

Request for Applications (RFA): Local Public Health Department Support for CHA/CHIP Development

Issued by: Partnership HealthPlan of California

Program Title: CHA/CHIP Development Support Grant Program

Website: www.partnershiphp.org/Community/Pages/CHACHIP-Grant-Program.aspx

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I. Purpose

Partnership HealthPlan of California invites proposals from local public health departments within its network to request funding and technical assistance for the development of Community Health Assessments (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIP).

The purpose of this program is to support counties served by Partnership HealthPlan of California (Partnership) in their ongoing assessment of public health needs, and the development of plans to address the needs of their counties. DHCS has identified collaboration between Medi-Cal managed care plans and Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs) on the CHA/CHIP efforts as an opportunity to enhance health plan's ability to identify needs and strengths within communities so that and their community partners can reduce siloed approaches to population health management and more effectively improve the lives of members, aligning, where possible with the DHCS Quality Strategy, including its Bold Goals.

II. Background

Future of Public Health Funding secured in the 2022 Budget Act (Chapter 249, Statutes of 2022) requires local health jurisdictions to complete a three-year public health plan informed by the local health department CHA, CHIP, and/or Strategic Plan. While accreditation is not required, it has been shown to improve public health infrastructure and emergency responsiveness. Many counties, especially small and rural ones may lack sufficient staffing, funding, or hospital support to complete this work.

This program also supports Partnership's role in meeting DHCS expectations for managed care plans to actively participate in and contribute to local CHA/CHIP processes.

III. Program Goals

- Support completion of high-quality CHA/CHIP processes across all counties served by Partnership.

CHA/CHIP Support Grant

- Promote potential alignment of county public health priorities with DHCS and Partnership goals (e.g., HEDIS, CAHPS, equity).
- Offer support for counties pursuing PHAB accreditation.

IV. Funding Framework

- Up to \$100,000 per county over 3 years (July 2025– June 2028)
- This new funding framework supersedes the previous \$4,000/year county meal support allowance, which will sunset on June 30, 2025.
- *Funds are strictly for CHA/CHIP development and tracking. Funds may **not** be used for implementation projects derived from the CHIP, nor for support of county or community activities unrelated to CHA/CHIP development. It is not to be used for community re-investment activities.*
- Completion of the attached application and attestation is required; funds may roll over for up to 3 years. If less than the full allocation is requested in an application early in the 3-year cycle, additional applications for expenditure of remaining funds can be submitted in 2026 and 2027. At this time, further allocations after the 3 year period are not guaranteed.
- Disbursement of funding is contingent upon county agencies executing or submitting at least 50% of all DHCS required MOUs with Partnership. Additionally, future disbursements are contingent on follow-up proposals of prior funding requests, as monitored by Community Health Needs Liaisons and included in a narrative for future funding requests.

V. Additional Support for CHA/CHIP Process

1. Existing:
 - Annual data reports and shared analytics
 - Partnership Staff Participation in CHA/CHIP Meetings and Subgroups
 - Review of Draft SMART goals for required DHCS alignment
2. Planned
 - Standardized CHA/CHIP toolkits
 - Templates aligned with PHAB accreditation process
 - In-Kind Staffing & Technical Assistance
 1. Project management support (RACI charts, timelines, stakeholder coordination)

2. Materials printing, subject matter expert engagement
- Standardized Resources (Toolkit Preview)
 1. CHA/CHIP timeline templates
 2. Prioritization and goal-setting frameworks (e.g., Hanlon, PEARL)
 3. Data presentation standards (HPI, BRFSS, County Rankings)
 4. Drafting and dissemination guides
 5. Cohort-based quality improvement sprints

VI. Communication Plan

- Webinar series
- Written program summary
- Leadership briefings (Board, Finance Committee, HO/HD meetings)

VII. Application & Eligibility

- Open to all 24 counties within Partnership's network, regardless of accreditation status.

VIII. Governance & Program Management

- Program overseen by Partnership's PHM CHNLs and Finance department
- Project lead: Dr. DeLorean Ruffin, Director of Population Health Management
- Coordinated internally with Quality Improvement and Communications Departments

IX. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What is the funding for?

The \$100,000 grant supports the development of a CHA and CHIP, including planning, coordination, stakeholder engagement, and reporting activities. It does not cover the implementation of CHIP.

2. Can we apply if we are not pursuing accreditation?

Yes. Accreditation is not required to receive this funding.

3. What if we don't use the funds this year?

Funds may be rolled over for up to three years.

4. Can counties request help with writing the application?

Yes. Partnership's Quality Improvement and Population Health Management teams are available to provide support.

5. Is there a deadline to spend the funds?

While funding can be rolled over, we encourage counties to begin their CHA/CHIP work as early in the CHA/CHIP process as feasible to meet the three-year cycle requirement.

6. Is this funding part of the Community Reinvestment Initiative?

No. This funding is separate and distinct from DHCS' Community Reinvestment Initiative and is specific to CHA/CHIP development.

7. Which MOUs with Partnership are included in the 50% MOU execution requirement? At least 50% of all MOUs that DHCS requires for Partnership with agencies overseen by the County must be executed or submitted prior to approval of the grant funding. This includes MOUs related to mental health services, behavioral health services, foster care, WIC, as well as public health. MOUs with agencies outside the jurisdiction of counties, such as First 5, are not required for funding disbursement, and are not counted in the calculation of the 50% threshold.

X. Scoring of Proposals

Minimum criteria for approval of funding:

1. Grant proposal reflects support of the CHA/CHIP process (Not funding pure implementation activities).
2. A count of County MOUs executed and not executed with Partnership is used to calculate the execution rate.
3. Dollars requested are within the limits set per county (\$100,000 total over 3 years).
4. Spending plan is aligned with dollars requested (county contributions to CHA/CHIP process accounted for).
5. Clarity and feasibility of work plan and timeline.

Award recommendations will be made by Partnership's review committee and ratified by Partnership's Executive Committee.