners and subcontractors (e.g., partner/contractor fails to execute on a deliverable)? Are there any exceptions, shared responsibilities, or risk mitigation provisions we should be aware of?	This is a deliverable based contract. No funds will be paid prior to the receipt and approval of deliverables by the Commission. Since the executed contract will be with the Applicant, the Applicant/Contractor will be responsible for the completion of the proposed innovation and deliverables.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
254	Exhibit D - Budget & Narrative	Where should consultants be incorporated into the budget? In the Program Expenses section, the Subcontractors section, or somewhere else?	Any entity being paid for services in implementing the proposed invoice and completion of the deliverables should be considered as a subcontractor.
255	5. Contract Term & Available Funding	<p>It states that the terms of the contract will begin upon execution (no sooner than July 1, 2026) and end June 30, 2029. It further states that all deliverables must be submitted prior to the end of the 30-month contract in order to be paid.</p> <p>Since the time period between July 1, 2026 and June 30, 2029 is 36 months while the number of months in the contract is noted as 30 months, and the budget template has separate sheets for three (3) years, we plan to submit a budget for twelve (12) months in years one and two and six (6) months in year three. Is this approach acceptable?</p>	The 30 month project period would begin at the contract start date. Any changes to start date would need to be approved by the Commission. The latest possible start date is October 1 st , 2026, to ensure final funds are paid before the end of the contract term.
256	CONTRACT TERM AND AVAILABLE FUNDING (ELIBILITY CRITERIA)	On page 11 of the RFA, it indicates that "Applicants must apply to and support county programs, as specified under WIC Section 5892(a), through one of the following approaches." Does this mean that an applicant can only select one of the approaches that follow, or can we apply to and support county programs through more than one of the direct and indirect approaches listed?	The Applicant can apply to and support county programs through more than one mechanism.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
257	SCOPE OF WORK (DELIVERABLES)	Do proposals need to include the workplan from appendix 2 or is only the LOI needed at this stage?	<p>Applications should include the workplan that addresses specific requirements.</p> <p>Please see Addendum 2 changing the Letter of Intent to a Letter of Support.</p>
258	INFORMATION REQUIRED IN APPLICATION	Are there any page and/or word limits on the narrative pieces?	<p>Requirement D.2. has a 3-pages response limit. There is no limit on any of the other requirements.</p> <p>Responses should be succinct and to the point of responding to the requirement. There are no additional points for the length of a response.</p>
259	Section 7, p.19	Can the prime applicant serve as the administrator/pass through and the subcontractors provide direct service? Must the prime application provide direct service to consumers?	The RFA does not define the roles that an Applicant or subcontractor must fulfill. The Bidder Declaration (GSPD-05-105) states, “Bids must propose that certified bidders provide a commercially useful function for the resulting contract or the bid will be deemed non-responsive and rejected by the State.” Certified bidders are considered the Applicants.
260	Exhibit B, p.77 / Exhibit C, p.88	Can grant funds flow from the lead applicant to subcontractors, and will the Commission accept a budget structure where the majority of direct service costs are carried by subcontractors rather than the lead applicant?	The RFA does not define the roles that an Applicant or subcontractor must fulfill. The Bidder Declaration (GSPD-05-105) states, “Bids must propose that certified bidders provide a commercially useful function for the resulting contract or the bid will be deemed non-responsive and rejected by the State.” Certified bidders are considered the Applicants.
261	Section 7.E, p.25	Are indirect costs or administrative overhead rates allowable budget line items, and if so, is there a cap on the percentage of indirect costs the Commission will approve?	<p>See Addendum 2 for the definition of Allowable Costs.</p> <p>For the purposes of this RFA, the Commission uses Administration costs and not Indirect costs.</p>

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
262	Exhibit D, p.91	Are costs associated with subcontract management, network coordination, and program oversight allowable as direct costs in the budget? Can they be separate from indirect costs?	See Addendum 2 for the definition of Allowable Costs For the purposes of this RFA, the Commission uses Administration costs and not Indirect costs.
263	Section 4, p.9 / Section 8.M, p.31	If the Notice of Intent to Award is posted and a protest is filed, what is the Commission's anticipated timeline for protest resolution? Would the contract start date be delayed beyond July 2026?	The Protest Process is defined in the RFA.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
264	General	<p>We are a for-profit technology company developing a geolocation-based compliance monitoring platform designed to serve the full California behavioral health continuum -- including county-contracted addiction treatment facilities, intensive outpatient programs, and sober living homes that receive county referrals and participate in county behavioral health systems.</p> <p>Our platform enables clinicians to digitally prescribe structured recovery schedules, verify patient attendance at required activities via geofenced check-ins, and receive real-time alerts when patients deviate from their prescribed routines. This directly supports county behavioral health accountability, outcome tracking, and continuity of care for patients transitioning through the public behavioral health system.</p> <p>Does a technology platform designed to serve the full behavioral health continuum -- including facilities that contract with or receive referrals from county behavioral health departments -- qualify as "indirectly supporting county behavioral health programs" under the RFA requirements?</p>	<p>Applicants must meet at least one of the criteria under D.5. to qualify. If the Applicant is using 7.D.5.c to meet this requirement, then the applicant must clearly convey how the innovative solution in the application indirectly benefits county behavioral health programs by increasing the number of clients served through private or commercial insurance, or Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans, thus reducing strain on current county behavioral health programs.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The Commission does not assess eligibility prior to receiving an application.</p>

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
265	General	Is there a requirement that the applicant organization itself hold a county contract or affiliation, or is it sufficient that the proposed solution is designed to support county-connected programs and the broader public behavioral health ecosystem?	There is no requirement that the Applicant hold a county contract or affiliation.
266	Section 5 – Contract Term and Available Funding; Attachment 5 - Cost Sheet; Exhibit D – Budget and Narrative	Could the Commission please clarify whether the funding amounts referenced in the RFA (e.g., less than \$500,000, up to \$5,000,000) for small and large grants represent the total award over the full contract term, or an annual amount to be allocated across multiple years?	The funding amounts represent the total amount available for the full contract term.
267	Attachment 4-1: Letter of Intent	How does the Commission define an adequate and competitive partnership with a County Behavioral Health Department for purposes of the Letter of Intent—specifically, what level of involvement, commitment, or integration the Commission considers sufficient versus exemplary?	Grantees are to share deliverables with county behavioral health departments as detailed in Section 6.D. Grantees and county behavioral health staff will determine the frequency, format, and level of involvement beyond what is specified in the deliverables.
268	Attachment 4-1: Letter of Intent; Section 6 – Scope of Work	Is it sufficient for the County Behavioral Health Department to commit to collaboration on workplan development and review of deliverables as a strategic partner, or does the Commission expect counties to play an operational or implementation role in the proposed innovation?	Grantees are to share deliverables with county behavioral health departments as detailed in Section 6.D. Grantees and county behavioral health staff will determine the frequency, format, and level of involvement beyond what is specified in the deliverables.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
269	Attachment 4-1: Letter of Intent; Section 7 – Information Required in the Application	If a County Behavioral Health Department supports the proposed innovation conceptually but requires final internal approval after award, is a conditional Letter of Intent acceptable? And if so, are there any limitations on the conditions that may be included, provided in the required language?	It is up to the Applicant to agree on a working relationship with the County. Please see Addendum 2 changing the Letter of Intent to a Letter of Support.
270	Section 3: Purpose Definition of Innovation BHSA Priority Populations	How does the Commission interpret ‘prevention’ or ‘early intervention’ within IPF when applicants propose solutions for individuals who do not yet meet SMI/SED/SUD criteria but are at high risk of progressing into those categories (e.g., due to trauma, child welfare involvement, perinatal risk, or early symptom presentation)? And, how are such populations viewed in relation to IPF eligibility and scoring?	The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) clarified, in the BHSA County Policy Manual , that Early Intervention services provided by counties may be provided to individuals lacking a specific diagnosis, as an indicated prevention intervention. The Manual states, “indicated prevention interventions focus on BHSA eligible at-risk individuals who are at risk of and experiencing early signs of mental health or substance use disorder or who have experienced known risk factors for poor behavioral health outcomes, such as trauma, Adverse Childhood Experiences, or involvement with the child welfare or corrections system. This at-risk individual may not yet meet the criteria of a diagnosable mental health or substance use disorder.” All applications will be scored according to the criteria listed in the RFA.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
271	Section 3: Purpose; Definition of Innovation; BHSA Priority Populations	What level or type of documented risk factors (e.g., population-level data, screening indicators, or literature-based evidence) does the Commission expect applicants to demonstrate when proposing prevention or early intervention innovations intending to serve high-risk populations?	It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The foundation and sources for the argument provided are up to the Applicant.
272	Section 6: Scope of Work Goals and Objectives Apply to and Support County Programs	How should applicants demonstrate that a prevention-focused innovation meaningfully supports county behavioral health systems—for example, by reducing future demand for higher-acuity services or improving earlier identification and care pathways?	It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The foundation and sources for the argument provided are up to the Applicant.
273	Purpose Eligibility Criteria	Can the Commission clarify how it distinguishes allowable prevention or early-intervention innovations from wellness or upstream services that may fall outside the intended scope of IFP?	The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) clarified, in the BHSA County Policy Manual , that Early Intervention services provided by counties may be provided to individuals lacking a specific diagnosis, as an indicated prevention intervention. The Manual states, “indicated prevention interventions focus on BHSA eligible at-risk individuals who are at risk of and experiencing early signs of mental health or substance use disorder or who have experienced known risk factors for poor behavioral health outcomes, such as trauma, Adverse Childhood Experiences, or involvement with the child welfare or corrections system. This at-risk individual may not yet meet the criteria of a diagnosable mental health or substance use disorder.”

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
274	Cross-Cutting Elements: Equity Definition of Innovation	How does the Commission view prevention-oriented innovations that intentionally focus on populations experiencing structural risk and disparities, as a strategy to reduce inequitable progression into high-acuity behavioral health systems?	It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The foundation and sources for the argument provided are up to the Applicant.
275	General	Does this RFP require the inclusion of a licensed provider on the project team?	The RFA does not specify staffing as part of the eligibility requirements.
276	General	Does this RFP require the services related to drug/ alcohol addiction other than the other mental health support services?	The RFA does not specify services as part of the eligibility requirements.
277	Attachment 4, proposed innovation / letter of intent	Multiple county LOIs: do we need a letter of intent for each county or will one suffice?	Please see Addendum 2 changing the Letter of Intent to a Letter of Support. It is up to the Applicant to determine the number of Letters of Support that are needed to best support their application
278	Attachment 4, proposed innovation	Scaling from one county to others: the RFA lists this as an eligible innovation criterion. Does the source county (in our case Nevada County) need to have completed the work, or can it be ongoing at the time of application?	The work can be ongoing. However, it is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The foundation and sources for the argument provided are up to the Applicant.
279	Eligibility criteria	Children and youth as primary population: is there any preference or additional weight given to proposals centered on children and youth in the child welfare system versus adult populations?	All applications will be scored according to the criteria listed in the RFA.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
280	Eligibility criteria	Lead applicant structure: can a for-profit consulting firm serve as the lead applicant with county behavioral health departments as named partners, or does the county need to be the lead?	County behavioral health departments are not required to be the lead agency for the application.
281	Deliverables timeline	The 30-month vs. 36-month discrepancy: the contract dates (July 2026 to June 2029) equal 36 months but the document repeatedly references 30 months. Which governs the budget and deliverable timeline?	The performance period is 30 months from contract execution. However, the contract term will extend to June 30 th , 2029, to provide adequate time for final deliverable payment to be processed.
282	Exhibit D, budget and narrative	Year 1 cost cap: the RFA states Year 1 costs cannot exceed one-half of total costs. Given the 30/36 month ambiguity, how are grant years defined — is Year 1 twelve months from contract execution?	Year 1 is twelve months from contract execution.
283	Eligibility / Partnerships	Is formal partnership or endorsement from a County Behavioral Health Department required for all applications, or only strongly encouraged?	A formal partnership is not required at the time of the application. Please see Addendum 2 changing the Letter of Intent to a Letter of Support
284	Partnerships	What level of involvement from County Behavioral Health is expected for a proposal to be considered competitive (e.g., letter of support, formal partnership agreement, co-implementation role)?	Grantees are to share deliverables with county behavioral health departments as detailed in Section 6.D. Grantees and county behavioral health staff will determine the frequency, format, and level of involvement beyond what is specified in the deliverables.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
285	Partnerships / Scope	Can an application be considered competitive if it supports county behavioral health systems indirectly (e.g., through community-based prevention, navigation, or diversion), without a formal county partnership?	All applications will be scored according to the criteria listed in the RFA.
286	Partnerships	Are there specific expectations for how proposed projects must integrate with existing county behavioral health programs or infrastructure?	Grantees are to share deliverables with county behavioral health departments as detailed in Section 6.D. Grantees and county behavioral health staff will determine the frequency, format, and level of involvement beyond what is specified in the deliverables.
287	Partnerships / Data	If a county is not the lead applicant, are there requirements or expectations for data sharing, coordination, or formal agreements with the county?	Grantees are to share deliverables with county behavioral health departments as detailed in Section 6.D. Grantees and county behavioral health staff will determine the frequency, format, and level of involvement beyond what is specified in the deliverables.
288	Eligibility / Lead Applicant	Can a community-based organization serve as the lead applicant for Category 2 (Large Grants), or are these projects expected to be led by public entities such as counties?	All organizations are eligible to apply for large grants.
289	Collaboration Structure	Are there any restrictions on the types or number of partner organizations that can be included in a single application?	There are no restrictions to the type and number of partners.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
290	Collaboration Structure	Is there a preferred structure for collaborative applications (e.g., designated fiscal lead with subcontractors vs. co-equal partners)?	There can only be one lead Applicant. If the fiscal sponsor is the Applicant, they must meet all minimum requirements.
291	Collaboration / Eligibility	Can an organization be the lead applicant on one proposal and a partner on another within the same RFA cycle?	Yes. Only the lead Applicant is considered the Grantee.
292	Collaboration Documentation	How should roles and responsibilities be documented in collaborative applications (e.g., MOUs required at submission vs. post-award)?	<p>Please see Addendum 2 changing the Letter of Intent to a Letter of Support.</p> <p>Applicants may use their discretion as to how they want to describe the roles and responsibilities. Formal MOUs/contracts are not required with the application</p>
293	Allowable Activities	To what extent are direct service delivery activities allowable if they are part of a broader innovative model (e.g., integrated behavioral health and basic needs services)?	The RFA does not restrict the type of innovation that can be proposed.
294	Allowable Costs	Are staffing costs for new roles (e.g., community health workers, behavioral health navigators, peer specialists) considered allowable expenses?	See Addendum 2 for the definition of Allowable Costs.
295	Allowable Costs	Can funds be used to support infrastructure and capacity-building activities such as data systems, evaluation, technology, or program design?	See Addendum 2 for the definition of Allowable Costs.
296	Allowable Costs	Are capital expenses or facility-related costs (e.g., space modifications, equipment) allowable under this RFA?	See Addendum 2 for the definition of Allowable Costs.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
297	Innovation Definition	How does the Commission define a “clear break from the status quo” in practice, particularly for organizations proposing to expand or adapt existing programs into new models?	It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The Commission does not determine the foundation of the argument made by the Applicant.
298	Innovation Definition / Eligibility	If a partner organization was founded as a county innovative model several years ago and is now independently operating as a standalone 501(c)(3), but the model continues to be implemented and expanded, would this still be considered innovative and eligible under this RFA?	It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The Commission does not assess eligibility prior to receiving an application.
299	Match / Financial Requirements	Is a funding match required for this RFA, and if so, what is the required match percentage and allowable sources?	No, matching funds are not required.
300	Financial Competitiveness	If a formal match is not required, will applications that demonstrate leveraged or braided funding be more competitive?	All applications will be scored according to the criteria listed in the RFA.
301	Match / Financial Requirements	Are in-kind contributions (e.g., staff time, facilities, volunteer support) allowable as part of any match or leveraged funding expectations?	Matched funding is not required.
302	Sustainability	Are there expectations or requirements related to long-term financial sustainability beyond the 30-month grant period?	Financial stability is addressed in 3. Purpose, and in the Proposed Innovation. The Annual Report contains a requirement for a Sustainability Plan.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
303	Sustainability / Allowable Costs	Can funds be used to support sustainability planning, including development of reimbursement pathways (e.g., Medi-Cal billing) or long-term funding strategies?	See Addendum 2 for the definition of Allowable Costs.
304	Scope of Work, Applicant Background	Some colleagues on our team are considering leveraging our expertise in psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy to pursue this opportunity, proposing an expanded-access clinic model using psilocybin-assisted group therapy to treat substance use disorders. Do you think that would be a feasible application?	It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The Commission does not assess eligibility prior to receiving an application.
305	General	Is the Commission interested in funding workforce development that will support a County's delivery of services or are you looking to mainly fund service delivery and/or prevention?	It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The Commission does not assess eligibility prior to receiving an application.
306	General	Will efforts confined to a single county BHS be considered, or is the Commission looking for regional or statewide projects?	There is no requirement for the number of counties participating as part of the RFA.
307	General	Can an organization be part of multiple applications within the same category? For example a lead on a Category 2 project and a sub-contractor on another Category 2 project?	There is only one lead Applicant per application. There are no restrictions on being a subcontractor.
308	General	Will there be a limit on how many projects are funded for each region in California, so that the number of projects will be limited within each geographical area?	No. Region is not scored in the RFA.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
309	General	Is there any intent to continue funding projects beyond the 30 months? or is this start up funds and continuation of the effort will need to be funded via other sources?	The Commission will not provide funding beyond the 30 month grant cycle. Applicants are to provide a feasible sustainability plan.
310	General	Is this RFA the sum of the funds the Commission plans to contract for next fiscal year, or will other funding opportunities be available later in the year?	Funds for this RFA are being appropriated for the Fiscal Year 2026-27
311	General	The semi-annual data survey is listed as focusing on service-level and client-level data. Would that potentially be county staff if the effort is a workforce development effort, or is the intent to only collect data on the clients the county is serving?	Yes. If the recipient of the innovation is county staff, such as in a workforce model, then county staff would be considered clients and would complete the survey.
312	General	Are these grants fixed price or cost reimbursable?	This is a fixed price, deliverables-based grant.
313	Exhibit D, Budget and Narrative	We are a privately held, for profit professional consulting firm. As such, our billing rates are not based on salary plus fringe. Our rates are fully loaded and inclusive of all costs (other than project-related expenses). Would it be acceptable to present our fully loaded rates in this proposal?	The Commission cannot provide guidance as to what should be included in your proposed costs.
314	Exhibit D, Budget and Narrative	Can you clarify what you consider to be administration expenses? Would it be acceptable to include within our fully loaded hourly rates?	See Addendum 2 for a definition of Allowable costs, which includes Administration costs.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
315	General	The use of the term "partnership" is used extensively as a positive attribute within the bid qualifications. Given upon award, there is a singular prime award relationship for each award given, are the (participating) partnerships then considered legitimate subcontractors in terms of flow through payment from an administrative point of view?	The nature of all partnerships is to be determined by the Applicant. Funds will only be paid directly to the lead Applicant. The lead Applicant can subcontract with other entities with the approval of the Commission as specified in the RFA.
316	General	Are there any restrictions or exceptions to partner or subtracted participants that should be called out separately? Aka, if one of the sub awards is an academic institution, should those be treated administratively differently? Or a hospital entity? Or basically, are there any restrictions and/or methods of funds distribution that should be uniquely treated based on the partner/subcontractor/agency?	<p>The question is not completely clear. Subcontractors should be listed in your application in the appropriate sections.</p> <p>The Applicant/Contractor is responsible for agreeing on the payment arrangement with each subcontractor.</p>
317	General	In Category 2 awards there is a minimum award of 3 @ \$5 M. If we are determining that a grant below 500K is too limiting, and we bid within the Category 2 group and if not considered for Category 2 considered and shifted to Category 1 (e.g., as an example, we bid and the ask is 1.5 M for Category 2 - what grant level would we be considered for? Would the maximum amount of the grant then be subject to the 500K limit?	Applicants will only be considered for the category in which they apply.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
318	General	The grant asks for coordination with the county behavioral health team. Are they to be compensated as part of this grant for their time or is their time considered voluntary only?	Any financial compensation for partners, including county behavioral health departments, is determined by the Applicant and should be detailed in the Cost Sheet and Budget Narrative.
319	Section 7 (introductory paragraph); Section 7.B.2; Appendix 1, Exhibit C (Subcontracts)	<p><u>Eligibility of Out-of-State Subcontractors as Primary Implementation Partners</u></p> <p>The RFA requires the lead applicant to be registered to do business in California (Section 7.B.2) and encourages collaborative applications including subcontractors (Section 7, introductory paragraph). The General Terms and Conditions include provisions governing subcontractors (Appendix 1, Exhibit C).</p> <p>Can the Commission confirm that an out-of-state organization serving as a named subcontractor providing technical support does not affect an application’s eligibility, provided the lead applicant meets all California registration and minimum qualification requirements? Additionally, are there any specific requirements or limitations that apply to out-of-state subcontractors, such as registration, certification, or Darfur Act compliance, under this RFA?</p>	<p>For the purposes of this RFA, out-of-state subcontracting is allowed, with the understanding that services can only be provided in California.</p> <p>The Scoring Process stated in the RFA addresses how all applications will be scored.</p>

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
320	Appendix 1, Exhibit C, Section 13 (Copyright)	<p><u>Intellectual Property and Pre-Existing Proprietary Materials</u></p> <p>The General Terms and Conditions (Appendix 1, Exhibit C, Section 13) state that materials produced under the contract shall be considered works for hire owned by the Commission, while also noting that pre-existing materials incorporated into deliverables are subject to a nonexclusive license grant to the Commission.</p> <p>Can the Commission confirm that pre-existing proprietary clinical curricula, training materials, and software platforms developed independently prior to this grant retain their existing ownership structure, with the Commission receiving only a nonexclusive license for use within the scope of this grant? Specifically, can the Commission clarify that the work-for-hire provision applies only to new materials created during the grant period and does not affect ownership of or ongoing commercial rights to pre-existing tools?</p>	<p>This situation will be handled on case-by-case basis if awarded a contract.</p>

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
321	Section 3 – Purpose / Section 6 – Scope of Work	Can applicants demonstrate support of county behavioral health systems through outcomes such as reduced emergency service utilization, housing stabilization, and diversion from higher levels of care, even if the applicant is not directly contracted with a county behavioral health department at the time of application?	It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The Commission does not assess eligibility prior to receiving an application.
322	Section 6 – Scope of Work / Section 3 – Definition of Innovation	Are applicants permitted to propose flexible housing models that include a combination of short-term placements (e.g., motels) and shared housing environments, provided the program supports behavioral health stabilization and recovery outcomes?	It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The Commission does not assess eligibility prior to receiving an application.
323	Section 3 – Definition of Innovation	Would adapting and scaling an existing community-based model that has demonstrated effectiveness at a local level, but is not widely implemented across counties, meet the definition of innovation under this RFA?	It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The Commission does not assess eligibility prior to receiving an application.
324	Section 3 – Purpose / Target Population Requirements	Are applicants required to receive referrals through Coordinated Entry Systems (CES), or may they engage participants through alternative outreach, referral, and engagement strategies that serve individuals not effectively reached through CES?	The Commission does not determine referral sources for Applicants.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
325	F. References (Attachment 6)	Is a funder an allowable reference given if they are an organization that has received products, services, or related support from the Applicant?	Any entity that meets the requirements can be a reference.
326	Various	We are considering a collaborative application with three counties. We will be the lead and the other two counties will be subcontractors to carry out the application design in their own region. Are all three counties required to submit the Letter of Intent signed by their county public health department, or only the lead? Are there other attachments required to be completed by the partnering counties?	A single LOI/LOS is sufficient.
327	Section D: Deliverables (pg. 17); Attachment 4, Proposed Innovation D.1 (pg. 52)	The RFA states that the work plan is due in the first 90 days, and the workplan is not on the application checklist; but the narrative outline refers to the workplan as part of the application. Can you clarify if the workplan is to be turned in as part of the application, or only after being selected for funding?	Attachment 5 refers to using the Appendix D: Workplan to respond to certain requirements. As part of completing and submitting Attachment 5, the Workplan would be considered part of the Attachment 5 response.
328	Attachment 2: minimum qualifications	Local units of government are not required to register to do business with the secretary of state. Should we put N/A in that section?	You may provide any document that supports you are a local government entity.
329	Attachment 2: minimum qualifications	What would you suggest a County Office of Education uses to document how long they have been in existence?	The Applicant must decide on the information they will include in an application that responds to a requirement. There is no restriction on the type of information that may be provided.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
330	C.1.a	C1 asks about mission and activities. C1A asks us to “Provide support in the form of documentation.” What type of documentation are you looking for? Is this just proof of how long we have been in existence or would it be something like an annual report?	Documentation must be in the form of text or 2D graphics/images (ex. Screenshots of org chart, organization webpage, or promotional materials etc.) to be inserted/pasted into the provided attachment.
331	Pg 34 9A, Required Documents	9A. Required Documents includes Attachment 12, Questions Template on the list of required components. Attachment 12 is not listed on Attachment 11, the final checklist. Can you clarify if Attachment 12 should be included with our submission?	Attachment 12 is not required to be submitted with your application.
332	Attachment 5: Cost sheet	Can you provide clarification on how to best complete the cost sheet? Are program activities considered to be folded into the required deliverables that are pre-populated, or should we add all of our deliverables for program implementation as separate activities?	<p>The Cost Sheet represents the required deliverables in the RFA. Applicant shall propose a cost for each that includes all costs that will be incurred to complete the deliverable, which includes program activities.</p> <p>Applicants may propose additional deliverables/activities that may be completed.</p>
333	General	Are there any character limitations for any of the narrative sections in this application?	<p>Requirement D.2. has a 3-pages response limit. There is no limit on any of the other requirements.</p> <p>The RFA states, “Responses should be succinct and to the point of responding to the requirement. There are no additional points for the length of a response.”</p>

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
334	General	Given how we are required to utilize the attachments included in the RFA, is there a way where we can be provided with individual files for each required attachment? If we are to download the individual attachments, are we required to use the header for Commission for Behavioral Health?	The Commission will not provide anything outside of what is presented in the RFA. The RFA is in Word, which allows flexibility for the Applicant to complete. There is no requirement to use the RFA header in your response.
335	Section 5. Contract Term and Available Funding	The RFA notes that contracts will begin no sooner than July 1, 2026, and end June 30, 2029, which appears to be 36 months. However, the RFA notes that the contract will be for 30 months. Can you clarify whether the contract term is 30 months or 36 months?	Yes, the 30 month project period would begin at the contract start date. However, the contract term will extend to June 30 th , 2029, to provide adequate time for final deliverable payment to be processed.
336	Attachment 5: Cost Sheet	Can you clarify the difference between the shaded and unshaded sections? For example, year 1 shows that implementation and outcomes survey summary (12 months) is unshaded, while implementation and outcomes survey summary (24 months) is shaded.	Do not enter any amounts in the shaded areas. Unshaded areas represent allowable costs for each year.
337	Attachment 5: Cost Sheet	Is there a list of unallowable and allowable costs? If so, can we receive the list?	See Addendum 2 for the definition of Allowable Costs.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
338	Section 9: Submission Instructions	The RFA does not specify font requirements, page limits, and how the file should be named. Is there a specific font that must be used? Additionally, what is the page limit and is there a way in which the submitted application file should be named?	<p>There are no specific fonts or naming conventions that shall be used.</p> <p>Requirement D.2. has a 3-pages response limit. There is no limit on any of the other requirements.</p> <p>Responses should be succinct and to the point of responding to the requirement. There are no additional points for the length of a response.</p>
339	STD 204 Form	Will section 6 need to be completed upon submission? If so, can we receive the required information?	Section 6 on the STD 204 will be completed by the Commission for winning grants.
340	General	Can we receive a list of allowable and unallowable project activities?	See Addendum 2 for the definition of Allowable Costs.
341	Appendix A	In what order should Appendix A be placed? Should it be placed after Attachment 4?	There is no Appendix A. Appendix 2 can be placed after Attachment 4.
342	Exhibit D	In what order should Exhibit D be placed? Should it be placed after Attachment 5?	Placing Exhibit D after Attachment 5 is acceptable.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
343	Sections 3 (Purpose), 5 (Contract Term & Available Funding), 6 (Scope of Work)	Are IPF funds permitted to be used for renovation, refurbishment, or minor capital improvements to an existing applicant-owned or leased facility (for example, converting space into a behavioral-health-serving community center), provided that the improvements are directly tied to delivering the proposed innovation and serving BHSA priority populations? If permissible, are there any limitations or restrictions on the type or percentage of grant funds that may be used for facility-related costs (e.g., build-out, furnishings, safety upgrades)?	See Addendum 2 for the definition of Allowable Costs.
344	Section 3 (Definition of Innovation)	To what extent may peer-led support groups, recovery-oriented groups (including AA or AA-informed models), or community-based group interventions be considered innovative for purposes of this RFA if they are adapted for underserved or rural populations, integrated into county behavioral health workflows, or delivered in culturally specific or non-traditional settings? Would such models be considered responsive if the delivery approach, population served, or system integration is new, even if the underlying model is well established?	It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The Commission does not assess eligibility prior to receiving an application.

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
345	Sections 3 (Purpose), 6 (Scope of Work), Cross-Cutting Elements	<p>Many individuals within BHSA priority populations experience significant social determinants of health (SDOH) challenges such as housing instability, food insecurity, or transportation barriers. May proposed projects include SDOH-focused services or supports (e.g., navigation, resource linkage, stabilization activities) as part of the innovation, when these activities are integrated with behavioral health prevention, early intervention, or recovery supports? Are there boundaries or limitations regarding the extent to which SDOH services may be included while remaining eligible under IPF funding?</p>	<p>It is the responsibility of the Applicant to clearly convey how the proposed innovation meets the criteria specified in the RFA. The Commission does not assess eligibility prior to receiving an application.</p>
346	Sections 3 (Cross-Cutting Elements), 6 (Scope of Work), Data & Quality Improvement Requirements	<p>For peer support, prevention-focused, or group-based interventions (including recovery groups), what types of outcomes or success measures are considered acceptable or preferred by the Commission? Specifically, are process and engagement measures (such as participation, retention, access improvements), client-reported outcomes, qualitative feedback, or community-defined indicators acceptable alongside required surveys and data submissions when traditional clinical outcomes are not immediately measurable?</p>	<p>The outcomes and metrics described by the applicant should align with the goals of the BHSA, and either directly or indirectly support county behavioral health departments.</p> <p>General data requirements are specified in Section 6.D (Deliverables). Given the unique nature of each project, specific data elements will be determined by the Commission and reflect the scope of the innovation proposed. These elements will be determined post-award and prior to contract execution.</p>

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
347	Section 7 (Information Required in the Application); Contract & Subcontract Provisions	Is it allowable for applicants to subcontract specialized roles, such as implementing a train-the-trainer model where an external expert trains staff or peers who then deliver the innovation locally? If permitted, are there any limitations regarding the proportion of work performed by subcontractors or expectations for documentation at the application stage versus post-award?	Subcontracting is allowed. There are no specific limitations in this RFA, but the Bidder Declaration (GSPD-05-105) states, “Bids must propose that certified bidders provide a commercially useful function for the resulting contract or the bid will be deemed non-responsive and rejected by the State.” Certified bidders are considered the Applicants.
348	Section 3 (Definition of Innovation), Cross-Cutting Elements (Public-Private Partnerships)	Are applicants permitted to partner with or subcontract telehealth or digital behavioral health providers (including for-profit technology or telehealth vendors) as part of their proposed innovation? If so, what expectations exist regarding integration with county behavioral health systems, data sharing, or workflow alignment to ensure clear benefit to county behavioral health programs?	There is no restriction on subcontractor type. Applicants are responsible for determining if MOUs are necessary with partner organizations and are responsible for executing any necessary MOUs/contracts. The Commission must approve all subcontractors.
349	General / Clarifying Question	Does the Commission prioritize system-level impact, scalability, and sustainability over the novelty of individual program components, particularly when applicants are adapting existing or evidence-informed models for new populations, geographies, or delivery settings?	All applications will be scored according to the criteria listed in the RFA.
350	General	Is an LOI from a county behavioral health department required, or can grantees partner with their counties in other ways?	Please see Addendum 2 changing the Letter of Intent to a Letter of Support

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
351	General	Can counties co-apply for small grants with their CBOs given that counties are not eligible applicants for small grant awards?	Counties may partner with another organization to apply for a small grant. There must be a lead organization (Applicant) and the lead organization needs to meet the minimum requirements.
352	General	Conversely, if counties cannot be co-applicants, will applicants be able to include line items in their applications to help offset the county administrative costs associated with performing the duties related to the LOI?	The RFA allows Applicants to add additional deliverables and/or activities to the Cost Sheet. (Section 7.E.4.).
353	General	What happens if a CBO project doesn't meet the goals of their grant? What, if any, responsibilities the county will incur if they have submitted an LOI on behalf of the grantee?	<p>Since the executed contract will be with the Applicant, the Applicant/Contractor will be responsible for the completion of the proposed innovation and deliverables, including meeting the goals of the grant.</p> <p>Please see Addendum 2 changing the Letter of Intent to a Letter of Support.</p>

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	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
354	DVBE	<p>BHSOAC RFPs do not require DVBE participation and agencies that have been awarded these contracts reject DVBEs as subcontractors due to it being "not a requirement" and told "we don't need the partnership."</p> <p>This year, in the commission meetings, it was stated that BHSOAC was making an effort to include DVBEs since they have not met their goal in the last three years. Most specifically, staff mentioned this innovation grant as one that was geared toward DVBEs yet it only states community-based agencies and non-profits. Therefore, my questions has been and is with this RFP:</p> <p>Does this proposal include a minimum 3-percent participation from a DVBE Certified prime or subcontractor following the DVBE state requirements?</p> <p><i>(Note the complete email statement was not included in order to focus on the question being asked)</i></p>	<p>RFA IPF-001 is a Grant. The Small grant category is limited to community-based organizations, non-profit entities, and/or tribal organizations.</p> <p>The Large grant category has no restrictions as to who can apply. It is open to all organizations.</p> <p>The RFA does not restrict DVBE from participating as a subcontractor or an Applicant, as long as they meet the minimum requirements.</p> <p>There are no DVBE participation goals in this grant procurement. The Commission commits to meeting its DVBE participation goals through applicable contracts.</p>