Organizations Receiving Funding in HHIP NOFO Round 4 - $2.7M

Equity Grants

Action Alliance Foundation	$50,000
Hub for Integration, Reentry & Employment	$50,000
Mercy Health	$50,000
The HUB OC	$50,000

Systems Change Grants

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County and the Inland Empire	$1,000,000
Orangewood Foundation	$1,500,000

TOTAL NOFO ROUND   **$2,700,000**

Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program (HHIP) Round 4: Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

CalOptima Health solicits equity and systems change funding requests for projects supporting people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Application Deadline — March 5, 2025 (5 p.m. PST)

Background

CalOptima Health's mission is to serve member health with excellence and dignity, respecting the value and needs of each person. With a goal of reducing health inequities, CalOptima Health is expanding programs and partnerships to better serve members, especially those at risk of poor health outcomes, including individuals experiencing homelessness. The CalOptima Health Board of Directors has shown strong support for addressing homelessness by allocating Board reserved funds, which are key to the community investment strategy.

CalOptima Health also participated in the Department of Health Care Services' Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program (HHIP), earning additional funds to support health and housing services for Medi-Cal members experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. This voluntary program incentivized Managed Care Plans to actively reduce and prevent homelessness by supporting the delivery and coordination of health and housing services for Medi-Cal members.

Through HHIP, CalOptima Health earned funding by meeting measures in three priority areas:
1. Infrastructure to coordinate and meet member housing needs
2. Partnerships and capacity to support referrals for services
3. Delivery of services and member engagement

In June 2023, CalOptima Health's Board approved the creation of a new priority area, as part of the evolving community investment strategy: Innovation and implementation of strategic interventions (referred to as Systems Change for the purposes of this NOFO).

Together, the funds from the CalOptima Health Board and HHIP have supported meaningful investments across Orange County. This fourth funding opportunity will focus on equity grants and systems change projects to prevent homelessness. **The application period is January 22 – March 5, 2025.**

Community Investment Strategy

CalOptima Health is prioritizing projects and programs that are trauma-informed, inclusive, non-residency restricted, low barrier, and aligned with housing-first and harm-reduction principles. This

includes ensuring the "voice of lived experience" is integrated into all phases: design, development, implementation and evaluation.

CalOptima Health is committed to the following:

➢ Working toward a cohesive, countywide approach to address and prevent homelessness.
➢ Developing equitable systems that distribute resources among a variety of community service providers across all three Service Planning Areas.
➢ Promoting and facilitating innovation in data collection and sharing, with emphasis on greater integration across systems.
➢ Increasing the number of service providers and the capacity of these providers to add to the overall continuum of care infrastructure throughout Orange County.
➢ Establishing and/or using best practices in providing care by meeting members "where they are" and increasing access to that care.
➢ Delivering culturally competent services to traditionally underrepresented populations (e.g., families, seniors, LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC).
➢ Investment and implementation of programs that add to the available affordable housing pool.

Description of Funding Priorities

Applications must demonstrate how the request adds to or builds upon the existing cadre of services offered in Orange County with a focus on non-duplicative, sustainable efforts. <u>Prohibited budget items include lobbying and rental assistance</u>.

This funding opportunity is purposefully broad to solicit as many ideas as possible from organizations across Orange County working to address the homelessness crisis. CalOptima Health will work to award funds across all three Service Planning Areas.

Funding Priority #1: Equity Grants

Social determinants of health — such as income level, education attainment, employment status, interaction with the criminal justice system, immigration status, and other factors — significantly influence a person's housing status by impacting their ability to afford and maintain stable, adequate housing. The objective of this funding priority is to prevent or remedy homelessness by ensuring individuals at risk or experiencing homelessness have access to tailored housing and supportive services that address the root causes of housing instability, such as those social determinants of health. This opportunity is purposefully open to a broad range of programs and organizations that impact a variety of root causes.

Priority will be given to applicants with expertise in serving populations such as but not limited to BIPOC, transitional-aged youth (TAY), older adults (55+), LGBTQIA+ individuals and justice-involved individuals.

Participants in CalOptima Health's Nonprofit Healthcare Academy are eligible and strongly encouraged to apply if they meet the requirements.

Priority-Specific Eligibility Requirements:
1. Organizations must have an annual operating budget of no less than $200,000 and no more than $5 million.
2. Organizations must illustrate how their work addresses the social determinants of health, which play a critical role in determining housing stability.
3. Applicants must include measurable objectives that demonstrate impact on at least one social determinant of health for the target population.
4. Organizations that have received any HHIP Equity, HHIP Capacity Building or HHIP Capital grant in a previous funding round are not eligible.
5. Applicants must also meet the general eligibility requirements listed below.

Funding Priority #2: Systems Change Projects

This funding priority is centered on preventing homelessness through systemic changes that create broad, county-wide impact. It is designed to support projects and initiatives focused on upstream prevention strategies that address the root causes of homelessness before they negatively impact housing status. Priority will be given to innovative systems-level changes that employ evidence-based practices and sustainable solutions to build upon or transform the local homelessness response system.

Successful applicants will propose initiatives that expand and enhance prevention efforts at an upstream level, improving outcomes for individuals and families and reducing their risk of homelessness. This may include but is not limited to, increasing access to income, education and employment opportunities, improving coordination and accessibility of homelessness prevention services or housing resources such as vouchers, providing targeted interventions for vulnerable populations, and strengthening local systems through community engagement. Projects should prioritize implementation of upstream, proven or best practices, policies, and processes designed to prevent homelessness before its onset. CalOptima Health, through these grant awards, is seeking to support a sustainable, systemic approach to reducing risk.

All applicants will be given the opportunity to meet with staff for a 30-minute phone consultation prior to submission of Systems Change applications to determine if their proposal is appropriate for this funding opportunity. Those phone consultations can be scheduled by submitting a request to sarah.nance@caloptima.org. Please title your email "Request for HHIP Systems Change Phone Consult," and we will reply to you with available times.

Priority-Specific Eligibility Requirements:
1. Proposed projects must be implemented county-wide or have a documented plan to become county-wide.
2. Applications must clearly articulate the problem to be solved, propose a feasible, evidence-based solution, and demonstrate how success or progress can be achieved and measured.
3. Applicants must clearly demonstrate experience with implementing system-wide interventions and/or programs.
4. Applicants must include measurable objectives that demonstrate impact on reducing the target population's risk of experiencing homelessness.

5. Applicants must provide three references from previous funders who have granted the applying organization $200,000 or more within the past three years.
6. Current Systems Change grantees and their programs are not eligible for this grant opportunity.
7. Applicants must also meet the general eligibility requirements listed below.

Grant Budgets, Amounts and Duration

Funding Priority	Grant Request Limit	Total Amount Available	Notes Specific to this Priority	Project Duration
Equity Grants	No minimum; $50,000 maximum request	$500,000	• A minimum of 10 grants will be awarded; assuming a large enough eligible applicant pool.	• One-year projects.
Systems Change Projects	$500,000 minimum; $1.5 million maximum	$5 million	• A minimum of 3 grants will be awarded; assuming a large enough eligible applicant pool.	• Projects can be from one to three years in duration.

Payment structure will be defined in the fully executed grant agreement for awarded grants.

Eligibility Requirements

1. Applicants must be a 501(c)(3) or equivalent in good standing with the IRS. Equivalent organizations may include tribes, public schools, universities, and local, state or federal government agencies and programs.
2. Applicants must propose projects that align with one of the funding priorities as described above.
3. Applicants who previously received funding from CalOptima Health must be in good standing with the terms of that contract or grant agreement to be eligible for new funding.
4. Funds must benefit actively enrolled CalOptima Health members.
5. Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply for funds when ready to implement their project.
6. There are no requirements for cost sharing, matching or cost participation.
7. Applicants must successfully complete an application and submit it by the deadline to be considered for funding.
8. **Letters of support will not be accepted for either grant opportunity. Please do not solicit them or request others submit them on your behalf.**

Remember: Carefully review all priority-specific and general eligibility requirements. Applicants who fail to meet these requirements will be deemed ineligible.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria for Equity Grants

	Criterion	Maximum Points	Description of basis for assigning points
1	CalOptima Health core value alignment	15	• Project is trauma-informed, inclusive, non-residency restricted, low barrier, person-centered, and aligned with housing-first and harm-reduction principles.

2	Program Description	20	• Clear, concise description demonstrating alignment with the funding priority area that includes the following:
			   o Description of social determinant of health impacted and how it relates to housing status.
			   o Description of target population at greater risk for homelessness.
			• Program details must specify how funds will benefit actively enrolled CalOptima Health members.

3	Program Implementation	15	• Plan is complete and includes measurable objectives, logical and feasible activities, as well as clearly defined measures of success.
4	Sustainability	5	• Program is sustainable through a well-defined plan for long-term success, without reliance on continuous grant funding, and includes clear indicators related to homelessness prevention and social determinants of health.
5	Readiness	10	• Projects that can launch soon after grant award will receive more points.
6	Experience	15	• Demonstrated expertise in delivering proposed services and implementing similar projects, with clear alignment to the selected funding priority area. Evidence must be explicitly detailed in the application.
7	Capacity of Applicant	10	• Able to demonstrate financial and management capacity to carry out the project, as evidenced in the submission of required materials in application portal.
8	Evaluation Plan	10	• Applicant clearly articulates a feasible and well-thought-out plan for evaluating project success.
	Total Earnable Points	**100**	

Proposal Evaluation Criteria for System Change Grants

	Criterion	Maximum Points	Description of basis for assigning points
1	CalOptima Health core value alignment	10	• Project is trauma-informed, inclusive, non-residency restricted, low barrier, person-centered, and aligned with housing-first and harm-reduction principles.
2	Program Description	15	• Clear, concise description demonstrating alignment with funding priority areas and supported by evidence-based or emerging best practices. Program details must specify how funds will benefit actively enrolled CalOptima Health members.
3	Program Implementation	10	• Plan is complete and includes measurable objectives, logical and feasible activities, as well as clearly defined measures of success. Description of county-wide implementation. If county-wide roll-out is beyond the life of the grant, please still include the effort that will be undertaken to implement county-wide.
4	Sustainability	20	• Program is sustainable through a well-defined plan for long-term success, without reliance on continuous grant funding.
5	Readiness	5	• Projects that can launch soon after grant award will receive more points. Points are also given for projects with a well-conceived timeline to achieve the intended results.
6	Experience	15	• Demonstrated expertise in delivering proposed services and implementing similar projects, with clear alignment to the selected funding priority area. Evidence must be explicitly detailed in the application.
7	Capacity of Applicant	10	• Able to demonstrate financial and management capacity to carry out the project, as evidenced in the submission of required materials in application portal.
8	Evaluation Plan	10	• Applicant clearly articulates a feasible and well-thought-out plan for evaluating project success. Includes clear indicators related to homelessness prevention and reduction of risk of becoming homeless.
9	References	5	• Applicants must provide three references, as outlined in the requirements above.
	Total Earnable Points	**100**	

Application Timeline

Action	Date
Application Released/Portal Opens	1/22/2025
Round 3 NOFO – Bidder's Conference * *Q&A posted on the Funding Opportunity webpage by 1/31/2025*	1/29/2025 at 2 p.m. PST
Systems Change Phone Consultations Available During this Period	1/27/2025 – 2/21/2025
Application Deadline	**3/5/2025 at 5 p.m. PST**
Internal Review	3/6/2025 – 4/4/2025
CalOptima Health Board of Director's Meeting	**5/1/2025**
Announcement of Approved Grants	5/2/2025
Grant Start Date	6/1/2025

Documents and Portal Access

All documents related to this NOFO and application portal access are available at this site:
https://www.caloptima.org/en/About/CurrentInitiatives/CalAIM/FundingOpportunities

Bidder's Conference

Join our **Bidder's Conference** for this funding opportunity by registering through the link below:
Date and Time: Wednesday, January 29, 2025, 2 p.m. PST
Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_e67aPOgtRkSbYsGuXfACyQ

Questions about the funding opportunity or application? Contact the CalAIM Program Development team calaimgrants@caloptima.org.