



Medi-Cal Capacity, Access, and Workforce Development Grant Program Funding Application (Capacity Grants)

About CenCal Health

Founded as the Santa Barbara Regional Health Authority, CenCal Health is the oldest managed care Medicaid health plan of its kind, having launched in 1983. CenCal Health utilizes the County Organized Health System (COHS) model and is the exclusive Medi-Cal health plan in the two-county service area and currently serves one in three residents in Santa Barbara County and one in four in San Luis Obispo County.

We work in partnership with our contracted providers, including with local primary and specialty providers, all hospitals in both counties, county health departments, health systems, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Indian Health Centers, private medical groups, and individual physicians.

CenCal Health has been recognized by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) for our innovation and consistently ranks among the top health plans serving Medi-Cal members in California. Our work results in the delivery of innovative community-based healthcare services, better medical outcomes, and cost savings.

Medi-Cal Capacity, Access, and Workforce Development Grant Program Overview

CenCal Health recognizes the evolving healthcare landscape across the Central Coast, and the opportunity to work with provider and other stakeholders to bolster and sustain access to care through strategic and community-oriented investments. CenCal Health has the opportunity to support these and other locally identified initiatives by reinvesting Medi-Cal funds back into our service area through the Medi-Cal Capacity, Access, and Workforce Grant Program.

Approved by the CenCal Health Board of Directors, funding will be tied to access and/or quality enhancement, as demonstrated through interim and final reporting from grantees, and aligned with the needs identified in the latest community assessment reports for Santa Barbara County and San Luis Obispo County. The grant program emphasizes a focus on, but not be limited to, the following key focus areas: Behavioral Health, Pediatrics and Primary Care, and Specialty Care Services.

This investment is intended to improve healthcare access through strategic funding aimed at:

1. Provider Recruitment
2. Healthcare Workforce Training and Education
3. Overall Provider Practice Support

CenCal Health requests that applicants refrain from issuing any press releases or public announcements regarding an award of funding until a legal agreement has been fully executed. Additionally, any use of CenCal Health's name and logo, including for press releases and public announcements, requires prior written approval from CenCal Health.

Funding Opportunities

CenCal Health is accepting applications for three types of funding awards aimed at making meaningful impacts to broaden access to care for all residents on the Central Coast, including CenCal Health members. The award types are broad to solicit a wide range of ideas from CenCal Health providers and other organizations working to increase access to care in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties.

CenCal Health is prioritizing projects and programs that address the priority areas specific to the key focus areas of Behavioral Health, Pediatric and Primary Care, and Specialty Care services, and demonstrate sustainability and scalability beyond the funding period. Additionally, immediate impact projects and programs (up to one year in duration) that address capacity and access to care through the three areas of Provider Recruitment, Healthcare Workforce Training and Education, and Provider Practice Support, will be prioritized during the application review process.

Award Type	Examples of Activities for Funding include	Project Duration
Recruitment of new providers through individual grants to provider and community organizations.	- Expanding access to care in partnership with currently contracted providers or encouraging prospective providers to contract with CenCal Health to support members. - The recruitment of other healthcare professionals, such as nurses, front office staff, and Medical Assistants to support current CenCal Health providers.	Up to One-year
Training and educational opportunities for healthcare careers and in support of building healthcare workforce pathways.	- Degree and other career advancement for current healthcare workers looking to advance their skill set. - Working with secondary schools and colleges to support attendees, encouraging, and/or building local healthcare career educational opportunities.	Up to One-year
Practice support through investment in activities to strengthen, bolster and improve access to care, such as infrastructure, equipment, and capital expansion	- Providing translation services and cultural competency training for practice staff working with Latinx and at-risk populations to further health equity goals. - Obtaining support for improving provider efficiencies of program elements and billing practices through education, software tools, or other methods of supporting practices with compliance or operational requirements.	Up to One-year

Guidelines

To receive Capacity Grant funding, an organization must either be a contracted CenCal Health provider, a governmental or educational organization, or a consortium organization representing a group of entities focused on Healthcare Workforce Development training and educational opportunities.

General Guidelines for All Awards:

- Proposed projects or programs must serve residents of Santa Barbara and/or San Luis Obispo counties.
- Proposed projects or programs must benefit CenCal Health Medi-Cal members either through direct care or create pathways to increase and/or sustain capacity and access to care.
- Proposed projects or programs that address one or more of the key focus areas of Behavioral Health, Pediatric and Primary Care, and Specialty Care Services and address strategies to increase capacity and access to care through Provider Recruitment, Healthcare Workforce Training and Education, and Provider Practice Support may be given priority.
 - o Preference may be given to applications for recruited providers that are a new addition to (not a transfer within) the CenCal Health Medi-Cal provider network, with a preference for those who are new to San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties.
- Proposed projects or programs should be mobilized quickly for rapid impact as funding is intended to be granted for a period not to exceed 12 months.
 - o Approval to extend the funding period to longer than 12 months may be granted on a case-by-case basis at the end of the 12-month grant period.
- Proposed projects or programs should demonstrate sustainability and scalability beyond the 12-month funding period.
- Applicants must not supplant any existing funding for proposed projects or programs with Capacity Grant funding.
- Applicants must have expertise in implementing programs and projects and managing grant funds.
- Applicants must agree to submit interim and final reporting, including the measures of performance, and use of grant funds, if awarded.

Funding Application

Applications will be scored based on completeness and the weighted percentage listed in each section below.

Section I: Overview – 20% of score

1. Indicate the award type for which you are applying.
 - Recruitment
 - Training and Educational opportunities
 - Practice support
2. Does your proposal include a project to enhance Medi-Cal capacity, access, or workforce development in any of the 3 key focus areas of: (select all that apply)
 - Behavioral Health
 - Pediatrics and Primary Care
 - Specialty Care Services
3. Please provide an overview of your proposal, including:
 - Purpose of funding and whether it is for Provider Recruitment, Training and Educational Opportunities, or Practice Support.
 - Overview of how funds will be spent within 12 months and how they will increase *capacity and access to care*.

500 words max

4. How much funding are you requesting?

5. Complete the CenCal Health budget form and attach to (upload with) your submission.

Section II: Overview of Proposal – 10% of score

1. Legal name of your organization.

2. Address and phone number for your organization.

3. Name and position of staff person submitting this application.

4. Please provide your organization's mission statement.

5. Which counties does your organization serve? (Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, or both)

6. Tell us about your current programs and activities.

7. Please upload/attach the following financial documents:

- Cash flow statement
- Audited financial statements
- Current operating budget

Section III: Proposal Details – 40% of score

1. Please describe the need which you seek to meet through Capacity Grant funding.

2. Please provide an overview of your proposed timeline for utilizing Capacity Grant funds.

3. Please describe how many new CenCal Health members you anticipate serving through these funds, including the members by key focus areas or CenCal needs areas whom you intend to serve.

4. Please describe your organization's plan for sustainability of the services funded by the project after the Capacity Grant funds have been exhausted.

Section IV: Evaluation information - 20% of score

Please describe the desired outcomes which will be achieved through use of these funds, including their anticipated timelines. How will success be measured?

Include specific measures of performance, including a description of the measure numerator, denominator, and the estimated rate of performance that will be achieved at the conclusion of the use of these grant funds. Be certain to include the number of new members served, in unique numbers and new patient encounters.

Include applicant's current baseline rate of performance for each measure.

Final scoring will include an additional 10% towards overall quality of proposal and intended impacts, including whether the application addresses a CenCal Health Provider Network identified need, as determined by the scoring committee.

This application for Medi-Cal Capacity, Access, and Workforce Development grant funding is submitted by the below party, who has the authority to submit such application on behalf of the applicant organization.

Name:

Title:

Email:

Signature:

Date:

Please submit this application, budget form, and the current operating budget to CapacityGrants@cencalhealth.org. Thank you for your application. CenCal Health will review the information provided and follow up with any additional questions.