FAQ

BHCIP Round 4 Launch Ready and CCE Capital Expansion

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. ***Where can I find the BHCIP Launch Ready and CCE Capital Expansion RFA and applications, and how do I submit them?***

   Applicants can find and download the joint request for applications (RFA) for the BHCIP Launch Ready and CCE Capital Expansion grants at infrastructure.buildingcalhhs.com/joint-request-for-applications-rfa/. The online grant application portal is located at https://ici.mylendistry.com/landing. After registering an account, you will be able to choose to apply for BHCIP Launch Ready or CCE Capital Expansion funds.

2. ***When is the BHCIP Launch Ready grant application due?***

   The completed application and budget, along with all required attachments, are due no later than Thursday, March 31, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. PT (Part One), or Tuesday, May 31, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. PT (Part Two).

3. ***What is the difference between the two parts?***

   BHCIP Launch Ready Part One is intended for entities that are prepared to submit the application and attachments by March 31. Part One applicants will receive priority—any funds not awarded in Part One will be available for BHCIP Launch Ready Part Two applicants. Part One applicants will be evaluated competitively against each other; the same will be true for Part Two applicants.

4. ***When is the CCE Capital Expansion grant application due?***

   Applications for CCE Capital Expansion funds are open now and will be accepted continuously until all available funds have been awarded. CCE Preservation funds will be allocated through a direct-to-county-and-tribe process that will be announced in spring 2022, separate from the joint RFA.

5. ***Where can I see a timeline of important dates for both applications and funding?***

   https://www.infrastructure.buildingcalhhs.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Joint-RFA-Timeline.png

6. *What is a pre-application consultation?*

   All grant applicants are required to engage in a pre-application consultation before submitting an application. (You may begin an application at any time; however, to submit it, you will need to enter a code that will be provided to you during the pre-application consultation.) The consultation will provide an opportunity to discuss proposed projects, match requirements and potential sources, statutory and regulatory concerns, how the project addresses the state priorities, and related considerations. These pre-application consultations will be provided by technical assistance (TA) specialists, including staff from Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) and real estate development experts engaged by the administrative entity, Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. (AHP). For more information about pre-application consultations and TA, visit https://www.infrastructure.buildingcalhhs.com/training-and-technical-assistance/.

7. *If I apply for the Launch Ready grant or the CCE Capital Expansion grant, can I also apply for the other?*

   Yes. Applicants are encouraged to think broadly about how these funds together can be maximized to design person-centered projects based on the needs and gaps within their local systems of care, coupled with the state's priorities. Examples of projects that could apply for both programs can be found on page 12 of the RFA. Even though the funding priorities may be aligned, you will still need to fill out separate application forms and different consultations, and there is no guarantee that you will receive an award from both.

8. *I would like to use BHCIP Launch Ready and CCE Capital Expansion funds on four separate projects. Do I need to submit a separate application for each project?*

   Yes. Please complete a separate application and budget, as well as a separate pre-application consultation survey, for each project for which you are requesting funding. We will review each application independently.

9. *Is it possible to speak with someone about my particular project?*

   Yes. Please fill out a pre-application consultation survey at https://www.infrastructure.buildingcalhhs.com/training-and-technical-assistance/, which will capture most of your needs and help TA specialists answer your questions. Keep in mind that the survey is not the actual application, but a first step in the process. If you have questions about the survey, email them to bhcip.cce.info@ahpnet.com. You will find recorded webinars and other TA to support you with the application process at https://www.infrastructure.buildingcalhhs.com/.

10. *What is the maximum grant amount that a provider can apply for in each program?*

    There is no limit on the amount a provider can apply for. However, there are estimated targeted funding levels by region for both the BHCIP and CCE programs, listed on page 8 of the joint RFA, and match requirements, listed on page 14 of the joint RFA. Project budgets submitted as part of the application must be reasonable, as compared to similar projects in the same region.

11. *Are the regional funding limits in BHCIP Parts One and Two the same?*

    The regional funding in Part Two will depend on the awards made in Part One, in terms of both amounts awarded and project locations.

12. ***If there are land issues that need to be resolved prior to breaking ground but are being addressed, such as soil abatement, are we allowed to move forward with a project plan and application?***

Soil remediation is a common issue for launch ready projects, and PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) soil contamination and remediation will *not* disqualify you from applying for BHCIP Launch Ready or CCE funding. Please keep in mind that PFAS remediation is often very expensive, and your application for BHCIP or CCE Capital Expansion grants should include these remediation costs in your development budget.

The BHCIP/CCE application includes a budget template with several line items for soils testing (in due diligence) and soil remediation (in construction). The completed budget template for your application must incorporate actual bids or estimated costs of all your site needs, including costs of PFAS soil remediation.

13. ***What is the relationship between BHCIP/CCE funding and other state housing funds, such as Homekey? Can an agency acquire funding from both Homekey and BHCIP/CCE if they qualify?***

As outlined in the BHCIP/CCE [Program Update](#) (1/5/22), one of the state priorities for the BHCIP/CCE funding is to leverage historic state investments in housing and homelessness. That said, leveraging funding does not mean supplanting or "double-dipping" in funds. Projects that braid funding are encouraged, so long as the funding sources complement each other, and the specific requirements of each funding source are met. It is the applicant's responsibility to refer to and review any other relevant housing funds to confirm the eligible use of those funding streams.

14. ***What are the other BHCIP rounds?***

Information about all six BHCIP grant rounds, along with other information related to BHCIP, is at https://www.infrastructure.buildingcalhhs.com. The RFA release dates are:

- Round 1: Crisis Care Mobile Units (RFA release dates: July 2021 [now closed]; re-release, November 2021 [now closed])
- Round 2: County and Tribal Planning (RFA release: November 2021; re-release January 10, 2022 [deadline: March 14, 2022])
- Round 3: Current Round
- Round 4: Children and Youth (tentative RFA release: June 2022)
- Round 5: To be announced (tentative RFA release: October 2022)
- Round 6: To be announced (tentative RFA release: December 2022)

15. ***Are housing authorities eligible, either alone or in partnership with one of the entity types listed?***

Yes. A housing authority is eligible to apply for BHCIP Launch Ready and CCE Capital Expansion grants.

16. ***Is the service use restriction different if we are in a leased building?***

Under both BHCIP and CCE, facilities in leased buildings must have an existing long-term lease for the required use restriction period, with provisions to make improvements on the property.

17. ***Where can I find more information?***

An informational webinar was held February 10, 2022. A copy of the PowerPoint slides from the webinar was emailed to all registrants, and both the webinar recording and the slides are available online. A separate webinar for small facility licensees was held February 17; the recording and slides from that event are also available online.

18. ***Whom do I contact with questions?***

Send all questions to bhcip.cce.info@ahpnet.com. Please use one of the following subject lines: *Launch Ready grant RFA question* OR *Capital Expansion grant RFA question*.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONTINUUM INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (BHCIP) LAUNCH READY

1. ***What does it mean to be "launch ready"?***

For purposes of BHCIP Round 3 funding, a project is defined as "launch ready" when some essential pre-development design, planning, site control, and budgeting details have been professionally formalized and the project meets the minimum requirements listed below, but the project team has not yet issued an official notice to proceed, and construction has not yet started. (A notice to proceed is a formal notification to the construction teams to begin work on a project.)

The intent of these resources is to supplement, not supplant, existing funding resources or funding commitments. Specifically, DHCS defines the following minimum threshold requirements to demonstrate a project is launch ready, and therefore eligible for BHCIP Round 2 funding:

a. Site control established (with deed, purchase and sale agreement (PSA), option contract, letter of intent [LOI], or leasehold);
b. Site plan established (schematic plan with architectural and engineering specifications);
c. Stakeholder support established (letter from city/county/board of directors);
d. Match amount identified (equity, debt, donation, or in-kind with documentation);
e. Initial budget established (based on schematic site plan);
f. Development team established (as needed: attorney, architect, design-build team);
g. Ability to gain building permits within 6 months of funding;
h. Ability to close on land, after gaining building permits, within 6 months of funding; and
i. Ability to start construction within 6 months of grant funding.

A project may be deemed "more" launch ready than other projects by demonstrating any or all of the following, in addition to the above requirements:

a. Ownership of real estate site
b. Preliminary plan review completed, with comments received
c. Construction drawings complete or near completion
d. General contractor (builder) selected and ready for hire

e. 95% of construction drawings ready for submission for building permit
f. Building permit issued
g. Able to start construction within 60 days or less

Generally, a project that has an official "notice to proceed" is not eligible for BCHIP Round 3 funding. Exceptions may be made for a project that is in default or has a demonstrated capital shortfall. Such applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

2. ***My organization provides services in more than one county or region. Is it eligible for BHCIP funds?***
    Yes, it is. We ask that you please complete an application for each site you are considering for expansion.

3. ***We are a behavioral health (BH) facility that serves individuals in more than one county. Which region do we identify in our application?***
    The facility's address determines the region for the application.

4. ***Is there a limit to the number of BHCIP grants I can apply for or be awarded?***
    There is no limit to the number of grants you may apply for and be awarded, as long as you qualify for the specific round of funding. The awarding of grants will depend on the funding round, state priorities, and number of applications received for each round.

5. ***Can both facility infrastructure and behavioral health services be included in the intended use of the grant funds?***
    No. BHCIP grant funds must be used only for expanding the state's behavioral health facility infrastructure.

6. ***Should we submit multiple pre-application consultation requests if we have multiple projects? Should we submit multiple applications?***
    Yes. Applications will be accepted on a project basis and a pre-application consultation is required for each application. A separate code will be needed for each project you apply for; you will receive that code as part of the pre-application consultation.

7. ***We would like to expand our current facility to serve more people, as well as purchase property across town for a second facility. Should we submit one application or two?***
    Applications will be accepted on a project basis. These would be viewed as two separate projects, so two applications would be required.

8. ***Our organization applied for but did not receive Round 2 Planning grant funds. Are we still eligible to apply for a Launch Ready grant?***
    Yes.

9. ***We have already received funding through one of the other rounds of BHCIP grants. Are we allowed to apply for this funding as well?***
    Yes. Recipients of Crisis Care Mobile Units (Round 1) and County and Tribal Planning (Round 2) grants are eligible to apply for a Launch Ready (Round 3) grant.

10. ***Do funds received from this round have to be used for the same project that we focused on in our Planning grant?***
No. While counties and tribal entities have funding through the Round 2 Planning grant for planning efforts, we recognize that plans can change during the planning process.

11. ***We received a Round 2 Planning grant. Are we allowed to use funds from that to pay for contracted services to work on the application for this or other BHCIP rounds or the CCE Capital Expansion grant?***
Yes. Funds from a BHCIP Planning grant may be used to pay contract writers to respond to this and other BHCIP infrastructure grants, and to the CCE Capital Expansion grant.

12. ***My facility is interested in funds to purchase vehicles. Would that be covered under BHCIP?***
No. This round of funding is focused on infrastructure, meaning buildings and related facilities. Although new vehicles may be part of a facility's capital improvement, in this context they are not included.

13. ***Are private (not nonprofit or nongovernmental) organizations eligible to apply for BHCIP Launch Ready grants?***
Yes. For-profit organizations and other private organizations—including private real estate developers—whose projects reflect the state priorities are eligible to apply for these funds. For more details on eligibility criteria for these entities, please see page 11 of the joint RFA.

14. ***What kinds of projects are private organizations invited to apply for?***
Private organizations may be involved in any of the eligible project types. Any private organization would be expected to have a collaboration agreement or contract in place with a provider.

There could be scenarios where the private organization is the applicant for funding and would be the owner, in whole or in part, of the land and/or the final construction. If the private organization is, in fact, the applicant, the evaluation process will pay particular attention to the agreement(s) made with provider(s) to ensure the finished facility will be used for the intended purpose for the required number of years. Also in this case, the match requirements for the funding will be at the same level as they would for a for-profit provider.

15. ***The RFA says we need to "make a commitment to serve Medi-Cal beneficiaries." What does that mean, exactly? Does there have to be a certain number or percentage of people we serve who receive Medi-Cal?***
Serving this population is a requirement of the BHCIP funding. In the application, you will be asked to state the number of Medi-Cal recipients you currently serve, as well as the number you would serve if you were to complete your proposed project. There is not a certain percentage required; however, the percentage served will be evaluated in the scoring of applications.

16. ***If my organization applies for a grant in a certain amount, are we guaranteed to receive exactly that amount if we are awarded funds? Will DHCS ever give a partial award?***
Depending on the applications received, their project locations, allowable expenditures, the amount of funds requested, and funding available, DHCS may choose to fund only part of an

application. In that case, DHCS would reach out to the potential awardee to determine its interest in receiving a smaller amount than originally requested.

17. ***For private organization applicants, what level of community support and engagement is expected beyond the applicant CEO and/or board?***

Stakeholder engagement at the local level is very important to the success of the project and a requirement for funding.

18. ***I'd like to do some repairs to get my facility up to licensing standards. Can I apply for rehabilitation funding now?***
No. There are no BHCIP or CCE funds available for facility repairs.

19. ***We are a behavioral health facility that is exploring options to expand our outpatient clinic. Can we apply for pre-development funds?***
There are no pre-development funds available for facilities under this round of BHCIP funding.

20. ***How do I know if my facility qualifies as a community wellness center?***

For purposes of this funding, a wellness center must focus exclusively on serving individuals with behavioral health conditions, with a commitment to serve Medi-Cal beneficiaries, and offer some or all of the following:

- A comprehensive program of mental health services in an outpatient setting, including preventive services, screening, diagnosis, and treatment/management of mental and substance use disorders
- Community support groups for people with mental and substance use disorders, including traditional healing activities (talking circles)
- Health education, including mental health and/or substance use disorders
- Service navigation and enabling services such as case management/care coordination, transportation, and translation services
- Wellness classes including meditation, fitness, healthy cooking, relaxation strategies, caregiver support, cultural activities, workforce development, and community wellness events
- Outpatient clinical services including mental health/substance use disorder screening, diagnosis, and treatment/management

21. ***If a project is already in progress and the applicant is willing to serve the target population(s) and be bound by the service and use requirements, can construction costs already incurred be reimbursed?***

No. Funding may not be used for "reimbursement." Only those costs that can be associated with completing the project (for example, adding an ADA-compliant walkway, widened doorways, etc.) would be eligible costs, per the Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 5960.15: "An entity shall meet all of the following conditions in order to receive grant funds pursuant to Section 5960.05, to the extent applicable and as required by the department: . . . (b) Expend funds to supplement and not supplant existing funds to construct, acquire, and rehabilitate real estate assets."

22. ***What kinds of data do applicants need to provide to demonstrate project need?***

Available regional data can be used to demonstrate project need. As outlined in the RFA, this might include a local county/tribal/provider needs assessment, a facility wait list, or the number of comparable facilities in the area, for example. Applicants are also advised to review the resources on the joint RFA page, and in particular the DHCS report, "Assessing the Continuum of Care for Behavioral Health Services in California: Data, Stakeholder Perspectives, and Implications," which is linked there.

23. ***How will grant award announcements be made?***

All applicants will be notified whether or not they received a grant award. In addition, grant award announcements will be posted on the BHCIP website.

COMMUNITY CARE EXPANSION (CCE)

1. ***What is the Community Care Expansion (CCE) Program?***

The CCE program was established by Assembly Bill No. 172 (Chapter 20, Statutes of 2021) and will provide $805 million in funding for acquisition, construction, and rehabilitation to preserve and expand adult and senior care facilities that serve Social Security Income (SSI)/State Supplementary Payment (SSP) and Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) applicants and recipients, including those who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

2. ***What is the deadline for expenditure of the funds after they are awarded?***

A portion of the CCE budget includes federal funding that must be obligated by June 2024 and liquidated by December 2026. The exact timeline for obligation and liquidation of funds for each funded project will be provided in the grant award announcement.

3. ***How much funding is allocated for capital expansion?***

$570 million in CCE funds will be made available for capital expansion projects including acquisition, construction, and rehabilitation of residential care settings. Grantees may also use these funds to establish a capitalized operating subsidy reserve (COSR) for these projects, available for use for up to 5 years.

4. ***How much funding is allocated for preservation, including capital preservation?***

$195 million will be made available to preserve settings that serve the target and prioritized populations, including $55 million for a COSR for existing licensed facilities as well as capital preservation projects; these funds will be provided to counties and tribes through a direct-to-county-and-tribal allocation process that will be announced in spring 2022, separate from the joint RFA.

5. ***Who is eligible to apply?***

Counties, cities, tribal entities (including 638s and urban clinics), nonprofit organizations, for-profit organizations, and private organizations whose projects reflect the state's priorities are

eligible to apply for this funding. These include adult and senior care settings that provide care and support to seniors and adults with disabilities who are experiencing or at risk for homelessness.

6. ***Can I buy an existing residential care facility for the elderly (RCFE) or adult residential facility (ARF) with CCE Capital Expansion funds?***

    Yes. CCE Capital Expansion funds are available for projects that include the acquisition, construction, and rehabilitation of residential care settings.

7. ***What building use restrictions must we agree to if we are funded?***
    Applicants will be required to commit to provision of services and building use restrictions for an entire 30-year period for new facilities, and for a 20-year period for capacity expansion for an existing facility.

8. ***What is pre-development, and how do I find out what must be completed to apply?***
    Prospective applicants that demonstrate viable projects via the pre-application consultation with real estate TA from the grant administrator or its CDFI partners may have the opportunity to apply for pre-development costs within the RFA using CCE funds only. The consultation will provide an opportunity to discuss proposed projects, match requirements and sources, statutory and regulatory concerns, how the project addresses the state's priorities, and other issues. Qualified applicants for CCE will have an opportunity to seek funding for pre-development costs, which may include but are not limited to funds to hire an architect to draw construction plans, working with a financial advisor to develop a business plan, and other required activities.

9. ***Will there be pre-development technical assistance?***
    As part of the RFA process, AHP, the administrative entity for CCE, will provide pre-application consultations, training, and TA to individual applicants. In addition, AHP will offer ongoing general training and TA throughout the life of the project. Applicants will submit a request for a pre-application consultation, including a survey to indicate their understanding of the project readiness requirements. These include facility siting, permit and licensing requirements, construction plans, oversight and management, and budgeting practices. In addition, applicants will be required to discuss how their proposed project meets local gaps identified through an assessment and how it addresses the state priorities. An AHP implementation specialist will work with applicants to support them in these areas by connecting them with information specialists and subject matter experts in real estate, facility financing, and programmatic best practices serving the prioritized or target population to bring targeted TA to applicants and grantees. AHP will also host Learning Collaboratives and provide informational webinars on topics of interest, such as strategies to serve targeted and prioritized populations, braiding resources to ensure viability, and green sustainable building practices.

10. ***Can Regional Center/facilities that accept Regional Center funding or referrals apply?***
    A facility that currently has residents funded by a Regional Center or accepts either Regional Center funding support or referrals cannot use CCE funds to expand or enhance that residence/property. Regional Centers support persons with developmental disabilities, and

properties that receive Regional Center funding make a commitment to serve that population. To receive CCE funding, a current owner/operator of a facility funded by a Regional Center would need to develop a separate property that would serve the priority population of CCE: persons eligible for or receiving SSI/SSP or CAPI benefits or persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The new facility can apply for CCE funding as long as it is not also a vendor for a Regional Center or accepting residents funded by a Regional Center. Regional Centers support protected persons, and all co-residents must have background checks, fingerprinting, and other security screening. Failure to do this is not in accord with Regional Center contracts or guidelines.

11. ***Do building permits have to be approved before funding can be awarded?***

    Yes. AHP and its real estate partners will provide TA to applicants who need assistance with permitting and other funding requirements.

12. ***Where can I find data to demonstrate project need?***

    Available regional data can be used to demonstrate project need. As outlined in the RFA, this might include a local county/tribal/provider needs assessment, a facility wait list, or the number of comparable facilities in the area, for example. Applicants are also advised to review the resources on the joint RFA page, and in particular the DHCS report, "Assessing the Continuum of Care for Behavioral Health Services in California: Data, Stakeholder Perspectives, and Implications," which is listed under Additional Resources and can be viewed in its entirety online.