



February 2, 2016

To: All Interested Parties

Subject: Grant Opportunity for Strategies (Training and Technical Assistance)  
Fiscal Year 2016/2019

The California Department of Social Services' (CDSS) Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) is pleased to announce the availability of funds for a Strategies Program, providing training and technical assistance (T&TA) to family support organizations, counties and communities in California for fiscal years (FY) 2016-19. OCAP is seeking a collaborative applicant (two or more organizations) with the capacity and ability to provide statewide T&TA in best practices and/or promising practices to mitigate the major risk factors of child abuse and neglect, particularly substance abuse and poverty. All T&TA must seek to build and incorporate protective and promotive factors within families and communities.

Approximately \$2.5 million per year of federal and state funding will be available for the Strategies Program for FY 2016-17, FY 2017-18, and FY 2018-19 with a grant period beginning July 1, 2016, and ending June 30, 2019. The funding amount is provisional and contingent upon OCAP receipt of federal grant awards. OCAP reserves the right to terminate or extend this agreement following an evaluation at the conclusion of the 2016-17 fiscal year (June 30, 2017).

Please note that only the most current versions of CDSS/OCAP grant application forms will be accepted in the grant award application. Current application forms can be accessed on the CDSS website ([CDSS](#)) or in this Request for Application (RFA). Applications with outdated forms will result in disqualification.

Submit the application package via email by **March 11, 2016**, to receive funding for FY 2016-19 through the Strategies Program. Instructions for electronically submitting the application package are included in the RFA. Should you have questions, please contact Marja Sainio, Analyst, by email at [Marja.Sainio@dss.ca.gov](mailto:Marja.Sainio@dss.ca.gov).

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Angela Ponivas  
Bureau Chief, Office of Child Abuse Prevention  
California Department of Social Services

# STRATEGIES

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# STRATEGIES

## PART I – OVERVIEW

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- A. INTRODUCTION
  - B. CONTACT INFORMATION
  - C. APPLICATION DUE DATE AND SUBMISSION
  - D. ELIGIBILITY
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### A. INTRODUCTION

This Request for Application (RFA) provides the information and electronic forms necessary to prepare an application for the California Department of Social Services' (CDSS) Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) grant funds. The terms and conditions described in this RFA supersede previous RFAs.

### B. CONTACT INFORMATION

The OCAP staff cannot assist the Applicant with the actual preparation of its application. The OCAP can only respond to technical questions about the RFA. Questions about this grant announcement and its requirements will only be accepted via email (only fax if no email) from **February 2 – February 12, 2016**. Questions and corresponding answers will be posted on the CDSS website on **February 19, 2016**. Please list the name of RFA in subject line and send all questions to:

ATTN: Marja Sainio, Analyst  
California Department of Social Services  
Office of Child Abuse Prevention  
[Marja.Sainio@dss.ca.gov](mailto:Marja.Sainio@dss.ca.gov)  
FAX: 916-651-6328

### C. APPLICATION DUE DATE AND SUBMISSION

The grant application and all required documents must be submitted electronically to the OCAP at [marja.sainio@dss.ca.gov](mailto:marja.sainio@dss.ca.gov). The OCAP does not provide notification the application was received. Request a "Read Notification" to verify the application packet was received by the OCAP. The OCAP must receive the application documents by **March 11, 2016, at 5:00 PM PST**. Applications received later than this deadline will not be reviewed. Applications will be rated and ranked competitively and incomplete applications will not be accepted.

### D. ELIGIBILITY

- Must be a collaborative applicant (two or more organizations)
- Must have the capacity and ability to provide statewide training and technical assistance (T&TA)
- Must be able to demonstrate a strong association with existing family support organizations, counties and communities
- Must have demonstrated ability to successfully partner with state / county level government agencies

All Applicants will be required to electronically submit a Proof of Not-for-Profit Standing, if applicable (See Part II E below).

Additionally, all Applicants will be required to submit certification that the Applicant or their principles or affiliates have not been debarred or suspended from federal financial assistance programs and activities, and are not proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from participation in covered transactions by any federal department or agency. Complete the Certification of Debarment and Suspension (Document E) with your application, which also certifies that the Applicant is not listed on the Excluded Parties Listing System (<https://www.epls.gov>).

## E. FUNDS

1. **Source of Funds:** The Strategies program is supported by federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) and Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) funds, and the State Children's Trust Fund (SCTF).
2. **Funding Cycle and Duration:** July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2019\*\*  
\*\*OCAP reserves the right to terminate or extend this agreement following an evaluation at the conclusion of the 16-17 fiscal year (June 30, 2017).
3. **Projected Funds Available:** Approximately \$2.5 million per year is available\*\*  
\*\*OCAP reserves the right to determine the number of grant awards made and the amount of each award.
4. **Restrictions on How Funds May (or must) be Used:**
  - Applicants must understand funding will only be allowed for T&TA activities or services which seek to mitigate major risk factors of poverty and substance abuse.
  - No funding will be provided for existing services currently funded through another source (i.e., no funding may be used to supplant local, state, or federal funds for any purpose).
  - The OCAP cannot reimburse or supplement funding for services already funded by OCAP or other government programs, such as Denti-Cal or Medi-Cal.
  - Funds that are requested by the Applicant must be used exclusively for the operation and administration of the proposed activities outlined in the Applicant's Scope of Work for this RFA.

## F. PROGRAM INFORMATION

### 1. OCAP Strategic Plan

The OCAP has developed a five year strategic plan to more effectively respond to the condition of child maltreatment throughout California. The purpose of this plan is to articulate the OCAP's vision for preventing child abuse and neglect which includes the vision statement: No child suffers from abuse or neglect. This will guide OCAP's mission:

- To shape policy, build communities and empower families so that child abuse, neglect and their major risk factors are prevented.

The plan will be utilized by OCAP to direct program and funding activities over the next five years (2015-2020) and serves to communicate with complete accountability and transparency the work of the OCAP to the residents of California. The OCAP's activities and funding strategies will be informed by the following six guiding priorities:

1. Promoting strengths-based approaches: The OCAP promotes the wide-spread incorporation of family strengthening approaches, such as integrating protective factors, as an essential prevention strategy.
2. Engaging and empowering parents: The OCAP will advance approaches to meaningfully empower parents as they support and advocate for their families and inform prevention service and policy systems.
3. Focus on high-need populations: Priority funding will focus on prevention strategies to address the needs of children and families impacted by: over-representation in child welfare systems, child neglect, at-risk infants and children, vulnerable families, and poverty and/or economic challenges that impact families.
4. Cultural responsiveness and relevance: The OCAP will seek to ensure culturally responsive and relevant resources, best practice models, and implementation tools to share with counties and community-based prevention partners.
5. Effective, data-driven approaches: It is expected that all prevention approaches advocated by the OCAP have the best available evidence and, at a minimum, are data-informed, implemented with fidelity, and employ high-quality assessment strategies to monitor outcomes.
6. Building prevention partnerships: A goal of the OCAP is to build local prevention partnerships through capacity building, models, and community resources.

## **2. Purpose of Grant Opportunity**

The OCAP is committed to preventing child abuse and neglect and its lasting effects by strengthening families and the communities that surround families. The purpose of this grant is to provide T&TA to California's family support organizations (including but not limited to: Family Resource Centers, nonprofit organizations, and county child welfare agencies), counties and communities to support OCAP's commitment.

The Strategies collaborative grantee will provide T&TA throughout the State of California. The grantee will be responsible for organizing the training logistics, such as training formats, coordinating staff, time schedules, travel and facilities. This program will call for considerable flexibility in response to changing needs and priorities.

The OCAP has identified overall goals for the Strategies program that are consistent with the goals of the federal funding sources, CAPTA and CBCAP, and the OCAP Strategic Plan. It is the OCAP's expectation that services statewide will be provided for current OCAP projects, new OCAP programs that may arise out of an initiative during the grant period, ongoing/continuing projects that request additional or refresher assistance, and additional individuals and organizations interested in family support, as identified by the OCAP.

Applicants will be expected to describe the activities they plan to execute to mitigate the major risk factors of child abuse and neglect, with poverty and substance abuse being areas of focus. Goals of those activities include:

1. Providing strategic education and training.
  - Identifying and disseminating culturally responsive resources and tools that promote the prevention of child abuse and neglect through mitigating its major risk factors.
  - Identifying target audiences; utilizing social media, webinars, peer learning conversations and in-person trainings.
2. Strengthening the capacity of providers and prevention networks to build resiliency in families and effectively implement prevention practices, particularly for families over-represented in the child welfare system.
3. Providing technical assistance to family support organizations, counties and communities to map and strengthen a comprehensive, accessible, unified network of sustainable family-support organizations, able to collaborate effectively in meeting the needs of at-risk children and families.
4. Working cohesively with the OCAP consultants in advancing prevention strategies through the use of data, performance measures, and the utilization and implementation of evidence-based practices to maximize the effectiveness of prevention efforts for vulnerable children and families.
5. Advancing innovative partnerships that increase and leverage prevention funds and/or embeds prevention-focused policies.

### **3. OCAP Philosophy and Background**

#### **OCAP Philosophy**

California is re-thinking the child welfare system and actively looking for continuum of care system improvements, including better assessment practices, better engagement practices, increased access to services and community supports for families in need. The OCAP will seek to be a part of these efforts by building the capacity of families, providers and communities to prevent child maltreatment.

Our understanding of the consequences of child maltreatment has helped to generate a collective urgency to act. However, research has found that successful prevention strategies must both reduce risk factors and build protective factors to best safeguard the safety and well-being of children. Children need and deserve safe, secure, nurturing relationships and environments to thrive.

The prevention of child abuse and neglect is most effective when families can ensure their child's safety and well-being, and therefore do not engage or require child welfare involvement. The OCAP contends that when families are resilient, parents are more likely to withstand times of stress in ways that do not compromise a child's safety or well-being. As such, the OCAP seeks to build resilient families and communities throughout California as an essential prevention strategy.

#### **OCAP Background**

OCAP, within the California Department of Social Services, was created by statute and is required by the Legislature to oversee and administer child abuse prevention and early intervention programs to administer federal grants, contracts and state programs

designed to promote best practices and innovative approaches to child abuse prevention, intervention and treatment. The OCAP plays a valuable role to ensure that successful prevention strategies support and are integrated as part of the CDSS initiatives and activities. The OCAP's priority objectives are to:

- Promote an agenda to prevent child abuse and neglect both statewide and as part of the CDSS work.
- Maintain responsibility to effectively utilize multiple state and federal prevention-focused funding streams, ensuring compliance with all governing legislation.

In total, the OCAP provides oversight to approximately \$86 million dollars of funding per year. These funds are utilized throughout the continuum of child welfare, from prevention to intervention to after-care. Specific funding streams the OCAP oversees include: the federal grants to California for the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) program, and the Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) program, as well as the state Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment Act (CAPIT), the State Children's Trust Fund (SCTF) and the State Family Preservation Fund (SFP).

To ensure the OCAP is a good steward of public and private funds, maximizing resources through leveraging, resources pooling, fiscal accountability and return on investment is required. Through partnership and collaboration, the OCAP is able to leverage and support children, families and communities in a more effective manner.

For more information please visit: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/ocap/>

# STRATEGIES

## PART II – RFA INSTRUCTIONS

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- A. PREPARING AN APPLICATION
  - B. PROJECT NARRATIVE
  - C. PROJECT BUDGET
  - D. APPLICATION APPENDIX
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### A. PREPARING AN APPLICATION

The instructions in this section correspond to each of the application components and to the forms required to complete the application.

The Applicant must use the forms provided in Part IV of this RFA or on our website at [CDSS](#). The forms must be completed only on the attached forms and electronically submitted with the application. The Narrative, Budget page and Budget Narrative templates provided on the website are formatted to CDSS standards. If a page limitation is specified for a component, strict adherence to the limitation is required.

The OCAP has established the requirements for the selection of the recipient based on state and federal requirements for the use of government funds. Each Applicant must electronically submit all of the following:

1. Narrative Report (Document A)
2. Budget Detail (Document B – Page One of Document)
3. Budget Narrative Template (Document B – Page Two of Document)
4. Scope of Work (Document C)
5. Collaborative Participants
6. Applicant Information Form (Document D)
7. Grantee Certification of Federal Requirements (Document E)
8. Evaluation Plan (Document F)
9. Applicant Qualifications (Document G)

Click the link to access CDSS forms: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/ocap/PG4742.htm>

**NOTE:** The Applicant must ensure that all information requested by the RFA is included in the appropriate section of the application in order to receive credit. Failure to include the required components may result in a reduced score or disqualification. The OCAP will *not* advise the Applicant if the application is incorrect and/or incomplete prior to rating or disqualification.

The Application Information Form (Document D) is to be used as the Application's Cover Page.

### B. NARRATIVE

The narrative is the main body of information describing the problem to be addressed (see Program Information), the plan to address the identified problem through appropriate and achievable goals, objectives, activities, and deliverables, the evaluation and sustainability plans, collaboration, and the ability and qualifications of the Applicant to implement the proposed plan.

1. Problem Statement – To be included in Narrative Report, Document A [2 pages]
  - Describe why training and technical assistance (T&TA) to family support organizations, counties and communities is essential to reaching populations identified as having one or

more major risk factors of poverty and substance abuse. Utilize current statistical data to explain the reason(s) this need exists throughout California.

- Describe your Agency's current funding and services related to T&TA for child abuse prevention and family support in your community/service area.
- Describe the gaps and/or barriers your Agency has identified in existing collaborative approaches as they relate to providing child abuse prevention services and family support resources for populations throughout California.

2. Implementation Plan – To be included in Narrative Report, Document A [10 pages total]

The OCAP seeks Applicants to prevent the maltreatment of children in California by focusing on the goals described in the Program Information description. This section of the project narrative should present the overarching plan or context of how the program fits within your organization's mission to address the problem (specifics of the plan should be completed in the Scope of Work-SOW).

- Describe a comprehensive and feasible plan to accomplish the goals and objectives, including the reasons you chose your strategy to implement the goals and objectives described in the SOW. [up to 5 pages].
- Describe how you will build on existing and effective practices and resources already in place and working in your agency. [up to 2 pages]
- Describe how you propose to utilize a combination of staff, consultants, or in-kind partners to achieve objectives. (Additional information about what kinds of personnel, their qualifications and duties can be described in detail in the Applicant Qualifications section below) [up to 2 pages]
- Describe how you will disseminate culturally responsive resources and tools that promote child abuse and neglect prevention, mitigating the leading risks of maltreatment, poverty and substance abuse, throughout California. [1 page]

The following core values are how OCAP believes the work is to be done. Describe how you will address some or all of the following core values in your plan.

- Quality** – We support culturally responsive, gold standard prevention services;
- Strengthen Families** – We respect and strengthen families through parent engagement in planning and problem solving;
- Research driven** – We promote rigorous, evidence-based practice and policy development;
- Engage stakeholders** – We partner with stakeholders to guide prevention;
- Engage experts** – We engage experts to provide the expertise needed for quality prevention design and outcomes;
- Accountable** – We model accountability, transparency and stewardship;
- Data and outcomes focused** – We use data and a focus on outcomes as a guide to all of our work; and
- Innovative** – We embrace technology and innovation.

3. Sustainability Plan – To be included in Narrative Report, Document A [1 page]

- Is this a limited-term program that will end at the end of the funding cycle? Yes or No

- If no, describe a feasible and realistic plan to continue services beyond the end of the grant.

4. Funding Maximization – To be included in Narrative Report, Document A [1 page]

- Describe your plans to leverage, match or otherwise utilize funds to increase funds available for the project (however, do not include these funds on the budget).

5. Collaboration – To be included in Narrative Report, Document A [2 pages]

The OCAP desires projects, strategies, and activities which are collaboratively planned and implemented. Describe how you would facilitate local statewide collaboration among family support organizations, counties and communities.

- The successful Applicant must demonstrate how they will achieve the goals by building and sustaining linkages that support child abuse prevention and family support projects; and
- By facilitating their work so that mutually-beneficial collaborative opportunities are possible.

6. Past Performance – To be included in Narrative Report, Document A [1 page]

Include a description of your experience as a steward of public funds and your experience managing partnerships with state level agencies.

Have you had any issues with noncompliance or failure to meet the deliverables or objectives of any grant agreement with OCAP or another entity? Indicate yes or no. If yes, describe how these issues were resolved and the manner they were solved (Corrective Action Plan, etc.). Compliance issues include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Late on deliverables
2. Failure to meet the deliverables or objectives of a grant agreement
3. Failure to submit Progress Reports, evaluations, invoices or audits as required and in a timely manner
4. Failure to comply with any term or condition of a grant agreement
5. Negative audit findings

7. Scope of Work (SOW) – Document C [No page limit]

In addition to a narrative, Applicants must submit a proposed SOW that includes the goals, objectives, activities, deliverables, performance measures and timeline of the project. The required template is attached (Document C). There is no page limit. Please do not modify the template. Applicants will be scored based on content of responses. For each column, use numbers for each separate item (i.e., Objective 1, Activity 1a, Deliverable 1a, Measure 1a, Timeline 1a—date)

- Develop objectives that are specific, measureable, attainable, realistic / reasonable, and time-bound (SMART). Activities should support efforts to effectively meet the objectives and address the challenges of the target population.
- Develop an appropriate number and type of deliverables.
- Ensure the measures are specific and concrete to meet the deliverables.
- Ensure the timeline of activities is reasonable so that work is effectively accomplished throughout the grant period.

8. Evaluation Plan – Document F [5 pages]

- Describe how the success of the work will be measured, and how results will be utilized.

- Describe what you intend to evaluate and who would do the evaluation (include experience).
- Retention of an outside evaluator is encouraged and can be included in the budget.
- Develop an action plan to meet the goals and objectives of the program that identifies the activities to be performed, and the short, mid and long-term outcomes.
- Provide a program logic model which shows output and outcome measures of performance. [Does not apply to page number limitation]

#### 9. Applicant Qualifications – Document G [2 pages]

Describe how your organization is qualified to implement or perform the goals and objectives of this RFA.

- State the Agency’s history of performing this or similar work and familiarity with the program’s identified target population(s);
- Describe the expertise in T&TA that makes you the best candidate.
- Describe your capacity to implement the scope of the project, including examples of successful partnerships with state agencies and/or use of federal funding.
- Describe the qualifications and roles of current or planned program staff or subcontractors to implement the proposed activities. Indicate whether you plan to hire staff to begin implementation.
- Provide an organizational chart that shows the project within the organization and includes position and names of staff anticipated to be involved in the project. [Does not apply to page number limitation]
- Provide job descriptions and resumes of project staff and any known subcontractors. [Does not apply to page number limitation]

#### C. BUDGET

Applicant must include a budget with specific line items (Document B) and narrative descriptions (Document B). The required templates are attached or found through this link: [CDSS](#).

The purpose of the project budget is to demonstrate how the Applicant will implement the proposed plan with the funds available through this program. The budget is the basis for management, fiscal review, and audit. Project costs must be directly related to the objectives and activities of the project. The budget must cover the entire grant period. In the budget, include **only** those items covered by **grant funds**. Projects may supplement grant funds with funds from other sources. However, since approved line items are subject to audit, Applicants should not include in the project budget any funds other than listed in the grant. Budgets are subject to OCAP modifications and approval.

The OCAP requires the Applicant to develop a **line-item** budget, using the suggested categories on the attached Budget form that will enable the project to meet the intent and requirements of the program and ensure the successful and cost-effective implementation of the project. The Applicant should prepare a realistic and prudent budget avoiding unnecessary or unusual expenditures which detract from the accomplishment of the objectives and activities of the project.

**Note:** The following information is provided to assist in the preparation of the budget:

- Strict adherence to required and prohibited items is expected.
- Where the Applicant does not budget for a required item, the Applicant assumes responsibility.
- Failure of the Applicant to include required budget items does not eliminate responsibility to comply with those requirements during the implementation of the project.

Should you have additional budget questions after reading this section thoroughly, contact the person listed in Part I, section B.

### 1. Budget Categories

The budget template displays a five line item budget. The five budget categories include: Personnel, Program Expenses, Subcontracts, Operating Expenses, and a maximum of 10 percent Indirect Cost. Each category is explained in detail as follows, and the Applicant should use these definitions to complete the budget template.

### 2. Personnel and Fringe Benefits

Positions that are directly involved in the development, delivery and support of the grant activities are listed under this line item with Personnel and the Fringe Benefits listed separately.

- Personnel. Identify each funded position by job title.
- Staff who perform only administrative and fiscal duties are not included in this line item. They can only be included as part of indirect expenses.
- Identify the monthly salary rate for each position. Do not combine multiple personnel on the same line. Each position must be displayed on a separate line.
- Fringe Benefits. Expenses include, but are not limited to, employer paid social security; worker's compensation insurance; unemployment insurance; health, dental, vision and/or life insurance; disability insurance; pension plan/retirement benefits etc. Display fringe benefits individually for each staff as part of the annual salary.

### 3. Program Expenses

- Stipends. Support for intern/parent/caregiver participation in collaborative meetings.
- Materials. Educational printed matter or tools that are required to implement program goals.
- Training. Costs for training program staff and collaborative members to implement program goals.
- Other. Any expenses not covered in the above categories must be explained and justified in the budget narrative.

### 4. Subcontractors

- A subcontract results when a Recipient enters into an agreement for services with another party. All subcontracts must be included in the budget and the use of subcontracts shall be justified in the budget narrative. If any subcontractor is subcontracted with for a total grant amount of over five thousand (\$5,000), the subcontract must be submitted for approval by the State prior to final execution of the grant and/or reimbursement, and a separate Budget Summary will be required. If the subcontract is less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), the State reserves the right to request a copy.
- The Recipient shall be solely responsible for the work of any subcontractor under this agreement. Subcontracts are subject to the same provisions as the primary grant agreement and should therefore contain written reference to the provisions of the primary grant agreement.
- Operating Expenses.
- Direct costs necessary to conduct the day-to-day operations are listed in this line item. The line item categories listed below are provided in the budget template for ease of completion.

Applicants may add additional Operating Expense lines or leave some blank if not applicable.

- Travel. Travel and per diem rates are established and periodically adjusted by the State Department of Personnel Administration. Proposed reimbursable expenditures for travel may not exceed those ceilings. Expenses for Out-of-State travel will not be allowed without prior written approval by CDSS. Out-of-country travel is prohibited. Applicants must include a sufficient travel and per diem allocation to attend any required in-person meetings, as needed. Travel for parent or youth participants is allowed at state reimbursement rates, but is not allowed for coalition members.
  - Office Space. The cost of office space is included in this line item. Estimated costs for space may be based on the full or prorated amount expected to be paid in rent. Where the facility is owned by the prospective recipient, costs may be reimbursed on the basis of depreciation or a use allowance. When space is rented, indicate in the Budget Narrative whether the charge also provides for services such as utilities or parking.
  - Printing. Costs incurred specifically for the program are allowable and include printing, photocopying and other reproduction services.
  - Communication. It is expected that all Recipients will have telephone, telephone conferencing, and email capabilities. This category includes telephone, fax, computers (email), postage, etc.
  - Utilities. Utilities that are not provided with space rent or use, such as power, water, electricity, gas, etc.
  - Other costs. Any expenses not covered in the above categories must be explained and justified.
5. Program Costs. Included in these line items are those expenses directly related to the implementation of the program activities. These include, for example, materials for clients, outreach, equipment, training for families and providers or other direct program expenses.
6. Indirect Cost Rate. The indirect cost rate refers to costs that accrue in the normal conduct of business that can only be partially attributable to performance of a grant (e.g., administrative expenses such as payroll handling, accounting/personnel expenses, liability insurance coverage, executive director's time). The indirect cost rate must be justified in the budget narrative. Specify an indirect cost rate as a percentage of the total personnel salary and wage costs, including fringe benefits, not to exceed 10 percent.
7. Prohibited Items. Grants using federal Health and Human Services Agency federal funds are required to follow cost principles governing non-federal entities and are outlined in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations found at 2 C.F.R. Part 200.

Other prohibited expenses include the following:

- Lobbying
- Bonuses/Commissions
- Interest
- Supplanting other federal funds
- Lease-Purchase Options: It is prohibited to use grant funds to enter into a lease-purchase contract for the purchase of equipment

- Purchase of Real Property

#### D. BUDGET NARRATIVE

The Applicant is required to submit a narrative with the project budget. The budget narrative provides a brief narrative that justifies the appropriateness and necessity of each expense. In addition, the narrative should also describe each personnel position, its role in performing these activities, and qualifications to do so. The narrative must be typed and placed in the identified electronic form, and describe:

- Describe how the project's proposed budget supports the Program's objectives and activities and the intent and requirements of the program;
- The duties of project-funded staff, including the experience or education level necessary for the job assignment;
- How project-funded staff duties and time commitments (FTE) support the proposed objectives and activities; Include formula for each position (wage x hours x number of months); in addition to time allocated to this indicate the proposed staff percentage of time to other efforts in the agency;
- The necessity for subcontracts and unusual expenditures; and
- Any salary range adjustments anticipated during the grant period.
- Attach job descriptions and resumes for all project staff and subcontractors, if available.

#### E. APPLICATION APPENDIX

The application appendix provides OCAP with additional information from the Applicant to support components of the application. There are no formatting requirements or page limitations for these components, unless otherwise mentioned. The following must be included:

- Program Logic Model  
The logic model should clearly illustrate output and outcome measures of performance.
- Organizational Chart  
The Organizational Chart should clearly depict the structure of the Applicant organization and the specific unit within the organization responsible for the implementation of the project. This chart should also depict supporting units within the organization (e.g., the Accounting Unit) and the lines of authority within the organization. Job titles on the Organizational Chart must match those in the Budget and Budget Narrative.
- Job descriptions and resumes for all project staff and known subcontractors.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), [if applicable]:  
MOUs must contain original signatures, titles, and agency names for both parties and include dates effective for the proposed grant period. These documents must demonstrate a formal system of networking and coordination with other agencies and the Applicant. Scan and attach when submitting the application.
- Certification of Federal Requirements (Debarment and Suspension/Federal Revenue Certification), which includes the Excluded Parties Listing System verification (Document E). Complete the electronic form.
- Proof of Not-for-Profit Standing with the federal Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, by submitting a copy of your tax exempt status letter or either (a) a certification from the State of California, Office of the Secretary of State, or (b) a letter from

the federal Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, classifying the Applicant agency as a private, non-profit corporation. (Scan and submit electronically) [if applicable]

Click the link below to access CDSS forms: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/ocap/PG4742.htm>

# STRATEGIES

## PART III – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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**NOTE:** The Applicant is strongly encouraged to review the following sections before preparing the application:

- A. SELECTION OF APPLICATION FOR FUNDING
  - B. FINALIZING THE STANDARD AGREEMENT
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### A. SELECTION OF APPLICATION(S) FOR FUNDING

#### 1. Application Rating and Scoring

Eligible applications received by the deadline are generally rated by a team of evaluators. The rater scores are averaged and applications are then ranked numerically. The Rating Form assigns point values to the following categories:

- Narrative (Maximum 95 points)
  - Problem Statement
  - Plan and Implementation
  - Sustainability
  - Funding Maximization
  - Collaboration
  - Past Performance
- Evaluation Plan (Maximum 20 points)
- Scope of Work (Maximum 75 points)
- Applicant Qualifications (Maximum 70 points)
- Budget Detail and Narrative (Maximum 25 points)
- Comprehensive Assessment/Core Values (Maximum 45 points)

Applications will be scored based on whether the Applicant answered the question as requested as well as on the quality, clarity, depth, relevance and thoroughness of the responses provided.

#### 2. Funding Recommendation

Funding recommendations are based on the following:

- The highest ranked score(s) of the applications;
- Consideration of funding priorities or geographical distribution specific to this RFA;
- Past performance under grant agreements with OCAP or other entities (Please include this detailed information in the Past Performance Section of the Narrative); and
- Final approval by the OCAP Bureau Chief. OCAP reserves the right to determine the number of grant awards made and the amount of each grant under this RFA. OCAP reserves the right to decline an award to an entity that has failed to meet the stated objectives or comply with the terms and conditions of prior grant agreements with OCAP or other funders.

#### 3. Notification Process

Applicants will be notified by electronic communication of the grant award results. Applicants not selected for funding will also be notified by electronic communication.

#### 4. Appeal Process and Requirements

All projects selected for funding are selected on a “contingency basis,” pending resolution of any appeals of the selection process used for this RFA. The CDSS has the discretion to reject all applications.

Grants shall be awarded after a notice of the proposed award(s) has been posted on the OCAP website for five (5) working days. If, prior to the award deadline, an Applicant files a letter of appeal via email against the awarding of a specific grant, the grant shall not be awarded until the appeal has been resolved. Only non-funded Applicants that submitted a timely application complying with the RFA instructions may file an appeal.

A letter of appeal will be accepted via email only. The deadline to submit a letter of appeal to CDSS is five working days after the notice of proposed award is posted. It is the Applicant’s responsibility to ensure receipt by this date and time. Verbal, mailed, and late appeals will not be accepted. All letters of appeal shall be emailed to:

ATTN: Marja Sainio, Analyst  
California Department of Social Services  
Office of Child Abuse Prevention  
[Marja.Sainio@dss.ca.gov](mailto:Marja.Sainio@dss.ca.gov)

The letter of appeal filed by a protesting Applicant must set forth the issues in dispute, the basis for the appeal, the legal authority supporting the appeal, and the remedy sought. Applicants may not use the appeal process to add new information to the grant application. Appeals shall be limited to the following grounds:

- The grant(s) was not awarded to the Applicant(s) whose proposal was given the highest score(s) by the evaluation committee; and/or
- The applications were not evaluated according to the scoring and selection procedures described in the RFA. Disagreements with an evaluator’s comments or scores are not sufficient grounds for an appeal.

Upon receipt of the emailed letter of appeal, the State will examine the matter and issue a written decision to the appellant within 20 calendar days. This decision of the State shall be final. The written decision of the State shall contain the following information:

- A description of the dispute;
- A statement of the factual areas of agreement or disagreement; and
- A statement of the State’s decision with supporting rationale.

## B. FINALIZING THE STANDARD AGREEMENT

### 1. Standard Project Funding Authority

**Allocation of funds is contingent on the enactment of the State Budget.** The CDSS does not have the authority to disburse funds until the budget is passed and the Standard Agreement is fully executed. Expenditures incurred prior to authorization are made at the project’s own risk and may be disallowed. The CDSS employees are not able to authorize an Applicant to incur expenses or financial obligations prior to the execution of a Standard Agreement. However, once the Standard Agreement is finalized the Recipient may claim reimbursement for expenses incurred on, or subsequent to, the start of the grant award period.

If, during the term of the grant award, the state and/or federal funds appropriated for the purposes of the grant award are reduced or eliminated by the California Legislature or the United States Government, or in the event revenues are not collected at the level appropriated, CDSS may

immediately terminate or reduce the grant award by written notice to the Recipient. However, no such termination or reduction shall apply to allowable costs already incurred by the Recipient to the extent state or federal funds are available for payment of such costs.

The CDSS Standard Agreements are subject to applicable restrictions, limitations, or conditions enacted by the California Legislature and/or the United States Government, subsequent to execution of the Standard Agreement.

## 2. Reservation of Rights and Processing Grant Awards

The OCAP reserves all rights regarding this RFA, including, without limitation, the right to do any of the following:

- a. Amend or cancel this RFA prior to the execution of a grant agreement.
- b. Make corrections to the RFA up until the application submission deadline including:
  - Modifying any date or deadline appearing in this RFA or the RFA Timeline.
  - Issuing clarification notices, addenda, alternate RFA instructions, forms, etc.
  - Waiving any RFA requirement or instruction for all Applicants if the OCAP determines that the requirement or instruction was unnecessary, erroneous, or unreasonable.
  - Allowing Applicants to submit questions about any RFA change, correction, or addenda. If the OCAP allows such questions, specific instructions will appear in the cover letter accompanying the document.

### c. Grant Award Conditions

The CDSS may add grant award conditions to the Standard Agreement prior to or after funding. If conditions are added, these will be discussed with the Applicant and a copy of the conditions will be sent to the Recipient when the conditions are made part of the Standard Agreement.

### d. Standard Agreement

A copy of the executed Standard Agreement and pertinent attachments will be sent to the Project Director. The Applicant is not authorized to incur costs against the grant until a grant agreement is fully executed.

### e. Grant Award Amounts

When the amount of funds available is limited, the CDSS may reduce the amount of the grant award from the amount requested by the Applicant. In addition, CDSS reserves the right to negotiate budgetary changes with the Applicant prior to executing the Standard Agreement. If either of these actions is required, CDSS will notify the Applicant prior to executing the Standard Agreement. The Applicant may decline the award if it does not agree to terms.

### f. Additional Requirements for Selected Recipient

- The Recipient will complete and return to the OCAP the provided Exhibits that will become part of the terms of the grant agreement. In addition, the Recipient will work with the OCAP to finalize the Scope of Work and Budget, with the contractor submitting a final Scope of Work and Budget. The approval process can take up to eight weeks to complete.
- The OCAP may provide Recipients with new or updated templates and/or budget processes during the grant period.

The Recipient shall:

- Complete the grant activities in accordance with the SOW. Recipient shall be responsible for exercising the degree of skill and care required by customarily accepted good professional practices and procedures in the performance of grant activities.
- Provide program reports, quarterly reports, equipment inventory reports, and data forms completed and submitted as specified in the SOW, or upon the request of the OCAP.
- Promptly provide details of any and all expenditures (including those of subcontractors) under this Agreement when requested by the State.
- Complete the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards and requirements set forth at 2 C.F.R. Part 200.
- Maintain all project materials and records pertaining to service delivery and fiscal and administrative controls for three years after final payment has been made under the terms of this Agreement, or until all pending county, state and federal audits are completed, whichever is later. Recipient agrees that the State or its designated representative shall have the right to review and copy any records and supporting documentation pertaining to the performance of this Agreement.
- Recipient certifies that it has appropriate systems and controls in place to ensure that state funds will not be used in the performance of this grant for the acquisition, operation or maintenance of computer software in violation of copyright laws.
- Recipients with an annual budget of \$500,000 or more must submit a copy of your most recent financial audit report or financial review annually.

## STRATEGIES

### APPLICATION FORMS

Click the link below to access CDSS forms: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/ocap/PG4742.htm>

These include:

- Narrative Report (Document A)
- Budget Detail (Document B)
- Budget Narrative Template (Document B)
- Scope of Work (Document C)
- Application Information Form (Document D)
- Grantee Certification of Federal Requirements (Document E)
- Evaluation Plan (Document F)
- Applicant Qualifications (Document G)

Forms/documents which must be scanned and attached to the electronic application via email include:

- Program Logic Model
- Proof of Not-for-profit Standing
- Job Descriptions and Resumes
- Organizational Chart
- Memorandum of Understandings, if applicable

## STRATEGIES

### GLOSSARY OF TERMS

TERM	DEFINITION
Activity	The specific steps or actions that a project takes to achieve a measurable objective.
Administrative Agency or Recipient	The agency or organization designated on the Grant Agreement that receives grant funds and is responsible to accomplish the planned objectives and program goals. The Recipient was formerly referred to as the “Grantee”.
Application	The packet of forms and narrative as requested by the RFA and submitted to CDSS electronically that specified the priorities, strategies, and objectives of the Applicant. Once selected for funding, the original application plus any additional forms as required by CDSS becomes the application.
Community-Based Organization (CBO)	A nonprofit, public benefit corporation.
Competitive Bid	A contract process used when all suppliers are equally or nearly equally qualified to provide the services.
Deliverables	A completed process, product, or learning experience or other item specifically to satisfy the goal and objective. These are outputs after implementing activities.
Evaluation Plan	Evaluation of grantee’s work will inform policy makers about the impact of the grantee’s efforts on achieving required objectives. The evaluation plan describes how the success of the work will be measured, how the work benefits at risk children and families and how the results will be utilized.
Grant Agreement	The signed final agreement between CDSS and the local government agency or organization authorized to accept grant funding.
Grant Funding Cycle	The number of years a program may be funded without competition.
Grant Funding Period	The period of time, determined by the Request for Application (RFA), which the narrative, objectives, activities, and budget cover. The time period is usually between one to three years, and is shown on the Cover Letter and Fund section of the RFA.
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	These documents must demonstrate a formal system of networking and coordination with other agencies and the Applicant. MOUs must contain original signatures, titles, and agency names for both parties and include dates effective for the proposed grant period.
Nonprofit Organization (aka Community-Based Organization)	A nonprofit, public benefit corporation as defined in the federal regulation of 28 C.F.R. Part 38, Department of Justice. This modifies the need to be recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) for Recipients of faith-based organizations. All organizations may qualify for nonprofit status using any one of the four following methods:

- (1) Proof that the Internal Revenue Service recognizes the Applicant has the status of a 501(c)(3).
- (2) A statement from a State taxing body or the State Secretary of State certifying that (i) the Organization is a nonprofit organization operating within the State; and (ii) No part of its net earnings may lawfully benefit any private shareholder or individual:
- (3) A certified copy of the Applicant's certificate of incorporation or similar document that clearly establishes the nonprofit status of the Applicant; or
- (4) Any item described in (1) through (3) if that item applies to a State or national parent organization, together with a statement by the State or parent organization that the Applicant is a local nonprofit affiliate.

Objectives	A set of quantifiable projections to be carried out in order to accomplish the program goals. These should be specific and measurable.
On Site	Refers to the location of operation of the grant award Recipient. If multiple sites exist, the site that provides the project Recipients with program direction qualifies as the "on site location."
Performance Measures	A description of an outcome as to whether an activity described in the SOW has been performed.
Program	A specific set of goals and objectives that addresses a specific problem or need.
Project	The implementation of a Program by a Recipient. The project includes all of the grants implemented by the Recipient under that Program regardless of the year of implementation.
Recipient	The agency or organization designated on the Grant Agreement that receives the grant funds and will be responsible for accomplishing the planned program goals and objectives.
Request for Application (RFA)	The RFA is issued by CDSS to solicit competitive applications in order to select projects for funding.
Scope of Work (SOW)	A SOW is a formal agreement document that specifies all the criteria between a funder and the Recipient. It clearly documents the project requirements, milestones, deliverables, end products, documents and reports that are expected to be provided by the Recipient.
Site Visit	A site visit is an onsite assessment by the OCAP Analyst assigned to the project to determine if the project is in compliance with the terms of the program, the Standard Agreement, the SOW, and the RFA.
Source Documentation	Records that validate project expenses, activities and achievements as they pertain to the objectives outlined in the Standard Agreement.
Supplanting	To reduce federal, state, or local funds because of the existence of CDSS funds. Supplanting occurs when a Recipient deliberately replaces its non-CDSS funds with CDSS funds, thereby reducing the total amount available for the stated purpose.

Sustainability Plan

A plan of how the agency will raise funds to continue providing services to the identified population.