



City Health Improvement Grants: Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Q&A

General Questions

1. What is the period of performance for this grant?

Grant agreements last 12 months; all funds must be expended within that time frame.

2. How will funds be distributed?

Capital expenses are paid upon execution of the grant agreement. If the budget includes other eligible programmatic costs, the award may be split into two disbursements — half at the start and half six months into the grant term.

Application Questions

3. How do we add additional users to the city portal?

There is the option to add collaborators once you start the Letter of Intent (LOI). Additional materials will be provided to further illustrate how to do this. Please note that each city needs to create only **ONE** organization profile.

4. Will applicants need to identify the proposed project in the LOI? Or is it sufficient to state an intent to apply?

We need to see a general description of the proposed projects. However, cities will have the opportunity to revise project descriptions in the full application.

5. Can cities collaborate on projects and pool the funds received?

Yes, but each city will need to complete an organization profile and submit its own LOI and application. If it makes sense, submissions can use the same responses to the questions.

Applicant Eligibility

6. Can community-based organizations apply?

No, this funding opportunity is for cities only.

Eligible Projects

7. What are some projects that would be appropriate for shelters and/or interim housing locations?

Some examples include preventive health fairs, self-service screening kiosks, quiet rooms, appliances, etc. Additional ideas can be found on the eligible projects menu on the NOFO information webpage, www.caloptima.org/en/community-impact/calaim/igt-city-health-nofo.

Eligible Locations

8. Can you define senior center?

CalOptima Health defines a senior center as a community hub for older adults offering social activities, congregate meals and on-site supportive services that promote independent, healthy living. These features — especially meal programs and supportive services — help indicate whether visitors are likely Medi-Cal eligible or enrolled.

9. If a park is adjacent to an eligible location (e.g., shelter or community center), is there a physical distance in terms of how close that park (or project) needs to be to the eligible location?

If the park is adjacent to one of the eligible locations (senior center or community center), that whole park can be considered an extension of the eligible location. There isn't a mileage restriction or specific boundary. The connection should be clearly articulated in the application.

10. Would a community garden or nutrition center adjacent to an eligible location also be considered an eligible location?

Yes, a community garden, park or other similar outdoor space may qualify as an eligible location if it is adjacent to an eligible community center, senior center or other eligible location category. The connection would need to be clearly articulated in the application.

11. My city is in segment 3. Can I still propose a project in a public park?

No, cities may only propose projects that align with what is defined in the NOFO. However, if the park is adjacent to an eligible location, then the park would be acceptable.

12. We are in segment 4, but do not have any transitional housing locations or shelters. Can we still participate? If so, how?

Yes, if you do not have a shelter, interim housing facility or senior center, we could consider an alternative location if you can demonstrate it is a site for or a resource to the Medi-Cal population. The goal in identifying these locations was to ensure we connect with populations that are often at greater risk for health challenges and inequalities in health outcomes. Please reach out to the Community Grants team if you would like to discuss further.

Acceptable Uses of Funding

13. Can funds be used for mental health or substance use disorder services?

No, funding may not be used to pay for anything that might otherwise be a contracted service or covered health care benefit.

14. Can funds be used to pay for meals?

No.

15. Can grant funds be allocated toward extended manufacturer service warranties and initial spare replacement parts for capital assets?

Yes, this could be an eligible use of funding if expended during the grant term and tied to both an eligible location and a project category.

16. Can cities allocate funds to replace existing appliances and/or other kitchen equipment at a senior center?

Yes, this could be an eligible use of funding if expended during the grant term and tied to both an eligible location and a project category.

17. Can we use these grant funds as a match or combined with other grants?

Yes, but please note this in the grant application. CalOptima Health grant funds would still need to be tied to both an eligible location and project category.

18. Can we use grant funds to design, plan and build a wellness space at our senior center, including Request for Proposal (RFP)-related design and procurement costs?

Yes, these costs are eligible, but the project must be fully completed within the 12-month grant term to report member impact. You'll need to show it can be finished on time and is fully funded.

Additional Applicant Resources

For assistance, please email communitygrants@caloptima.org.

[Visit the City Health Improvement NOFO Information Page](#)