

Proposition 47 Grant Request for Proposals (RFP)
Cohort 5
Frequently Asked Questions
Updated 5/22/25

Prop. 47 Letter of Intent

1. Is the Letter of Intent required? So, if we did not submit a Letter of Intent, can we still apply?

A: A Letter of Intent is not required. Prospective applicants that did not submit a Letter of Intent can still apply.

Prop. 47 Local Advisory Committee (LAC)

2. Can you elaborate on the LAC?

A: The Prop 47 LAC requirements are described in the RFP, beginning on page 13. The Lead Agency must host regular community meetings to invite ongoing feedback and non-confidential updates from the Prop 47 Local Advisory Committee and the community. This component will be rated according to the rating criteria contained in Rating Factor 2 (Community Engagement), found on page 29 of the RFP.

3. Is there a minimum number of meetings the LAC must hold per year? Should meeting minutes or agendas be submitted to the BSCC?

A: No, there is no minimum number of meetings the LAC must hold per year. Meeting minutes and agendas do not have to be submitted to the BSCC but should be available for review upon request.

4. Does BSCC have any conflict of interest protocols that sub-applicants should follow if members of the LAC will help develop the program and be applying for funds, or should the applicant develop their own?

A: No. Public agency applicants should consult with agency counsel on applicable conflict of interest policies.

5. Does a public agency need to go through the LAC to apply?

A: A public agency will apply directly to the BSCC for Prop 47 funds. However, before a public agency applies, the public agency must convene a Prop 47 LAC that includes local stakeholders who have experience and expertise in the prospective programs and/or services to be implemented by the proposal.

6. Can an LAC serve more than one applicant?

A: Yes., it depends. Counties and cities are not restricted to one proposal, so it might be appropriate for a LAC to serve more than one applicant. Applicants should read through the Prop 47 LAC requirements in the RFP, beginning on page 13.

7. Does the LAC have to change from cohort to cohort, or can it consist of the same people every year?

A: The LAC can consist of the same people from year to year, but applicants should read through the Prop. 47 LAC requirements described in the RFP, beginning on page 13.

8. Can you go over Attachments C and D, specifically where these individuals can be found or if there are any restrictions?

A: The LAC should be made up of community stakeholders that your agency believes will be helpful in developing and sustaining the services funded by the Prop 47 grant program. There are no restrictions and the BSCC encourages public participation.

9. Regarding Attachment D, will each member need to submit a letter on their individual letterhead with signatures, or should we come together on a single joint letter that each of us submits with our proposals?

A: Attachment D refers to the LAC Letter of Agreement and it states this letter is to be signed by the Lead Agency and all members of the Prop 47 LAC. If one letter is not possible, BSCC will accept multiple letters, but one letter with all member signatures if preferred. Please refer to Attachment D, page 72, for more information.

10. Does the LAC have to be approved by a government entity? Or can they just self-form?

A: The Prop 47 LAC should be developed and convened by the public agency applicant.

Data Collection, Reporting & Evaluation

11. Can this recidivism data be collected by Probation? Since the definition of recidivism is convicted of a felony or misdemeanor within 3 years of release and this grant is only for 4 years, how long will we be expected to track these individuals?

A: According to page 17 of the RFP, "Recidivism data must be obtained from a reliable source, such as local law enforcement." The Probation Department is considered a local law enforcement agency. Grantees are only required to track individuals through the end of the grant period, June 30, 2029. BSCC may ask past grantees to participate in additional tracking, on a voluntary basis, but it is yet to be determined.

12. Is there a template for the Local Evaluation Plan (LEP)?

A: No, but Appendix F in the RFP provides guidelines for the LEP.

Eligibility to Apply / Lead Agency

13. Are the following entities eligible as public agencies to apply for Prop 47 grant funds?

- **Public community college or university**

A: No, please see the definition of public agency. (See RFP, page 7.)

- **Charter school**
No, please see the definition of public agency. (See RFP, page 7.)
- **County Superior Court**
A: No, please see the definition of public agency. (See RFP, page 7.)
- **California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Facility**
A: No, please see the definition of public agency. (See RFP, page 7.)

14. Are counties and cities restricted to one proposal per county or city?

A: No. Every public agency competes separately and independently.

15. Can a non-profit organization, a public charity, a sole proprietor, or a community-based organization (CBO) apply directly?

A: No, only public agencies, as defined in the law, may apply for Prop 47 grant funds. Public agencies are required, however, to pass through a minimum of 50 percent of a grant award to one or more non-governmental, community-based organizations.

16. If an agency is currently undergoing or recently went through an audit for another Prop 47 Cohort grant, are they eligible to apply for Prop 47 Cohort 5?

A: Yes. However, the BSCC reserves the right to not enter a grant agreement with agencies that had a contract terminated within the last three years, have outstanding deliverables from a past grant, or owe money to the BSCC.

17. Will organizations that are receiving Cohort 3 funds be eligible to apply for Cohort 5 funding?

A: Yes.

18. Can two agencies in one county apply for separate large and small grants? Is there a disadvantage to having the same county (with different projects) apply?

A: Two different public agencies in one county can apply separately. There is no disadvantage; each proposal will be rated independently.

19. Can Los Angeles apply within both small and large categories?

A: No. The County of Los Angeles is only allowed to submit one proposal and will compete in the large scope category.

20. If we are not in LA county, can we still try and compete for the \$20 million?

A. No. The \$20 million set-aside is only available to the County of Los Angeles.

21. Could a public agency that is receiving a Cohort 4 grant participate in Cohort 5 on a joint proposal?

A: Yes, a Cohort 4 grantee could serve as a partner agency on another public agency's proposal, but it cannot be the lead agency on a Cohort 5 proposal. I.

22. Can a county and city partner on a proposal, with the city agency as the lead applicant?

A: Yes, so long as the joint proposal complies with all other eligibility criteria.

23. Can you please confirm that a lead agency may only submit one application on behalf of the whole city? Is it possible for two different departments within the city to apply? For example, can two departments within the Los Angeles Mayor's Office with different programs qualify to apply?

A: It depends. Because public agencies are the eligible applicants, and not cities and counties, it is possible for two different public agencies within one city to apply, e.g., the Police Department and the Department of Health and Human Services. But the departments must be the applicants. The BSCC will only accept one proposal per applicant public agency. In the example cited, the Mayor's Office can be the lead agency on only one. Please see page 7 of the RFP which states: "Lead agencies (i.e., individual agencies or departments within a city, county, or other jurisdiction) may not submit more than one proposal."

24. Can two city departments submit two different grant applications addressing different community needs, one small fund and one large fund? If this is permissible, can the Local Advisory Committees (LACs) be the same or have overlapping members?

A: Two city departments can submit two different applications, as long as the departments are the applicants. Yes, the LACs can be the same or have overlapping members.

25. Is it best to apply with a county or city to reach multiple school districts, or must we partner with one school district and only serve that one district?

A: One lead agency can service multiple school districts.

Required 50 Percent Pass-Through to Non-Governmental, Community-Based Organizations

26. Does every lead agency applying have to have a partner that they share these funds with?

A: Yes, a Lead Agency must subcontract with one or more non-governmental, community-based organizations for a minimum of 50 percent of the total grant award in order to demonstrate a shared partnership rooted in community engagement and economic equity. (RFP, page 7.)

27. Can a government agency apply without a prior commitment from a community-based organization (CBO)? Can the agency put out an RFP for a CBO after they obtain the funding?

A: Yes, a public agency can apply without a prior commitment from a CBO and identify CBO partners after they obtain the funding, as long as they earmark the funds in the budget, with a detailed description of the services to be provided.

28. Would counseling that the city provides for community members be considered a “community-based organization”? The counseling is funded by the city.

A: No, counseling that is funded by the city would not meet the definition of “community-based organization” for purposes of meeting the 50 percent pass-through requirement.

29. Would a for-profit organization (such as a for-profit Health Clinic) be considered a CBO for purposes of meeting the 50 percent pass-through requirement?

A: Yes, as long as the organization meets all the criteria listed in Appendix H on page 57 of the RFP.

30. Can the Public Agency's partnering CBO subcontract portions of the award or function as a fiscal sponsor to facilitate the direct services?

A: There is nothing that restricts a subcontractor from further subcontracting out a portion of the Prop. 47 funds, or from serving as a fiscal sponsor, but be advised that the Lead Public Agency assumes all risk and retains all responsibility for the entire grant award. Please see Appendix H for eligibility requirements that all subcontractors must meet.

31. If a city houses a community-based mental health program, where services for school-based, low or no cost counseling are available would that count toward the 50 percent pass-through requirement?

A: No, if the program is housed within and funded by the city, then it would not count toward the 50 percent pass-through requirement. Those funds must be subcontracted to non-governmental organizations.

32. Can we have multiple CBO/non-governmental partners?

A: Yes. A Lead Agency can have one or more CBO/non-governmental partners. (RFP, page 7.)

33. Can a CBO/non-governmental partner be part of more than one application? For example, could an organization be part of the City of Vista's application and also San Diego County's application?

A: Yes, as long as the organization has the capacity and capability to document and track the efforts separately. Please note that double billing is prohibited. ([2023 BSCC Grant Administration Guide](#), page 47.)

Indirect Cost Rate

34. What is the minimum and maximum indirect rate an applicant can apply for in the budget?

A: Grantees are not required to claim indirect costs, so there is no minimum. The maximum indirect cost rate options can be found in the Budget Worksheet instructions and are listed here:

- 1) Organizations with a federally approved indirect cost rate may request reimbursement for indirect costs not to exceed 20 percent of the total grant award.
- 2) Organizations that do not have a federally approved indirect cost rate may request reimbursement for indirect costs not to exceed 15 percent of the total grant award.

Eligible Expenditures / Services

35. Does an expansion of currently funded Prop 47 Cohort work qualify, assuming a new lead agency is identified?

A: Yes.

36. Can the funds be used to continue a project that was previously funded by a prior round of Prop 47?

A: Yes, however please note that current Prop 47 Cohort 4 Grantees are NOT eligible to apply unless proposing to implement a new treatment-mandated felony program under the guidelines of Prop 36.

Please note that a different public agency from the same city or county as a Cohort 4 grantee IS eligible.

Is Housing First a requirement when using funds to develop housing services for people experiencing homelessness or at-risk for homelessness?

A: Yes. [Welfare and Institutions Code sections 8255-8257.2](#) requires a state agency that funds, implements, or administers a state program that provides housing or housing-related services to people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, to adopt guidelines to include Housing First principles. As such, applicants proposing projects that include housing or housing-related services for people experiencing homelessness or are at-risk for homelessness must adhere to Housing First principles. These principles recognize a homeless person must first be able to access a decent, safe place to live, that does not limit length of stay (permanent housing), before stabilizing, improving health, reducing harmful behaviors, or increasing income.

Under the Housing First approach, anyone experiencing homelessness is connected to a permanent home as quickly as possible and Housing First programs remove barriers to accessing housing and do not require sobriety or an absence of criminal history. It is based on the “hierarchy of need” in which people must access basic necessities like a safe place to live and food to eat before being able to achieve quality of life or pursue personal goals. Housing First values choice not only in where to live, but whether to participate in services. Housing First providers offer services as needed and requested on a voluntary basis and do not make housing contingent on participation in services.

Please refer to Appendix E, Glossary of Terms, for examples of the types of housing models that could be funded by this grant (e.g., transitional housing, rapid re-housing, sober living homes, recovery residences, etc.).

37. Can a diversion program funded by Prop 47 be prior to arrest? Would those individuals still meet the eligibility criteria? Such as: Sheriff refers to another agency for assistance in lieu of arrest.

A: Yes. Under the Prop 47 grant, if an individual would have been arrested had the diversion program not existed, they are considered to meet the statutory definition of “people in the criminal justice system.”

38. If an individual participated in a diversion program in the past (not funded by Prop 47) as an alternative to arrest, would that person meet the eligibility criteria for a Prop 47 referral now?

A: Yes. Please see answer to Question 38.

39. Can you expand on the exception of applicants with reentry planning focuses? Could a correctional facility who has resources and services available outside of the walls be applicable?

A: Prop 47 grant funds cannot be used to run programs inside a custodial setting, however, they can be used to support resources and services outside of the walls, and/or to support soliciting referrals from a custodial setting.

40. When you say programs or services can't be provided in a custodial setting (except outreach & reentry) are we permitted to work with them to seek diversion, which would eventually allow them to get out of custody, do a mental health treatment program with wraparound services under court supervision (diversion)?

A: Prop 47 grant funds cannot be used to support services, staff or programs inside of a custodial setting. In this scenario, they could be used to fund the portion of the program that takes place out of custody.

41. Would a county jail be able to use grant funding to connect patients with mental health services and medication assisted treatment upon discharge?

A: Yes, as long as those services are provided in the community and not in the jail.

42. I see an example of mental health services as case management; can this include the salaries of school social workers?

A: Salaries and benefits for project staff are allowable expenses.

43. Do the agencies hired to collect data and complete evaluations have to be nonprofit organizations?

A: No.

44. Are administrative costs for data collection/reporting allowable beyond the 10 percent?

A: No, public agencies may not dedicate more than 10 percent of the total grant award to data collection and evaluation efforts.

45. Is staff time spent on data collection and grant reporting considered indirect costs or part of the data collection and evaluation line item?

A: This is up to the applicant. It can be counted in either category.

46. Is restitution to victims of the target population an eligible expense?

A: No. Prop 47 grant funds cannot be used to pay restitution to crime victims.

47. Can funds be used for encampment clean-ups following someone entering treatment? Does that qualify as an indirect cost?

A: No, encampment clean-ups are not an allowable expense, and they would qualify as indirect costs, as indirect costs are shared costs that cannot be directly assigned to a particular activity.

48. Is property maintenance an eligible expenditure?

A: No, property maintenance is not within the scope of eligible activities defined in the RFP or the authorizing legislation.

49. I work for a school district, and we don't have a great way to track the data regarding our students who have been involved in the juvenile justice system. Can we use the funds to improve those systems? Can we also use funds to continue our partnership with CareSolace, who we use to refer students and families to outside resources for mental health?

A: No. Prop 47 funding is only eligible for direct services to the target population, so it cannot be used to improve data systems. The partnership for mental health resources does sound like an eligible expenditure, if the students will be receiving direct services.

50. When paying for salaries, is it a requirement to hire new employees or are we able to use current employees to fulfill the plan for Prop 47?

A. No, it is not a requirement that grantees hire new employees. Grantees may use existing employees to fulfill the proposal for Prop 47, as long as BSCC grant funds are used to support new program activities or expand current program activities, but not to replace existing funds. Please refer to the section about "Supplanting" on page 9 for more information.

51. Other than 50 percent of the grant passing through to community-based organizations are their other requirements for the grant specifically when it comes to paying for salaries?

A: No.

52. In the proposal budget are we allowed to account for cost-of-living adjustment (COLA)?

A: Yes. Applicants are encouraged to account for COLA adjustments.

53. Can a public agency use funding from this RFP for educational services, such as online tutoring, to help learners obtain certifications and improve literacy, mathematics proficiency, and similar skills?

A: Prop 47 funds must be used first and foremost for mental health treatment, substance use disorder treatment, and/or diversion. Beyond that, applicants are

encouraged to provide supplemental services. The educational services you describe would fall into the category of supplemental services.

54. Can an NGO include a line item for interim housing costs to place homeless program participants in a motel stay at a negotiated nightly rate? So, the motel is set up as a subcontractor fee-for-service vendor of the NGO?

A: Yes, interim housing costs are allowable expenses under the Prop 47 grant.

55. Do you have more information about what type of Restorative Justice programs and interventions are of interest/required when incorporating restorative justice program elements?

A: No, we provide a sample definition in Appendix E, Glossary of Terms, which defines “Restorative Justice” as a “restorative practice is a social science that studies how to improve and repair relationships between people and communities.” There are many types of programs and interventions, and applicants have flexibility if and how they incorporate these elements.

56. Is it allowable for a service provider to be funded for both infrastructure and service provision? For example: To build a Diversion Centric Sobering Center and then to run the center?

A: No, Prop 47 funds may not be used to build infrastructure.

The 2023 BSCC Grant Administration Guide states: “Expenses for real property, including land, land improvements, structures and their attachments, and structural improvements and alterations are not allowable expenditures unless specifically authorized in the terms of the program.” Building a new facility is not an allowable cost on its own or combined with service.

57. Would a vehicle be real property?

A: No, a vehicle is not considered to be real property. A vehicle is considered a fixed asset that requires prior approval from the BSCC. For more information, see the pp. 33-34 of the [2023 BSCC Grant Administration Guide](#).

Funding/Leveraged Funds

58. Does this grant require a matching of funds?

A: No, there is no match requirement.

59. Is there a minimum amount of leveraged funds required?

A: No, there is no required or minimum amount of leveraged funds.

60. Can Prop 47 funds be used as a match for another project?

A: Prop 47 funds cannot be used as match on another BSCC-funded project.

61. Would match be an allowable expense to write into the budget or is match strictly leveraged funds if we choose to provide services?

A: There is no match requirement for Prop 47. If an applicant plans to leverage outside funds, they must be shown as “Leveraged Funds” in the proposal budget.

62. Will this grant provide advance funding to grantees?

A: No. The Prop 47 program operates on a reimbursement basis for costs incurred during the grant reporting period. (RFP, page 19.)

63. Can you confirm whether the Prop 36 population is eligible for funding under Cohort 5?

A: Yes.

64. If you could elaborate on Prop 36 and how funds from Prop 47 can be used to support treatment programs for treatment-mandated felony offenses.

A: Grant funds may be used for court-ordered treatment programs pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 11395 (i.e., Proposition 36). Eligible projects could include (this list is not exhaustive):

- Expanding or enhancing existing court-ordered substance use disorder and/or mental health treatment.
- Providing case management and wraparound services that facilitate successful reintegration, to include housing, employment support, and job training.

65. Could other grants that we receive from the CA Department of Housing and Community Development be used as leveraged funds?

A: Yes.

66. For Cohort 3 grantees, if January and February 2026 costs do not need to be charged to Cohort 5 because they will still be charged to Cohort 3, can that offset be identified as leverage?

A: No. Leveraged funds may only come from a source outside of BSCC.

67. Can in-kind donations be counted as leveraged funds?

A: No. Leveraged funds must be actual funds or social investments.

68. Is it okay to leverage outside grant funds that are only for one term year, while this BSCC funding flows through multiple years?

A: Yes.

69. If we propose to utilize leveraged federal funds such as Medi-Cal, that are later revoked by the current administration, what is the plan to deal with the loss of federal funding?

A: If a grantee loses its leveraged funds during the course of the grant term due to circumstances outside their control, they will have to work with BSCC staff to complete a budget modification.

70. If our County has a project that was started with a one-time grant and we don't have funding to continue the project, can we apply for Prop 47 to continue an existing project that does not have sufficient funding?

A: Yes, funds can be used to implement new projects, extend or augment existing projects.

71. How should entities with a Cohort 3 grant manage overlapping funds with a Cohort 5 grant, considering the overlap in January and February 2026?

A: The BSCC Grant Administrative Manual states: Grant funds must be clearly differentiated from any other funds within the banking account and tracking of the grant funds, separate and apart from any other funds.

72. Are there provisions for counties that anticipate losing their Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds, i.e., funding continuity of programs that will be unfunded with Prop 1?

A: There are no specific provisions around MHSA funds, but Prop 47 funding may be used to continue services that have lost funding. Please see pp. 9-10 of the RFP, which states: "BSCC grant funds shall be used to support new program activities and/or to augment existing funds that expand current program activities. BSCC grant funds shall not be used to replace existing funds."

73. Can the grant fund an existing program looking to add new services, expand from one phase to another, serve more people? Can grant funds fund the entire program or only the new elements?

A: Prop 47 grant may be used to support new program activities and/or augment existing funds that expand current grant activities. However, applicants must be aware that supplanting is strictly prohibited for all BSCC grants. Supplanting is the deliberate reduction in the amount of federal, state, or local funds being appropriated to an existing program or activity because grant funds have been awarded for the same purposes. (RFP, pp. 9-10.)

Target Population

74. For non-profit organizations that primarily serve youth and young adults, what areas do you recommend we focus on when submitting our proposal?

A: BSCC cannot make recommendations or assist an applicant with its proposal. Applicants should carefully review the *Eligible Grant Activities and Target Population* section, beginning on page 11 of the RFP.

75. Does the target population include those with PC 290 offenses? Is there a specific list of offenses that are excluded from Prop 47 services?

A: There is nothing in Prop 47 that prohibits a grantee from providing services to sex offenders as a part of the target population. Additionally, there is no list of offenses that would exclude individuals from Prop 47 funded programs.

76. Can we have program participants self-verify their eligibility by simply asking them their mental health, substance use and criminal history?

A: Yes.

77. How broadly are entities supposed to cast the net to find new arrests/convictions?

A: The BSCC cannot provide guidance in this area. Prospective applicants should work with their Local Advisory Committees in identifying the needs in their communities, as well as plan for outreach and engagement.

78. How recent does the arrest have to be?

A: There are no restrictions on the timeframe of an arrest.

79. Is there a percentage threshold of the target population that must be reached?

A: No.

80. Can the target population be an "and"? That is, can a grantee target people who have been arrested AND have other characteristics, as long as the target population requirements are addressed?

A: Yes. In fact, it is a requirement. The target population must be individuals who have been involved in the criminal justice system AND have a history of mental health or substance use disorders. (RFP, pp. 10-11.)

Governing Board Resolution

81. Is a resolution required at the time of submission?

A: No. The Governing Board Resolution is NOT required at the time of application. It must be submitted once grant funds are awarded and before reimbursement for grant-related expenditures can occur.

82. Do we need a new board resolution specifically for this grant if we already have one that authorizes our CFO to sign grant agreements?

A: If the board resolution was executed in the past 12 months, the BSCC will accept it for the purposes of this grant, otherwise a new board resolution is required.

Miscellaneous

83. How many proposals were received for Cohort 4 and how many were awarded?

A: Cohort 4: 39 proposals were received and 27 were funded.

84. What is the "cycle" of the cohort, and does it occur each year over a span of three to four years?

A: A grant cycle means the grant period or contract term. The grant period for Cohort 5 will begin on October 1, 2025 and end on June 30, 2029.

85. Will there be future cohort grant opportunities? If so, will cohort 5 recipients be ineligible?

A: Yes, BSCC anticipates future cohorts because Prop 47 funds are continuously appropriated. It is likely that Cohort 5 grant recipients will be ineligible for Cohort 6 awards.

86. Are the budgets from previously awarded programs available for review?

A: No, the budgets are not available for review.

87. Is there a way to download the full application questions with the length requirements or is it just through the submittable site?

A: The full application questions and the instructions, including the length requirements, are available in the RFP. Please see pp. 27-32.

88. Where can I find the submittal application helpline for assistance during the application process?

A: An applicant can find the submittal application help by visiting the following website: <https://www.submittable.com/help/submitter/>

89. How does one get on the BSCC's mailing list?

A: The BSCC provides free email updates via various mailing lists. To sign up for automatic BSCC email updates, please visit our website at: https://www.bscc.ca.gov/s_bsccmailchimplisterserv/.

90. If granted funds, what day will the departments be notified?

A: Proposals recommended for funding will be notified prior to the September 2025 Board meeting, at which time the Board will vote to approve the Prop 47 Scoring Panel's funding recommendations.

91. Is there an email or point of contact to which applicants can direct specific questions to ensure proposals are within the scope of the funding requirements?

A: BSCC staff cannot assist the applicant or its partners with the actual preparation of a proposal or provide feedback on the scope of a project. Technical questions concerning the RFP or the proposal process may be submitted by email to: Prop47Cohort5@bscc.ca.gov.