

CalVIP Cohort 5 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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GENERAL INFORMATION

1. What software will be used to score the grants?

Answer: No, members of the CalVIP Cohort 5 Executive Steering Committee (ESC) will score grant applications.

2. If we submit our proposal early and are disqualified in the technical review, are we able to correct the issue and resubmit by the Aug. 18th deadline?

Answer: No, proposals will not be reviewed until after the August 18th deadline.

3. Does Submittable provide ‘error’ messages if required files are missing or have gotten corrupted during uploading?

Answer: Yes. Submittable will provide an error message if required files are missing or corrupted during uploading. Additionally, Submittable will not accept an application with unallowable characters, such as unique bullet points, and the applicant will receive a message that the application cannot be submitted.

4. In the Submittable, what is expected for “referring to the CalVIP Cohort 5 RFP”? Should we add the appropriate section name to each text box before responding?

Answer: No, there is no need to add the CalVIP Cohort 5 RFP section to each text box before responding. The instructions are there to remind the applicant to refer back to the RFP before responding.

5. Who makes up the Scoring Panel and how many Scoring Panel members will read and rate each proposal?

Answer: The CalVIP Cohort 5 Executive Steering Committee (ESC) will score proposals. If additional members are needed due to a high number of proposals received, BSCC will recruit additional members and/or use BSCC staff. The number of proposals assigned to each member will depend on the number of proposals received. ESC members will be divided into panels with an equal number of panelists to read and rate an equal number of proposals.

6. Will you share examples of past proposal ratings from past applicants?

Answer: No.

7. Are there other funding opportunities, resources, or recommendations for cities that are ineligible to apply for Cohort 5 funding?

Answer: Cities that are ineligible to apply for CalVIP Cohort 5 funding are encouraged to join the BSCC’s “RFP Availability Mailing List” to be made aware of future funding opportunities. Sign up [here](#).

ELIGIBILITY

8. Can more than one city department apply with different programs/services (example: police and city dept)?

Answer: No, BSCC will only accept one application per eligible city, county, tribe or CBO. Please refer to pages 6-7 of the RFP.

9. We have identified a few cities that we would like to service. Would I have to submit an application for each city, or can I submit one for all?

Answer: BSCC will only accept one application per eligible city, county, tribe or CBO. Please refer to pages 6-7 of the RFP.

10. Are community foundations eligible to apply as third party administrators?

Answer: A community foundation that would be applying as a third-party administrator should apply as a Fiscal Sponsor for a project. That community foundation must meet the CBO Eligibility Criteria listed on pages 12- 13 of the RFP. Also, please refer to Fiscal Sponsors Applying for BSCC Grants on pages 14-15 of the RFP.

11. Are Limited Liability Corporations (LLCs) eligible for this funding?

Answer: An LLC could be eligible, if it meets the eligibility criteria listed on pages 12-13 of the RFP.

12. Does a CBO have to be a 501 (c)(3) at the time of application or can their status be in process?

Answer: A CBO must have 501(c)(3) status for 12 months prior to the submission deadline. Please refer to pages 12-13 of the RFP.

13. Is a valid business license required for all CBO applicants?

Answer: No. Please note: The RFP has been updated to reflect that a business license is required, "as applicable."

14. Would a recently incorporated non-profit coalition be required to apply with a fiscal agency?

Answer: Yes, a recently incorporated nonprofit that does not meet the eligibility criteria listed on pages 12-13 of the RFP is not eligible to apply directly, but a fiscal sponsor could apply on their behalf because the CBO criteria requires that a CBO must have "been duly organized, in existence, and in good standing for at least 12 months prior to the proposal submission deadline."

15. At the bottom of page 15 of the RFP: "Eligible CBOs are those that serve the residents of any eligible city or tribal government." Should the word "county" be included in this eligibility sentence, or has this been intentionally deleted?

Answer: The word "county" was intentionally omitted from this sentence. By statute, eligibility for CBOs is restricted to those that serve eligible cities or tribes.

16. Since San Francisco is a city and a county, are applicants allowed to apply under the city and county category, and can two different city departments apply under each of the different categories?

Answer: No, since the City and County of San Francisco is a single entity, it is limited to one application.

17. Can an eligible county and an eligible city within that county both apply for funding?

Answer: Yes. Counties and cities will compete independently.

18. Our CBO is based in an eligible city, but we operate in a city that is not eligible. Are we still eligible to apply? What if our CBO is based in a city that is not eligible, but we serve a county that is eligible?

Answer: In order to be eligible, a CBO must provide services to the residents of an eligible city or tribe. For the purposes of determining CBO eligibility, a county does not qualify.

19. Can you please confirm if law enforcement is eligible to receive funds from this grant?

Answer: Eligible applicants are cities and counties. A law enforcement agency serving an eligible city or county could receive funds from this grant.

20. As a CBO applicant, our qualifying city is a small/medium city. Can we still apply for a Large Scope project, even though our qualifying city is small/medium?

Answer: Eligible CBOs must self-select into the Large Scope or Small Scope category, based on the size and cost of the project. The size of the qualifying city is not a factor.

21. Can you explain why some organizations that received funding in Cohort 4 are not eligible to apply for Cohort 5?

Answer: If a city dropped off the eligible list for Cohort 5, it means they are no longer considered to be disproportionately impacted by gun violence, according to one of the three criteria:

- Criteria 1: 20 or more homicides per calendar year
- Criteria 2: 10 or more homicides per calendar year
- Criteria 3: top 25 percent for assault with firearm rate and at least 25 assaults with firearm incidents

FUNDING

22. Is any of this funding from federal sources? If so, is it secure? Do we have to write in a way that's "acceptable" to the current administration?

Answer: The CalVIP Grant is a state-funded grant.

23. If a city is the applicant and has a division within one of their departments whose mission is violence prevention, would this meet the 50 percent pass-through requirement?

Answer: Yes. Please refer to page 21 of the RFP.

24. Even though no match is required, will you be awarding any extra points to applicants that do include match in their project budget?

Answer: No, an applicant will not receive extra points for including match.

25. You mentioned that grantees would receive only 1.5 percent of the grant. Does that mean if we are awarded \$500,000, we will receive only \$7,500?

Answer: No, the estimated 1.5 percent mentioned during the information session pertains to the supplemental mental health services funding that will be added to a grantee's budget after award. Once the results of the competitive process are finalized, \$2 million will be allocated across all successful applicants. It is estimated that each grantee will receive an additional 1.5 percent of their total grant award.

26. Is the maximum grant amount for the entire grant period and not per annum? Will the supplemental mental health funding (\$2m) be per 3-year project or is that based on the annum allocation?

Answer: Both the maximum grant amount and the mental health supplemental funding amount will be for the entire grant period, not for each year of the grant period.

27. What determines funding allocations for large cities versus small cities?

Answer: The CalVIP Cohort 5 Executive Steering Committee determined the funding thresholds for all applicant categories.

28. Regarding the 50 percent pass-through requirement, does it mean that a city/county would have to list a non-profit CBO as a co-applicant? If so, doesn't that put other CBOs at a disadvantage since they would be competing for the same dollars?

Answer: No. Cities and counties must pass through a minimum of 50 percent of their grant award to one or more of the following: (1) NGO CBOs, public agencies that are not law enforcement whose primary mission is violence prevention or community safety, or (3) tribal governments, as outlined on page 21 of the RFP.

29. Will all categories receive funding based on the table in the RFP, or will the seven categories be reprioritized as actual tax funds become available?

Answer: The funding available in each Applicant Category as shown in the table is based on a percent of total funding, as determined by the ESC. Available funding will be distributed among the seven categories based on those percentages.

30. Once a city or county has passed through the required minimum 50 percent, can the city or county use the other 50 percent of the grant award to cover operational costs such as salaries and department expenses related to the gun violence prevention efforts?

Answer: Yes. Once the pass-through requirement is met, the city or county may use the remaining grant funds on any eligible expenditures.

31. Is there a limit on the number of awards that will be made or is it based on scoring?

Answer: The total amount of available funding for this RFP is \$103,000,000. Once proposals are scored, BSCC will move down the ranked list of eligible proposals until funding is exhausted.

TARGET AREA

32. Can a CBO with statewide reach submit a proposal that targets eligible cities across the state?

Answer: It is up to the applicant to propose their target area(s) and target population. In order to be eligible, a CBO must propose to serve the residents of one or more eligible cities or tribes.

33. A CBO must specify the primary cities that will be served, not just the county. Is this correct?

Answer: Yes, in order to be eligible, a CBO must propose to serve the residents of one or more eligible cities or tribes.

34. If our CBO will provide services to all of Antelope Valley, should we still list every city and unincorporated area covered under the Antelope Valley?

Answer: In order to be eligible, a CBO must propose to serve the residents of one or more eligible cities or tribes. "Antelope Valley" is not an eligible applicant.

35. Can a city, county and CBO get funding in the same area?

Answer: Yes. Cities, counties and CBOs will compete independently.

36. If the county receives funding, can it work in all areas of the county, or just in unincorporated communities?

Answer: Counties are eligible if they have one or more eligible cities within their jurisdiction. It is up to the county to propose their target area(s) and target population. Eligible counties are not limited to serving the unincorporated areas.

37. Do county applicants have to focus on those cities listed as eligible, or can it work in cities not listed as an eligible city?

Answer: An eligible county does not have to focus only on eligible cities.

38. Can a CBO apply for a regional approach to serve both eligible cities and neighboring cities that are not eligible but are geographically adjacent?

Answer: For CBO applicants, one or more of the eligible cities must comprise the primary service area for the grant. Geographically adjacent cities and/or unincorporated areas may be included, but not as the primary target area.

39. Can CBOs serve unincorporated areas within an eligible county?

Answer: No, not as its primary target area. In order to be eligible, a CBO applicant must propose to serve the residents of one or more eligible cities or tribes.

40. Must applicants serve an entire city, or is it permissible to focus on target area where greatest levels of need exist?

Answer: Applicants may focus grant-funded services on target areas where the greatest levels of need exist. It is not required that a city or CBO applicant serve an entire city.

41. Can a CBO apply to do a project with a regional focus by serving multiple cities in multiple counties?

Answer: In order to be eligible, a CBO must propose to serve the residents of one or more eligible cities or tribes. It is up to the applicant to determine which and how many eligible cities will be served.

42. If a CBO serves a large city and a small city, can the CBO submit one proposal to serve both cities?

Answer: In order to be eligible, a CBO must propose to serve the residents of one or more eligible cities or tribes. Yes, a CBO could submit a proposal to serve more than one city, as long as both cities are eligible.

43. What is the best way to determine whether to apply as a large scope CBO project or small scope?

Answer: CBO applicants must self-select into the Large Scope or Small Scope category, based on the size and cost of the project.

44. Can a CBO submit one application that will serve several eligible cities, i.e., is there a limit on how many cities they can serve in the application?

Answer: Yes, a CBO applicant can submit one application proposing to serve several eligible cities as their target area and target population. There is not a limit on how many cities a CBO could propose to serve in their application. Please refer to pages 16-21 Eligible Cities,

Counties, and Tribal Government tables in the CalVIP RFP. BSCC will only accept one application per eligible city, county, tribe or CBO. Please refer to pages 6-7 in the CalVIP RFP.

ELIGIBLE GRANT ACTIVITIES

Note: Authorizing statute mandates that CalVIP grants “shall be used to develop, support, expand, and replicate evidence-based **community gun violence reduction initiatives**, including, without limitation, hospital-based violence intervention programs, evidence-based street outreach programs, and focused deterrence strategies, that seek to interrupt cycles of community gun violence and retaliation in order to reduce the incidence of homicides, shootings, and aggravated assaults.” (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (c).) Within this statutory definition, applicants have discretion in designing a project that best fits the scope of the problem and the needs of the target population.

45. Can grant funds be used to fund legal services?

Answer: See above. Legal services are not prohibited expenditures.

46. Can some of the CalVIP funding go to educational or mentorship programs via the local school district or community colleges?

Answer: See above. Educational or mentorship programs are not prohibited expenditures.

47. Are art/music programs considered as part of prevention efforts (if it includes case management/workforce development)?

Answer: See above. Art/music programs are not prohibited expenditures.

48. What do you mean by "Scared Straight" programs?

Answer: Scared Straight programs expose youth and or non-incarcerated adults to detention settings to be intimidated by existing prison inmates in an attempt to deter criminal behavior. This type of programming has been found to be ineffective through numerous studies and meta-analyses.

49. Are you accepting sexual violence prevention proposals?

Answer: No, authorizing statute mandates that projects funded by the CalVIP grant funds “shall be primarily focused on providing violence intervention services to the small segment of the population that is identified as high risk of perpetrating or being victimized by community gun violence in the near future.” (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (c).)

50. If a proposed service is innovative and no evidence-based research exists, can we apply and make the case that the proposed service is based on lived experience of the service provider?

Answer: Please see the Project Description Rating Factor on page 40 of the RFP for a list of the criteria against which the project description will be scored.

51. Does the “survivor centered supports” listed in eligible activities include services for parents, children, and other loved ones impacted by a shooting incident?

Answer: It could include these populations, and it is up to the applicant to propose their target area(s) and target population in their CalVIP application.

52. Can the target group be specific such as gay black males?

Answer: It is up to the applicant to propose their target area(s) and target population in their CalVIP application.

- 53. Question regarding grant priority areas. Would you be able to provide us with a list of high priority areas that your division is wanting grantees to address?**

Answer: No, there is no information for prospective applicants beyond what is in the RFP.

BUDGET

- 54. Confirming that an award from BSCC will give 100 percent of the award to a city or county lead. Then the city/county is responsible for distributing the 50 percent pass through to one or more CBOs, non-law enforcement public agencies focused on violence prevention/community safety, or tribal governments.**

Answer: Yes, city and county grantees are responsible for the entire grant award, which would include subcontracting at least 50 percent of the award to one or more CBOs, non-law enforcement public agencies focused on violence prevention/community safety, and/or tribal governments.

- 55. Does a CBO applicant need to include the mental health subcontract amount?**

Answer: No. Once the results of the RFP's competitive process are finalized, \$2 million in supplemental mental health funding will be allocated across all successful applicants. It is estimated that each grantee will receive an additional 1.5 percent of their total grant award.

- 56. Should the six-month evaluation and audit period be considered in the budget total? for example, do we budget for necessary staff salaries, evaluator fees, supplies in our total budget?**

Answer: Yes, costs for the six-month evaluation and audit period should be in an applicant's budget.

- 57. How specific would you like the budget narrative to be? For example, if one of our budget line items is titled "Programming Supplies," can we provide a general description of the types of supplies we will be purchasing, or do you want a cost breakdown for each supply?**

Answer: For the hypothetical scenario presented here, a general description of the types of supplies being purchased would be reasonable. See the Budget Rating Factor on page 43 of the RFP for a list of criteria against which the budget will be scored.

- 58. Can there be a combination of both Full Time Employees (FTEs) and hourly employees in the budget based on staffing needs or should all positions be either FTEs or hourly?**

Answer: Applicants can present a combination of both FTEs and hourly employees in their budget.

ATTACHMENTS

- 59. The instructions specify that general Letters of Support will not be read. Instructions regarding Letters of Commitment between partners and the parameters of their participation are not given in the RFP. Can you please confirm that Letters of Commitment, Memoranda of Understanding, or other documentation pertaining to partners/subcontractors and their activities are not required for submission?**

Answer: No separate documentation pertaining to partners/subcontractors is required at time of submission. If awarded, a grantee may be asked to provide documentation to support subcontracted services.

60. Is the Work Plan excluded from the character count for the Project Description narrative section?

Answer: Yes, the Project Work Plan is a separate attachment that requires upload in the BSCC Submittable Application Portal.

61. Are there word or page limitations for the Work Plan?

Answer: No, there are no page limitations to the Project Work Plan attachment.

62. Can additional goals be added to the Work Plan template if relevant?

Answer: Yes.

63. The Work Plan document is in a Microsoft Word format, but instructions are to cut and paste into a Word document and expand cells as necessary. The form accepts entered information – can it be used as is?

Answer: Yes, the attachment can be downloaded and filled in as is or it can be copied and pasted to a new Word document.

64. Should everything included in the Project Work Plan also be listed in the Proposal Narrative?

Answer: See the Project Description Rating Factor on page 40 of the RFP for a list of criteria against which the Project Description (including the Project Work Plan) will be scored.

65. Can you describe the difference between Proposal Narrative Section 2.4 Project Work Plan and Attachment B CalVIP Cohort Project Work Plan?

Answer: Attachment B, CalVIP Project Work Plan, is the actual Work Plan document applicants will complete and upload as a separate attachment. The Proposal Narrative Section 2.4 Project Work Plan lists the criteria against which the Project Work Plan will be scored.

66. Is there a recommendation or preference for the name given to the attached files? for example grantname_CBOname_attachmentname.pdf

Answer: No.

SUBCONTRACTING

67. Can a mental health provider be a grantee under the CBO and be a subgrantee for the city?

Answer: An applicant may apply as a direct grantee and may also be a subcontractor on a maximum of two additional proposals. If an applicant intends to apply directly and is also a subcontractor on another proposal, the proposals cannot be duplicative and must fund separate and unique activities.

68. If the CBO is the primary applicant and the county is a subcontractor, can we serve the whole county or just the specific cities listed?

Answer: CBO applicants must propose to serve one or more eligible cities or tribes, not just counties.

69. Does each entity listed as eligible for the pass-through requirement need use all their funding internally or can they further subcontract to other entities?

Answer: The pass-through entity can subcontract with other eligible entities.

70. Can a Native American 501(c)(3) not associated with the "Tribal Governments Eligible to Apply for CalVIP Funding" be a sub-contractor?

Answer: Yes, as long as they meet the criteria for non-governmental organizations that receive grant funds as a subcontractor. Please refer to pages 77-78 in the RFP.

71. How does the maximum of two subcontracts apply with the new county category? For example, if a CBO applies for Cohort 5, and is a subcontractor on two other applications and then a county entity is awarded and wants to contract with that same CBO, can the CBO take on a third subcontract from the county?

Answer: No, applicants may only be a subcontractor on two additional proposals.

72. Would an organization like the Boys and Girls Club be able to subcontract the Violence Intervention piece in an area that needs this support?

Answer: Yes, an applicant may subcontract out any components of their proposal.

73. Can a subcontractor be a for-profit entity if the lead CBO is non-profit?

Answer: Non-governmental subcontractors must meet the criteria for non-governmental organizations that receive grant funds as a subcontractor. Please refer to pages 77-78 in the RFP.

74. It sounds like an applicant can be the lead on one and subcontract on up to two other awards for a total of three, but if you're providing professional services (e.g., technical assistance) then you can do that on an unlimited number of applications?

Answer: Yes, this is correct.

75. Can an individual work on two separate grant projects as a consultant?

Answer: Yes.

FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

76. Can organizations that are fiscally sponsored apply?

Answer: No. The fiscal sponsor must be the applicant and, if awarded, the applicant (fiscal sponsor) is fully responsible for the grant.

77. Can our fiscal sponsor fee be included in our indirect cost percentage?

Answer: No, a fiscal sponsor may not charge the CalVIP Cohort 5 Grant a percentage fee to provide services for the project. Grant funded projects must be reimbursed for actual expenditures that are for eligible project costs.

78. Can you explain what is meant by requiring that fiscal sponsors are named as the applicant throughout the application?

Answer: A Fiscal Sponsor must be listed as the "applicant" throughout the application, including on the Submittable Applicant Information section, Project Budget Attachment, and on anywhere else "Name of Applicant" is required.

79. Can a fiscal sponsor be a subcontractor?

Answer: Yes, it is possible for a Fiscal Sponsor who applies as a direct grantee on behalf of a single project to also be a subcontractor on a maximum of two additional proposals. If an applicant intends to apply directly and is also a subcontractor on another proposal, the proposals cannot be duplicative and must fund separate and unique activities.

EVALUATION AND AUDIT

- 80. Can the evaluator we select also serve as our technical assistance (TA) provider (if they apply to and are awarded the evaluation capacity building CalVIP contract)?**

Answer: Yes, the CalVIP capacity building contracts are separate and do not impact an applicant's ability to build in TA support for their CalVIP project.

- 81. The grant period begins on 1/1/26, and the local evaluation plan is due 6/30/26 (with the final report due 6/30/29). However, quarterly reports are also required. Does the six-month period represent a ramp-up phase before evaluations begin, or are the quarterly reports based on different metrics than those in the local evaluation plan?**

Answer: There is no ramp-up phase. The Local Evaluation Plan and the Quarterly Progress Reports are separate and independent deliverables.

- 82. Can you share some details on what may be expected by the Program Compliance Audit requirement?**

Answer: Grantees are required to provide the BSCC with a program specific compliance audit that covers the service delivery period of the grant (January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2028). The program specific compliance audit must be performed by a Certified Public Accountant or a participating county or city auditor that is organizationally independent from the participating county or city's project financial management functions.