

Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

RFA IPF-001

Questions and Responses 5

Note – This will be the last Questions and Responses due to applications being due May 8.

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
1	General	I am unable to open any documents relating to the application for the Innovation Partnership Fund (IPF). How can I apply for this grant? Is there a link to an application form?	The RFA and all relevant documents 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/
2	General	We're a non-profit from Anglophone Cameroon focused on mental health. Are grants available for international organizations like ours? Can we apply for grants	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.
3	Section 7- Attachment 4-1: Letter of Intent; Section 10- Scoring Process	If a single BH dept may sign multiple LOI's, is there a requirement for applicants to disclose that their county partner has signed LOIs with other applicants?	There is no requirement to disclose the number of LOIs a county partner has signed. Please see the current RFA. Addendum 2 changed the Letter of Intent to a Letter of Support.

Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

RFA IPF-001

Questions and Responses 5

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
4	Section 7- Attachment 2: Minimum Qualifications; Attachment 3: Applicant Background; Attachment 4: Proposed Innovation	For a collaborative application with a named subcontractor, are the Minimum Qualifications in Attachment 2 required to be satisfied by the lead applicant only, or must subs also meet these requirements? And vice-versa, can a sub help the lead meet requirements? Additionally, should the sub's organizational background, relevant experience, and proposed staffing be included within the lead applicant's responses to Attachments 3 and 4, or submitted as a separate document?	Only the Applicant must meet the Minimum Qualifications. Your response must be clear whether you are referring to the Applicant or a subcontractor in other parts of your response.
5	General	We are looking for the link to the Innovation framework document. Can you share the link for our perusal?	The RFA and all relevant documents 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/

Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

RFA IPF-001

Questions and Responses 5

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
6	General	<p>Can you please clarify the exception mentioned for UC/CSUs? The language in the Questions and Responses 3 suggests UCs can submit more than one application per category even though they are the same organization. However, the way it is written in the proposal itself suggests that each UC CAMPUS can only submit one application?</p> <p>If needed each UC campus is limited to one application per campus which is what the RFP addended language suggests, this is disproportionately putting any UC/CSU applicant at a disadvantage. We are then required to go through our own internal review process at each campus, which requires time and resources, which means the applicants that ultimately get selected to apply will only have about two weeks to put the full application together.</p> <p>This seems to be unfairly discriminating against UC/CSU without any legislative authority to do so and would appreciate clarity on the purpose of this policy?</p>	<p>The requirement will not change.</p> <p>Each organization with their own Tax ID number may apply as a separate organization for Category 2 (large grants). If the organization is also a registered non-profit, CBO or tribal organization, they may apply for the Category 1 (small grant) category</p>

Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

RFA IPF-001

Questions and Responses 5

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
7	General	<p>I hope you are doing well. I am writing to request a copy of the full Request for Application (RFA) packet for the Innovation Partnership Fund (IPF-001). I have reviewed the information on the Commission for Behavioral Health website, but I am currently unable to open the links or access the downloadable materials.</p> <p>If possible, please send the complete RFA packet and any required attachments or forms needed to prepare a submission.</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> <p>During an active procurement the Commission cannot individually respond to requests</p>
8	General	<p>We are interested in applying for the grant opportunity . but concerned if we are eligible to apply or not , Please let us know if an NGO. from Pakistan can apply against the call</p>	<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>
9	General	<p>Do we submit our completed RFA to this email address?</p>	<p>Applications must be submitted electronically to:</p> <p>procurements@bhsoac.ca.gov</p> <p>Subject Line: IPF-001</p>

Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

RFA IPF-001

Questions and Responses 5

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
10	RFA-IPF-001-EXHIBIT-D-Budget-and-Narrative	<p>Indirect Costs on Subcontracts Under California Education Code and the █ COE budgeting practices, indirect costs are typically allowable on the first \$50,000 of each subcontract, with subcontract costs split between object codes 5809 (eligible for indirect) and 5100 (excluded from indirect). However, the note included in the Innovation Partnership Fund budget worksheet states that indirect costs may not be charged on any subcontract amounts.</p> <p>Can you please confirm whether all subcontract costs must be excluded from indirect costs or if a portion can have indirect costs applied under this funding opportunity? We want to ensure our understanding aligns with CBH guidance.</p>	<p>For the purposes of this RFA, the Commission uses Administration costs and not Indirect costs.</p> <p>See the RFA definition of Allowable Costs, which includes Administration costs.</p>
11	RFA-IPF-001-EXHIBIT-D-Budget-and-Narrative	<p>Approved Indirect Rate to Apply The █ COE’s CDE-approved indirect cost rate for FY 2026–27 is 9.24%. The RFA and budget materials reference “10%” indirect. Can you please confirm whether SJCOE may apply its approved 9.24% indirect rate, rather than using a flat 10%, for this application?</p>	<p>For the purposes of this RFA, the Commission uses Administration costs and not Indirect costs.</p> <p>See the RFA definition of Allowable Costs, which includes Administration costs.</p> <p>Administration costs are limited to 15%.</p>
12	General	As a County Agency of the State of California-what will you accept as satisfaction for both Questions B.1 and B.2?	A local government entity may supply any document that supports you are a local government entity and the years of existence.

Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

RFA IPF-001

Questions and Responses 5

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
13	General	<p>I am writing to request clarification regarding the requirement to provide evidence that an applicant is registered to do business in California.</p> <p>My business is currently incorporated in Canada and has been for over two years. Does the registration in California need to be for a minimum of two years, or can it be for a shorter period if we have been incorporated in another country for more than two years?</p>	<p>There is no time frame associated with the requirement to provide evidence that Applicant is registered to do business in California requirement.</p>
14	General	<p>██████████, supported by ██████████ ██████████ Government of India, is a not-for-profit incubator registered as a trust, committed to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship across sectors.</p> <p>We recently came across the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Innovation Partnership Fund (IPF-001) and found it highly aligned with our mission and ongoing initiatives. In this regard, we would like to seek your guidance on whether ██████████ would be eligible to apply for this opportunity. We would greatly appreciate your support in helping us understand the eligibility criteria and any relevant considerations for participation.</p>	<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>

Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

RFA IPF-001

Questions and Responses 5

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
15	General	Attachment 6 (References) is embedded within the application, and it is unclear how to have 3 organizations complete the references and then submit them as part of the application. Can you please explain how this should be completed?	You may copy Attachment 6 out of the RFA to send to your references.
16	General	<p>I am a mental health counselor with [REDACTED] School District. I'm reaching out to inquire about the grant opportunity and whether it is still possible to apply at this time.</p> <p>I'm also wondering if school districts are eligible applicants, and if so, whether our district would qualify under your criteria.</p> <p>I would appreciate any information you can provide regarding eligibility and timelines.</p>	<p>Refer to the RFA for Key Action Dates and qualifications.</p> <p>Applications are due May 8, 2026.</p> <p>Grant Category 2 is open to all organization types.</p>

Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

RFA IPF-001

Questions and Responses 5

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
17	General	<p>Hello – it appears that there is an error on Attachment 6 of RFP IPF-001 Innovation Partnership Fund. On page 47 of the RFP, Scoring/References/F, the description refers to each reference being worth 25 points each and that the score is based on the actual reference score from the entity providing the reference. However, on Attachment 6: Reference form (page 69 of the RFP), there are only four questions for the reference entity to answer and each question is worth up to 5 points, making a maximum available score of 20 points not 25. It looks like question # 3 was left out in error on the form. Please advise whether a new form will be provided for applicants to use or if scores will be adjusted accordingly.</p>	<p>Thank you for bringing to our attention the inadvertent error.</p> <p>The scoring will be adjusted to keep the same total points with one (1) less reference question. An addendum will not be issued as it does not affect the application.</p>
18	General	<p>I understand that the required Behavioral Health Dept. Letter of Intent has been changed to Letter of Support - if the request for a Letter was already submitted to our County BH Dept. prior to the change and will therefore have Letter of Intent language rather than Support, can it still be submitted? Or do we need to request a new letter?</p>	<p>See current RFA that states, “If a signed Letter of Intent has already been received, Applicants may submit the signed Letter of Intent in place of the Letter of Support.”</p>
19	Section 7F. References (Attachment 6): I	<p>If the applicant agency is County Behavioral Health, is the department required to submit three (3) References?</p>	<p>Yes. Three references are a requirement for all Applicants.</p>

Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

RFA IPF-001

Questions and Responses 5

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
20	Section B.1.a	If the applicant agency is County Behavioral Health, Is the department exempt from this? If not, what is acceptable documentation?	A local government entity may supply any document that supports you are a local government entity and the years of existence.
21	Section B.2.	If the applicant agency is County Behavioral Health, Is the department exempt from this? If not, what is acceptable documentation?	A local government entity may supply any document that supports you are a local government entity and the years of existence.
22		Can you please point me to final versions othe attachments, workplan, and budget templates? The version of the workplan in the most recently posted RFP still has DRAFT in it.	<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> <p>They are listed under Documents.</p>
23	Attachment 1: Application Cover Sheet and Appendix 1 Sample Contract Exhibits B and C	<p>Will the organizations selected for funding be able to negotiate terms and conditions with BHSOAC?</p> <p>There didn't seem to be an indication that submission of the cover letter/sheet bound the organization to the sample contract terms and conditions at proposal stage. I wanted to ask to confirm that the selected organization will have the opportunity to review and negotiate (as needed and as mutually agreeable) the contract.</p>	The General Terms and Conditions are not negotiable. It is the responsibility of the Grantee to prove that enforcing the terms and conditions would cause irreparable harm for the Commission to even consider the request.

Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

RFA IPF-001

Questions and Responses 5

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
24		<p>looking for the application instructions for the INOVATION PARTNERSHIP FUND.</p> <p>https://bhsoac.ca.gov/connect/grant-funding-opportunities/request-for-proposal-rfp-for-innovation-partnership-fund-ipf-001/</p> <p>The [REDACTED] program is also the first of its kind to go through the accreditation process. We will achieve that this fall with the CARF International, the gold standard of accreditation.</p> <p>Everything is fully set up to MASSIVELY scale up, with no cap on the number of participants we can serve.</p> <p>I know the application deadline is MAY 8th.</p> <p>How do I apply?</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> <p>RFA IPF-001 Addendum contains the instructions as to how to apply.</p>
25	Allowable Costs	<p>Can we get a breakdown of costs that would be considered administrative? For example, would the following fall under administrative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities where services will be rendered, • Office supplies, • Communication, and <p>Equipment repair and maintenance?</p>	<p>The RFA section 5.E.2.d.1) states, “Administration costs are any cost that may not directly support the program. This can include an organization’s normal operating expenses and support staff.”</p>

Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

RFA IPF-001

Questions and Responses 5

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
26	Project Term	Since the project term is 30 months for project activities but essentially 36 months with reporting, should the timeline we develop be for July 1, 2026, through December 31, 2028, or July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029?	The Applicant shall use a timeline that addresses the requirements and deliverables.
27	General	In the event that our proposal is not selected for funding, are we able to request for feedback?	Yes. A debrief may be provided upon request after the contracting process has been completed.
28	General	Will there be another round of funding?	This question is beyond the scope of this RFA.
29		<p>We are requesting a letter of support from the County of ██████ Behavioral Health Services Department.</p> <p>I want to confirm that this is the correct email address for that letter of support to be sent to: procurements@bhsoac.ca.gov</p> <p>The County of ██████ Behavioral Health Services Department requests a 6-week lead time for Letters of Support, which means it may not arrive by the May 8, 12:00 p.m. deadline.</p> <p>I want to confirm that if the only outstanding document for our application is the Letter of Support from the County of ██████ Behavioral Health Services Department, our application will still be considered.</p>	<p>The Letter of Support shall be included with the application.</p> <p>A complete application is due by May 8, 12:00 pm (pacific).</p>

Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

RFA IPF-001

Questions and Responses 5

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
30		<p>We are a county in California applying for the Category 2 – Large Grant. Could you provide guidance on the appropriate documentation a county can provide to establish the Minimum Qualifications outlined in Attachment 2? Specifically:</p> <p>Documentation to establish date of formation/incorporation or active status that reflects a minimum of two years in operation.</p> <p>Evidence that Applicant is registered to do business in California. The support can be provided with a copy or screenshot of your CA Secretary of State certification showing an “Active Status” at bixfileonline.sos.ca.gov.</p>	<p>A county may provide any document that supports that you are a local government entity and have at least 2 years of operation.</p>
31	Exhibit D; Budget File	<p>In Exhibit D, the budget template requests a breakout of base salary and fringe benefits. Our company considers this information to be proprietary and confidential. We propose providing fully loaded salaries (inclusive of salary and fringe) rather than separate components. Please confirm that this format is acceptable or advise if an alternative approach is preferred.</p>	<p>Provide a response based on what is requested in Exhibit D – Budget and Narrative. You may mark information as confidential and/or provide an explanation, but the Commission will independently assess whether it is exempt from disclosure.</p> <p>Section 8.D. Confidentiality also states, “The Applicant should be aware that marking a document “confidential” or “proprietary” in a bid may exclude it from consideration for award and will not keep that document from being released after Notice of Intent to Award as part of the public record.”</p>

Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

RFA IPF-001

Questions and Responses 5

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
32	Attachment 4-1: Letter of Support	Tri-City Mental Health Authority (TCMHA) was established by a joint powers authority agreement to deliver services to residents of three cities in Los Angeles County: Pomona, Claremont, and La Verne. TCMHA is a separate entity from Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) and receives its own Behavioral Health Services Act funding. How should TCMHA fulfill this Letter of Support (LOS) requirement? Is the LOS required to come from LACDMH, or could it come from TCMHA's governing board or behavioral health commission?	The Letter of Support may come from Tri-City Mental Health Authority (TCMHA) as a recognized behavioral health entity.
33		I have a question about the grant concern requesting financial amount. Is the grant amount requested per year or per contract? For example, if I believe it costs 300 K per year to run my program, do I request the 300 K or do I request \$750 K to cover the 30 months.	The grant amount requested is for the full term of the contract. The Cost Sheet requires proposed costs by year.
34		I am in the process of completing the RFA for the innovation grant. Can you tell me how references are needed to fulfill the RFA requirements.	RFA Section 7.F. References, provides the requirement and Attachment 6 shall be used for your references.

Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

RFA IPF-001

Questions and Responses 5

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
35		Letter of Support weighting and sufficiency. The RFA states that applicants "may" obtain and submit at least one Letter of Support from a California County Behavioral Health Department. For scoring purposes, what is the practical impact of applying without a County BH Department Letter of Support versus applying with one? And is a non-binding letter of interest (referencing a project scope under active discussion but without a fully executed MOU) sufficient at time of application, with formal MOU execution upon award?	RFA Section 10.A. Application Scoring, explains the scoring applied to all requirements. There is no expectation for formal MOUs or agreements to be in place with the submission of an application. If awarded a grant, formal agreements would be expected at that point in time.
36		Multi-county scoping for Category 2 for-profit applicants. For a Category 2 Large Grant applicant that is a for-profit technology platform provider, can the project scope involve the platform serving multiple California County Behavioral Health Departments concurrently under a single application, or must Category 2 projects be scoped to support a single county? If multi-county is permitted, are separate Letters of Support from each participating county required?	An application can support more than one county behavioral health department. Only one Letter of Support is required per the RFA.

Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

RFA IPF-001

Questions and Responses 5

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
37		Subcontracting to community-based organizations. May a for-profit prime applicant in Category 2 subcontract portions of the scope of work (for example community engagement, peer-support staffing, or lived-experience leadership components) to a CBO, tribal organization, or non-profit entity, with grant funds flowing from CBH to the for-profit prime to the subcontractor? Are there limitations on the percentage of total budget that may flow to subcontractors?	There are no specific limitations in this RFA on the percentage that may flow to subcontractors, 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.

Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

RFA IPF-001

Questions and Responses 5

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
38		<p>Data and IP rights. For a technology-platform project, what are the Commission's expectations on ownership, licensing, and post-contract use of (a) user-generated behavioral data captured during the project, (b) de-identified aggregate data, and (c) underlying software IP and platform improvements developed under the contract? Does the Commission or the county partner retain perpetual usage rights, exclusive rights, or no rights beyond the contract term?</p>	<p>Refer to RFA Exhibit C General Terms and Conditions.</p> <p>In addition, depending on the technology solution being proposed, the Commission may enforce either of the following:</p> <p>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - GENERAL PROVISIONS CLOUD - COMPUTING SERVICES, DGS PD 402-ITGP (Cloud)</p> <p>https://www.dgs.ca.gov/-/media/Divisions/PD/Acquisitions/Solicitation-Documents/IT-General-Provisions-Cloud-DGS-PD-402ITGP-Revised-02202025.pdf</p> <p>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - GENERAL PROVISIONS - NON-CLOUD GOODS & SERVICES, DGS PD 403-ITGP (Non-Cloud)</p> <p>https://www.dgs.ca.gov/-/media/Divisions/PD/Acquisitions/Solicitation-Documents/IT-General-Provisions-NonCloud-DGS-PD-403ITGP-Revised-02202025.pdf</p>

Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

RFA IPF-001

Questions and Responses 5

	RFA Section Reference	Question	Commission Response
39		<p>I am seeking clarification of the definition of allowable costs--</p> <p>Specifically, what capital expenditure items are allowed under the larger \$5M grant?</p> <p>Can this include the purchase of a property or renovation costs for the program to operate?</p>	<p>RFA Section 5.E. Allowable Costs, provides the guidance for this RFA.</p>