

**California Reducing Disparities Project**  
**Native American Technical Assistance Provider**  
**Talking Points**  
(September 8, 2016)

- On September 8, 2016, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) announced, its intent to award its California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP) Native American Technical Assistance Provider to the California Rural Indian Health Board (CRIHB).
- For 47 years, CRIHB has been providing a central focal point in the Indian health field in California for planning, advocacy, funding, training, technical assistance, coordination, fund raising, education, development and for the purpose of promoting unity and formulating common policy on Indian health care issues.
- This award was made through a competitive procurement in which CRIHB was deemed the most qualified bidder based on experience, approach and cost. CDPH entertained five proposals for the solicitation from highly accomplished organizations. This is the second time this solicitation was issued due to CDPHs' position that clarifying language should be added to the solicitation in regards to program objectives relative to serving the Native American population. In the first attempt, CDPH entertained only two proposals.
- In the past six months, CDPH has issued 39 awards to different organizations, including community based organizations serving the Native American, African American, Asian and Pacific Islander, Latino and LGBTQ populations to enable CRDP.

**California Reducing Disparities Project  
Native American Technical Assistance Provider  
Questions & Answers  
(September 8, 2016)**

**Q: How many organizations participated in the California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP) Native American Technical Assistance Provider solicitations?**

A: We had strong competition for the solicitation. In total, five organizations participated in the solicitation.

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

A: This is the second time that this solicitation has been issued. The first solicitation failed due to the fact that the proposals were deemed insufficient to meet the state's needs. In the first attempt, CDPH entertained only two proposals.

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

A: The committee was composed of individuals with an interdisciplinary team with expertise in Native American language and culture, mental health and the CRDP program. Team members came from a number of different state departments, including the California Department of Public Health, the Department of Health Care Services and California Department of Transportation. 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 Native American TAP was selected based on its understanding and experience with the Native American culture and language, its proposed approach to providing the services described in the solicitation and cost.

**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.
- Dispute: Rather than disputing through the Office of Administrative Hearings, under DGS, all administrative disputes 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 disputes.

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

**A: *The Department will entertain all disputes submitted in writing by 5 pm, Thursday, September 15 10th, 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: Are there any other CRDP solicitations that will be issued?**

- A: We anticipate that we will be issuing a solicitation for 2 more Native American pilot projects and the Education, Outreach and Awareness provider in the near future .