

California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) Grant
Cohort IV - Request for Proposals (RFP)
Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: December 23, 2021

Eligibility

1) Are county agencies eligible to apply?

No. Eligible applicants are cities that are disproportionately impacted by violence and community-based organizations that serve the residents of those cities (RFP, Pages 3-6).

2) Can a community-based organization (CBO) apply for CalVIP if they employ a member of the Executive Steering Committee (ESC)?

No. Existing law prohibits any grantee, subgrantee, partner or like party who participates on the Cohort IV CalVIP ESC from receiving funds from the grants awarded under this RFP.

3) Can a large CBO submit a proposal and be a fiscal agent for other applicants?

Yes, a CBO may serve as a fiscal agent for other applicants. Fiscal agents must meet the following conditions:

- Be listed as the “applicant” throughout the application. This includes on the Applicant Information Form, Budget document, and on any attachments that require the identification of an applicant.
- The authorized signatory for the fiscal sponsor must be vested with authority to enter into a contract with the BSCC and must sign the grant application. The fiscal sponsor must certify that they and any subcontractors will abide by the laws, policies, and procedures governing funding of the program.
- The fiscal sponsor may only submit one Cohort IV CalVIP application. The roles, responsibilities, and participation of each sponsored “project” involved in the application should be identified
- The fiscal sponsor may not charge the CalVIP 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.

4) Can a school district apply as a direct grantee?

No. Only the 53 cities and the CBOs that serve them can apply as a direct grantee. For city applicants, either the city itself or a department within the city may serve as the applicant.

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5) Can a CBO that is not located in an eligible city, but provides services to residents within an eligible city apply for CalVIP funds?

Any CBO that serves the residence of the cities listed on Table 1 of the RFP are eligible to apply for CalVIP funding (Pages 4-5). The CBO need not be physically located inside the city to be eligible.

6) Can a city in Table 1 and a CBO from that city both apply for CalVIP funds?
Yes.

7) Is the University of California eligible to receive CalVIP funding?

Yes. The UC system is a “public trust” and is not considered a governmental entity invested with the state’s governmental power. In addition, the UC Board of Regents, which governs the UC system, is a 501(c)3 nonprofit.

8) Are current CalVIP grantees eligible to apply for this round CalVIP funds?

Yes.

9) Can we apply for CalVIP using a similar program model as what we have submitted for the California Community Reinvestment Grants Program (CalCRG)?

Assembly Bill 1603 requires that CalVIP grants be used to support, expand, and replicate evidence-based violence reduction strategies “that seek to interrupt cycles of violence and retaliation in order to reduce the incidence of homicides, shootings, and aggravated assaults.” (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (c).)

Regardless of the strategy or strategies selected, applicants must be able to explain why that strategy was chosen for the target population/target area and cite evidence that indicates the strategy is likely to “reduce the incidence of homicides, shootings and aggravated assaults.” (Pen. Code, §14131, subd. (f)(4).)

In addition to the above, proposals must address the rating factors identified on pages 24-28 of the CalVIP RFP to be considered for funding. It is at the applicant’s responsibility to submit a proposal in alignment with RFP requirements.

10) Does a CBO need to be registered with the Attorney General to be eligible for CalVIP funding?

No, please refer to the CBO eligibility criteria (RFP, Pages 5-6).

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Budget and Match

1) Please describe the difference between CBO and small scope CBO.

Funding for the Cohort IV RFP is divided into three funding categories. CBOs can apply for two of the three funding categories. Those categories are up to \$400,000 or up to \$6,000,000. Under the small scope category, the maximum grant amount is up to \$400,000.

2) Does an applicant have to use their staff time as match?

An applicant does not have to use salaries and benefits as part of match, but that is an option. The match can be cash, in-kind or a combination of both. It is up to the applicant to decide how they will meet their match obligation.

3) Can other state and/or federal funds be used to match CalVIP funds?

Yes, if the other state/federal program allows for those funds to be used. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure the terms and conditions of the state or federal grant allows funds to be used as match for other grant programs. Other BSCC grant programs/funds **cannot** be used to match against CalVIP.

4) The RFP says, "CalVIP applicants should include sufficient per diem and travel allocations in their Project Budget for project-related evaluation personnel to attend up to two one-day meetings in Sacramento with the outside evaluator." Should applicants' budget for this to be full-day meetings (8am-5pm)?

Applicants should budget for two, one-day meetings in Sacramento (dates/times are TBD). If necessary, these meetings may be held virtually. Should that occur, grantees will have an opportunity to modify their project budget to reallocate those funds to other budget line items.

5) Can you provide examples of allowable expenses for the Project Evaluation Category?

Applicants must dedicate a minimum of 5 percent with a maximum of 10 percent of the total grant funds requested for evaluation planning, oversight, and reporting activities (RFP, Page 15).

6) Can a grant applicant propose to secure an independent evaluator through an open procurement process following a grant award?

Yes, when completing the budget attachment if a partner has not been selected as of the date of the submission of the application, identify the amount of grant and/or match funds that will be allocated and describe the services to be provided.

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7) Can we use California Community Reinvestment Grants Program (CalCRG) funding to meet the CalVIP match requirement?

Yes, if the CalCRG Program does not prohibit recipients from using CalCRG funding to meet match obligations. CalVIP grant funds shall be used to support new program activities or to augment or expand existing program activities but shall not be used to replace existing funds. When using outside funds as match, applicants must be careful not to supplant. It is the responsibility of the grantee to ensure that supplanting does not occur. The grantee must keep clear and detailed financial records to show that grant funds are used only for allowable costs and activities.

8) We are planning to submit a request to purchase a laser for removal of gang and other harmful tattoos in the San Diego Region as part of our application for CalVIP funding—this would help us expand our capacity to provide this service to the community. Are there restrictions for the purchase of such equipment? The expenditure would occur in year 1- does the match requirement vary year by year or is it over the life of the grant?

The RFP does not prohibit the purchase of laser removal equipment. However, any equipment with an acquisition cost of \$3,500 or more will require prior approval by the BSCC if the proposal is selected for funding. The RFP does not specify a minimum match that must be met each year. Projects selected for funding must meet the 100% match requirement before the conclusion of the project.

9) Is a sophisticated crime analysis system – specifically Peregrine – an eligible grant expenditure? It will be used to identify the highest risk individuals and their associates, analyze group-involved crimes and trends, etc.

The RFP does not prohibit the purchase of crime analysis software per se. However, there are prohibitions on the use of grant funds for “high-tech surveillance or monitoring equipment and intelligence systems (e.g., shot spotter, gang database).” To the extent a software suite falls into this category or integrates with other systems that are ineligible for reimbursement, reimbursement may be disallowed. A complete list of Ineligible Grant Expenditures is provided on page 10 of the RFP.

General Q&A

1) Will a copy of the Bidders’ Conference recording be made available?

Yes, the Bidders’ Conference recording is available at the following location - http://www.bscc.ca.gov/s_cpgpcalvipgrant/

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2) Will a copy of the Bidders' Conference PowerPoint be made available?

Yes, see the above response to question 1 to access a link to the PowerPoint.

3) We would like to apply for CalVIP as a direct grantee and be listed as a subgrantee on another proposal. The RFP states "proposals cannot be duplicative and must fund separate and unique activities" what does that mean?

An applicant cannot propose identical services in the direct grantee and subgrantee proposals. The applicant could distinguish services in several ways including, but not limited to, by target area, age, gender, etc. In each proposal, the applicant must describe how it will identify the target population, including the process used to ensure those individuals at highest risk are prioritized. The applicant must have a plan for reaching those individuals and provide appropriate interventions based on an individual's needs. The target area for grant services should correspond to the target population (RFP, Page 9).

4) The Los Angeles County Hospital Violence Intervention Consortium is a coalition of CBOs, medical professionals, county departments, and institutional stakeholders that support hospital violence intervention programs (HVIP) across the county. One of our objectives over the next two years is to build an overarching coordinating infrastructure (including a unified data management and evaluation process) to harmonize the individual efforts of our member programs.

Would the Board consider a multisite/program application for the CalVIP that proposes funds to support the coordination of our group's six HVIPs?

Yes, if the consortium is an eligible applicant (See RFP, p. 6.) and can show how CalVIP funds will be used to support, expand, and replicate evidence-based violence reduction strategies "that seek to interrupt cycles of violence and retaliation in order to reduce the incidence of homicides, shootings, and aggravated assaults." (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (c).) Otherwise, individual members of the consortium must apply separately.

Regardless of the strategy or strategies selected, applicants must be able to explain why that strategy was chosen for the target population/target area and cite evidence that indicates the strategy is likely to "reduce the incidence of homicides, shootings and aggravated assaults." (Pen. Code, §14131, subd. (f)(4).) When applying please review the Community Need and Project Description rating factors to ensure the proposal addresses the identified criteria (RFP, pg. 24-26).

5) Two programs in the Los Angeles County Hospital Violence Intervention Consortium do not yet have funding to support service provision (e.g., case

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management and mental health services). Can they submit individual CalVIP applications to support these strategies?

Eligible applicants may not submit more than one proposal. However, any applicant may apply as a direct grantee and may also be a subgrantee on a maximum of two additional proposals. If an applicant intends to apply directly and is also a subgrantee on another proposal, the proposals cannot be duplicative and must fund separate and unique activities.

6) Is there an opportunity for the Los Angeles County Hospital Violence Intervention Consortium to apply for funds to support the coordinating infrastructure of our coalition of HVIPs?

See above response to question 3.

7) AB 1603 requires that applicants address how they will use grant funds to enhance coordination of existing violence prevention and intervention programs and minimize duplication of services. (Pen. Code, § 14131, subd. (f)(3).)

Would a coordinating infrastructure fall under technical assistance and would be able to propose coordination and data management for six HVIPs as a standalone technical assistance project despite it not standing up HVIP services at a specific site?

See above response to question 3.

8) Can CalVIP funds be used for violence prevention?

Yes. However, AB 1603 requires that CalVIP funds shall be used to support, expand and replicate evidence-based violence reduction strategies that seek to interrupt cycles of violence and retaliation in order to reduce the incidences of homicides, shootings, and aggravated assaults. Within that definition, applicants have some discretion in selecting a strategy or strategies that best fits the scope of the problem and the needs of the target community. Examples of strategies can be found on page 9 of the RFP, but the list is not exhaustive nor are applicants required to implement them. Applicants must be able to explain why the strategy or strategies they chose for the target population/area are appropriate.

9) If charts are used within the project narrative, must they meet the Arial 12-Point font?

Yes. Charts, tables, or graphs must meet the spacing and font requirement (RFP, Page 24).

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Data Collection and Evaluation

- 1) **"Regardless of the strategy or strategies selected, applicants must be able to explain why that strategy was chosen for the target population/target area and cite evidence that indicates the strategy is likely to "reduce the incidence of homicides, shootings and aggravated assaults." (Pen. Code, §14131, subd. (f)(4).)**

With the exception of some credible messenger or street outreach programs, so far, we have not seen citations that link the other strategies specifically to "reducing the incidence of homicides, shootings, and aggravated assaults," per se. They are linked to violence prevention or reduction, but not to these three items. Do you have any suggestions for reference sources where such exact linkages might be available? Or am I reading this too literally?

BSCC staff cannot assist applicants with proposal specific questions. However, the Glossary of Terms and Resources includes definitions and external links that may be helpful in addressing your question.

Audits

- 1) **Does the BSCC require the audit to be performed under governmental standards (similar to a single audit) or is a standard special purpose audit acceptable?**

The BSCC requires a financial audit that covers the service delivery period of the CalVIP grant (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025). The financial audit shall 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.