

**California Reducing Disparities Project**  
**Statewide Evaluator and Technical Assistance Provider**  
Frequently Asked Questions  
(02/19/2016)

**Q: How many organizations participated in the CRDP solicitations?**

A: We had strong competition for the Statewide Evaluator and Technical Assistance Provider solicitations. Six organizations submitted applications in response to the Statewide Evaluator solicitation. Fifteen organizations submitted applications in response to Technical Assistance Provider solicitations.

**Q: Who was on the selection committee and how were they selected?**

A: Over sixty people from across the Health and Human Services Agency and other state departments participated in the selection process for all CRDP solicitations. The participants were selected because of their specific technical expertise and for their background and experience with understanding or working with diverse populations.

**Q: What were the key evaluation criteria?**

A: The Statewide Evaluator and the Technical Assistance Providers were selected based on their documented experience and ability to provide the technical services articulated in each solicitation and their cultural and linguistic competence within the communities they will be serving. The solicitation was conducted using the RFP secondary method which considers cost as one of the evaluation criteria.

**Q: Which organizations are going to be awarded the contracts?**

A: Statewide Evaluator: Loyola Marymount University  
Loyola Marymount University is a private, non-profit research university in Los Angeles, CA. The team will be led by Dr. Cheryl Grills of the Psychology Applied Research Center. Dr. Grills brings 28 years of experience and has conducted dozens of evaluations on local and national projects focused on priority issues for underserved communities of color. She is also a national Past President of the Association of Black Psychologists and founder of Imoyase Community Support Services. In addition, the project will be supported by The Alliance of National Psychological Associations for Racial & Ethnic Equality.

African American Technical Assistance Provider: OnTrack Program Resources

OnTrack, a Sacramento-based non-profit, has worked to bridge the gap between health and human services systems and resources to reach communities most impacted by social, economic and political disparities. OnTrack has provided culturally sensitive technical assistance to community based organizations that serve the African American

community since 1998. The team will be led by Madalynn Rucker who brings 24 years of experience providing behavioral health technical assistance. She is a member of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network National Advisory Board and the SAMHSA Women's Addiction Services Leadership Institute. Lilyane Glamben will serve as Project Manager. She brings over 25 years of nonprofit management experience to the team.

Asian Pacific Islander Technical Assistance Provider: Special Services for Groups

Special Services for Groups (SSG) is a Los Angeles community based organization that has been supporting grassroots communities to develop social, health, educational and economic solutions for over 60 years. The project will be led by an experienced team. Erica Shehane will act as Project Manager. Ms. Shehane has recently led projects for the Orange County Health Care Agency, The California Endowment and the National Institute of Mental Health. She will be supported by the Management Support Team, including Eric Wat and Erika Takada. Mr. Wat is the Director of the SSG Research & Evaluation Team. He has designed and led projects for First 5 LA, National Institutes of Health and the California Community Foundation. Ms. Takada has advised on projects for the API Wellness Center, San Francisco County Behavioral Health Services and San Francisco Department of Public Health. The project will be supported by Harder + Company Community Research.

Latino Technical Assistance Provider: University of California, Davis (UC Davis)

UC Davis is a member of the University of California system. The team primarily operates out of Sacramento. The project will be led by Dr. Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola of the Center for Reducing Health Disparities. Dr. Aguilar-Gaxiola is the Founding Director of the Center for Reducing Health Disparities, a World Health Organization scientist and was the Latino population lead for CRDP, Phase I. He has over 25 years of experience directing federal, state and foundation funded research programs that focused on community engaged approaches to reducing health disparities. The team will include Dr. Linda Ziegahn, Dr. Heather Diaz and Dr. Gustavo Loera, who will each be responsible for working closely with two to three pilot projects. In addition, Rachel Guerrero will advise on cultural and linguistic competence and support the development of materials and curricula.

LGBTQ Technical Assistance Provider: Center for Applied Research Solutions

Center for Applied Research Solutions (CARS) is a California-based nonprofit focused on supporting the prevention field with high-quality technical assistance. The project is co-directed by Ken Einhaus and Daniel Toleran. Mr. Einhaus has over 18 years of experience providing technical assistance and similar services in support of the LGBTQ community. His experience includes supporting the Veterans Administration's treatment facility for homeless veterans in accepting and supporting its first transgender client. Mr. Toleran has over 15 years of experience directing programs that provide integrated mental and behavioral health, HIV/AIDS services, comprehensive social supports, and community advocacy to historically underserved LGBTQ communities. Focus

populations have included transgender persons, homeless adults, urban immigrants, and transition age youth living with HIV. The team is supported by several subcontractors and two dozen subject matter experts that can be called upon to support with specific technical assistance needs.

**Q: Why was the Native American Technical Assistance Provider solicitation cancelled?**

A: The solicitation for the Native American Technical Assistance Provider has been cancelled because CDPH believes that it can better meet its program objectives by providing more clarity in regards to the state's needs and will be reissuing the solicitation in the very near future.

**Q: Will the delay in awarding the Native American Technical Assistance Provider contract adversely impact the Native American portion of California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP)?**

A: We do not anticipate that the delay will adversely impact the Native American CRDP program. CRDP staff will work closely with the Statewide Evaluator and the selected pilot projects to ensure that the needs of the program are addressed until the Native American TAP is put into place.

**Q: How were the solicitations developed? Was there any community involvement in the development or scoring of the solicitations?**

A: The solicitations were developed in consultation with each of the five target populations. The solicitations build on the population Strategic Planning Workgroup reports as well as the CRDP Strategic Plan to Reduce Mental Health Disparities. In addition, we took a number of additional steps to increase community involvement and input:

- Our team conducted over 60 additional subject matter and stakeholder interviews geared towards these solicitations.
- We conducted town hall meetings throughout the state to get additional feedback prior to releasing the draft solicitations.
- We conducted a statewide survey of community based organizations to assess their needs and capabilities in responding to our solicitations.
- We incorporated a draft solicitation process by which stakeholders were allowed to comment on how to best improve the solicitations, and the solicitations themselves incorporated a requirements change request process so we could obtain further input on meeting stakeholder needs.

**Q: What is the means by which the public can view the procurement files for the completed solicitations?**

A: Completed solicitation files can be viewed by all members of the public and interested stakeholders. The documents can be viewed during regular business hours at the California Department of Public Health located at 1616 Capitol Avenue, Sacramento, CA, 95814. Please contact Noralee Cole at 916-445-4139 or by email at [Noralee.Cole@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Noralee.Cole@cdph.ca.gov) to make this request.

**Q: We understand that the solicitations were not subject to Public Contract Code (PCC). In what ways did the solicitations deviate from California PCC?**

A: The CRDP solicitations were conducted under authority provided by California Welfare and Institution Code Sections 5814 and 5897. Though we were provided relief from the administrative requirements to meet the special needs of our program goals, our goals were to maintain a fair and level playing field among prospective bidders, to ensure accountability that taxpayer dollars were being spent wisely, and that we remain transparent in our processes and decisions. Inasmuch, we veered from PCC only in four specific areas in which a specific program need was identified:

- Follow-on contracting requirements: Over 100 organizations participated in Phase I of the CRDP. We permitted agencies who participated in Phase I to participate in Phase II because we believed that we could construct procurements that did not unduly favor those who participated in Phase I and we believed that not permitting Phase I participants could significantly reduce the pool of vendors from which the state could select.
- Negotiations: We established a means by which we could negotiate terms to refine the contract and scope of work, if needed. Please note that the negotiations process would use guidelines established by the California Department of General Services (DGS) and the Office of Technology Services which are currently the only two departments with standing negotiation authority under PCC.
- DGS approval: Contracts established under this process are not subject to DGS approval. Because the procurements lie outside of PCC, DGS has no basis to approve contracts.
- Protest: Rather than protesting through the Office of Administrative Hearings, under DGS, all administrative protests will be resolved by the Director of California Department of Public Health (CDPH) or by her designee. Because the procurements lie outside of PCC, the Office of Administrative Hearings does not have a basis for resolving protests.

**Q: PCC allows for a means to protest the results of the solicitations. Is there a protest process by which interested stakeholders can protest?**

A: ***The Department will entertain all protests submitted in writing by 5 pm, Monday, February 29, 2016. Only timely and complete disputes that comply with the dispute process stated within the solicitation will be considered.*** Applicants who hand delivering a dispute must have the building lobby security officer call the Office of Health Equity at 916-445-4139 between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM and ask to have a CDPH representative receive the document. CDPH will provide a proof of receipt at the time of delivery. Please refer to the solicitations for complete instructions on filing a dispute.

**Q: When will the results of the pilot project procurements be made public?**

A: We anticipate that the Implementation Pilot Project grant awards will be publicly announced in the near future. Capacity Building Pilot Project grant awards will be announced shortly thereafter.