Board of State and Community Corrections
Proposition 47 Grant Program
Cohort III - Request for Proposals (RFP)

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Where can the Proposition 47 RFP Bidders' Conference recording link be found?**
   The Bidder's Conference link is available on the Proposition 47 webpage under the Cohort III Banner - https://www.bscc.ca.gov/s_bsccprop47/.

2. **What protections are in place to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest amongst members of the Executive Board?**
   Existing law prohibits any non-governmental sub-grantee, partner, or like party who participated on the Proposition 47 Executive Steering Committee (ESC) from receiving funds from the Proposition 47 grants. To minimize conflicts, ESC members are asked to recuse from reading proposals where they may be a perceived or actual conflict of interest.

3. **Is there a delivery address and contact person for sending the original packet to BSCC via UPS/FedEx?**
   Proposals must be received by 5:00 P.M. on Monday, May 2, 2022. Applicants must ensure the proposal package is signed with a digital signature OR a wet signature that is then scanned with the completed proposal package. Submit completed proposal packages via email to: Prop47@bscc.ca.gov.

4. **Does the original signed packet need to be postmarked by May 2, or does it need to be received in your office by mail by May 2, 2022, 5:00pm PST?**
   The package must be received by the May 2, 2022 date, by 5:00 PST.

5. **Is a hard copy required if we submit an electronic version?**
   No, an electronic copy is all that is needed.

6. **Is past performance on a Prop 47 grant project considered? if so, can you explain how?**
   No. Proposals will be rated in accordance with the rating criteria identified in the RFP. No additional information will be considered.

7. **Why is the timing of the application "intentional?"**
   The timing for Cohort 3 release of funds are less than five months prior to the closeout of service expenses for Cohort 2. This gap in grant funds provides time for current Cohort 2 grantees to decide whether to apply and potentially receive Cohort 3 funds or apply for an extension to Cohort 2.

8. **Can applicant request Cohort III funding and if rejected can still then apply for an extension for Cohort II funding?**
   Yes.

9. **Does the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) need to be a non-profit or can it be a for-profit organization?**
   NGOs are not required to be a non-profit. For-profit NGOs are eligible to receive funding as a subgrantee or subcontractor.

10. **Are Community Colleges eligible to apply if we meet the RFA requirements of partnerships and 50%+ to CBOs?**
    Eligible applicants are public agencies located in the State of California. For the purposes of this RFP a public agency is defined as:

    > A county, city, whether a general law city or a chartered city, or city and county, the duly constituted governing body of an Indian reservation or Rancheria, a school district, municipal corporation, district, political subdivision, or any board, commission, or agency thereof, entities that are legislative bodies of a local agency pursuant to subdivision (c) or (d) of Section 54952 of the Government Code, a housing authority organized pursuant to Part 2 (commencing with Section 34200) of Division 24 of the Health and Safety Code, a state agency, public district, or other political subdivision of the state, or any instrumentality thereof, which is authorized to engage in or assist in the development or operation of housing for persons and families of low or moderate income. (Pen. Code, § 6046.1, subd. (c).)

11. **May we pass through with multiple NGOs? If so, can we combine the pass through with all the NGOs for the percent?**
    Yes. Multiple NGOs can make up the minimum requirement.

12. **If we have Cohort II funding and receive Cohort III funding, are we able to use our current community partners without needing to submit a Sole Source approval or going through an RFA process?**
    A Cohort II and III recipient may use the same community partner(s). Each government agency is responsible for adhering to their local procurement rules around sole source or no-bid contracts.

13. **Do applicants need a System for Award Management (SAM) number?**
    No. A SAM number is not required for the Proposition 47 Grant.

14. **Are the past evaluations of cohort 1 and 2 available so that the strengths of the initiatives can be expanded, and the fragilities can be avoided?**
    Yes.

15. **Are applications that meet multiple eligible activities awarded more points? Are diversion activities scored more highly, or preferred?**

No additional points are awarded for addressing multiple activities or providing diversion services. Additional points may be earned by passing through 60-69% or 70% or more of funding to CBOs.

16. **Does diversion need to be post-conviction?**
Diversion post-conviction is not a requirement. However, services and programs proposed in response to this RFP must be designed to serve people who have been arrested, charged with, or convicted of a criminal offense and have a history of mental health or substance use disorders.

17. **Can some services be provided in custody if the intent is to transition the individual into the community?**
Proposition 47 grant funds may not be used for programs or services provided in a custodial setting (with the exception of outreach and reentry planning).

18. **Regarding the diversion, can funds be used to serve individuals found incompetent to stand trial due to mental illness (MIST) Misdemeanor incompetent to stand trial?**
Proposition 47 grant funds may be used to serve individuals found incompetent to stand trial due to mental illness if the individual has been arrested, charged with, or convicted of a criminal offense and has a history of mental health or substance use disorders.

19. **Can a team go into custody, assess individuals so that we can refer individuals to outpatient services upon discharge?**
Please see the response to question 17.

20. **Is there a number requirement of individuals that must be served with this funding?**
No.

21. **What if a county has in-custody program that does reentry and discharge preparation and warm intake and warm hand-off to CBO?**
Please see the response to question 17.

22. **We are wondering about using the funds to address a particular population. We see new immigrants, possibly victims of trafficking, who are arrested for drug sales. They may be a in a position where they are forced into selling as a condition of their trafficker. Often, people in this position also become drug users. Would this group qualify as a target population?**
Services and programs proposed in response to this RFP must be designed to serve people who have been arrested, charged with, or convicted of a criminal offense and have a history of mental health or substance use disorders.

In addition, the target population of Proposition 47 should:

- Have been convicted of less serious crimes such as those covered by Proposition 47 and have substance abuse and mental health problems.
- If services and programs are provided to juveniles, juvenile must fall under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 602. Juveniles that come under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court under Welfare and Institutions Code section 601 (i.e., status offenses, truancy) should not be considered arrested for or charged with criminal offenses.

Please consult City/County counsel to determine if the target population you propose to serve align with the information described above (RFP, Page 12).

23. **What is the total funding available to large Counties after the $20 million set aside for LA County?**
Approximately $66 million.

24. **Can we use Cohort III funds to continue services for a program that will be losing funding? or does that count as supplanting?**
Continuation and expansion of services not concurrently funded by another source are eligible.

25. **Does it have to be an outside agency, or can it be a paid position within the public agency to do the data collection and evaluation?**
Public agency applicants are strongly encouraged to use outside evaluators to ensure objective and impartial evaluations. Specifically, public agency applicants are encouraged to partner with state universities or community colleges for evaluations (RFP, Page 18). However, the use of an outside evaluation is not a requirement.

26. **Can the public meeting be combined with another group that is already meeting that meets the member requirements? for example, if our county has a MHSA (Mental Health Services Act)**
An existing group may be used if all Proposition 47 Local Advisory Committee requirements are addressed. Please reference pages 15-16 of the RFP.

27. **What does BSCC plan to do, or has done with the individual level data that has been and will be submitted among grantees?**
It is shared publicly and used to modify approaches to the grant program when possible or necessary.

28. **To be eligible, is there a time frame in which an offender needs to meet the requirement of having been arrested, charged with, or convicted?**
No.

29. **Is there a timeline by which the proposed services must be stood up?**

Services should commence as soon as the grant agreement is signed by both parties. An implementation period (up to 6-months) is provided to allow for local procurement, hiring, and other activities that can facilitate a timely start. Grantees who do not need the full implementation period can begin service delivery at any time once under contract.

30. **How many reviewers will review each proposal?**
This number will be determined after the total number of submissions is known.

31. **Can we find out our scores on prior proposals?**
Yes. Please contact BSCC staff directly via email.

32. **If you are participating in Cohort II and would like to make adjustments to services in Cohort II and resubmit in Cohort III is this considered a new proposal?**
Applicants are responsible for submitting a proposal that addresses the Rating Criteria in the Cohort III RFP. There are differences in the Cohort II and III RFP content and Rating Criteria.

33. **If we have not hired into a position, do we indicate that, as under salaries a "name" is requested?**
Using a position title is sufficient.

34. **Can the Instruction's tab be fixed to fully see all text in each cell?**
Yes.

35. **Can we build in annual increases in staffing costs?**
Yes. Please ensure supporting documentation for all grant-funded expenses is retained.

36. **Could you give an example for how we need to show in the FTE within the Salaries & Benefits section?**
Please reference the Budget Table Instructions tab for detailed instructions.

37. **Could you provide an example for the calculation section in the service and supplies section?**
Please reference the Budget Table Instructions tab for detailed instructions.

38. **How do we make sure the Budget Attachment is only 6 pages if it's in an Excel format?**
Once completed and printed, the attachment should not exceed six pages.

39. **Are the 6 pages part of the 15-page count?**
No.

40. Can rows within the Budget Attachment be deleted?
No.

41. Is there a template for the letter of intent to apply?
No. There is no formal template for the letter, but it should be submitted via email and include the following information:
- Name of the applicant entity
- Name and title of a contact person with the applicant entity;
- Contact information for a member of the applicant entity that can be posted and shared with interested members of the public; and
- A brief statement indicating the applicant's intent to submit a proposal.

42. Is it okay that we will be having a different authorized signer for the application then we will for the actual contract if we are awarded the grant since, as you know, we will be transferring to a new department in July?
This described scenario would be fine. The person authorizing the application and the grant agreement must be vested with the appropriate signature authority. Proof of signing authority must be provided upon request.

43. The budget form has fixed formatting, and we are having difficulty verifying that we are under 6 pages. Currently its showing on 2 pages but it's very small. I was looking at the instructions and don't see any related to the formatting of this file.
Please see the response to question 38.

44. Am I correct that the budget should ONLY be included as a separate attachment and NOT in the primary packet of everything else?
Yes, The budget table is separate from the main packet**.**

45. I am confused about the 50% minimum to community NGO partners. Is that required for us to get any funds
Correct. This grant has a minimum 50% pass-through requirement to NGOs.

46. Are indirect costs for NGO's and Public Agency Subcontractors budgeted within their line-item category along with Salaries/supplies?
Correct. Indirect Costs for NGO's expenses would be within that line item.

47. For our Prop 47 Grant Proposal, we are using a nonprofit organization for our evaluator, however, I am not sure the way the budget template is set up, that it will be able to count that towards our NGO pass through. We are happy to manually do that calculation and send it as an attachment if that works but wanted to check if there was another way to show that directly in the template. We just want to be sure that amount is counted towards the NGO passthrough percentage.

The minimum 50% pass-through requirement is for community-based services. As such, the use of an NGO evaluator does not count towards the 50% minimum pass-through requirement. Do not include funds for data collection and evaluation in the NGO subcontractor line-item in the Excel budget.