Welcome:
Welcome to the California Department of Public Health, Safe and Active Communities Branch, teleconference for Request for Applications Number 18-100279: Rape Prevention and Education Primary Prevention Projects. I am Francisco Michel, Program Coordinator for the Rape Prevention and Education Program in the Safe and Active Communities Branch, also known as SACB. I am joined by other staff at SACB, including Nancy Bagnato, Chief of the State and Local Injury Control Section; Enrica Bertoldo, Program Coordinator; Mina White, Epidemiologist; Jeannine Barbato, Program Coordinator; and Sara Mann, Program Coordinator. Several of these staff will serve as co-presenters during this teleconference.

We will not do a roll call in order to preserve the anonymity of participants who do not wish to be identified. However, if you wish to identify yourself and your contact information for others on the call, you may do so voluntarily at the conclusion of this call.

General Announcements:
We will be using several acronyms today. RFA stands for Request for Applications; RPE stands for Rape Prevention and Education; CDPH for California Department of Public Health; and as mentioned earlier SACB stands for the Safe and Active Communities Branch, where this project will be administered.

This teleconference includes all questions submitted through Tuesday, July 17, 2018. Additional questions will be addressed during the teleconference. A transcript of today’s teleconference will be posted on the California Department of Public Health, Safe and Active Communities Branch website. The transcript will not be a verbatim record of these proceedings since it may contain additional or corrected information. Please note that the information contained in the RFA document supersedes information delivered in this teleconference.

Format of the Teleconference:
First, we will review some important information about this RFA. Next, we will answer all questions received in advance, and then allow time for additional questions. Some questions may need additional research in order to give comprehensive answers. Some of the questions may require additional discussion among staff, so we may need to put you on hold for a moment while we discuss the question. All of the answers to your questions will be included in the transcript of this teleconference. Please hold all questions until the question and answer portion of the call.
Important Dates:

Mandatory Non-Binding Letter of Intent: August 1, 2018
Application Due: September 7, 2018 by 4 p.m.*
Notice of Intent to Award: October 5, 2018
Letter of Appeal to SACB: October 12, 2018
Contract Start: February 1, 2019

*Since the RFA release, potential applicants have expressed concern about their ability to secure Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) from schools during the summer break. In order to be responsive to the needs of local rape crisis centers, and ensure the best possible outcomes for the RFA process, CDPH has extended the application deadline from August 17, 2018 to September 7, 2018. This will allow applicants to communicate with potential school partners and secure MOUs once schools are back in session. This change affects the dates listed in the RFA for “Notice of Intent to Award” and “Letter of Appeal to SACB.”

Letter of Intent

Although it was not indicated in the RFA, applicants should indicate the Tier for which they plan to apply when submitting their Letter of Intent.

RFA Overview:

The purpose of this RFA is to fund projects that are evidence-based or evidence-informed, community centered, and are designed using required project strategies. CDPH is seeking applications from local rape crisis centers for either of two (2) separate funding tiers:

- **Tier 1** projects will implement and evaluate community mobilization projects using the Close to Home strategy. This will be a community-based project.
- **Tier 2** projects will implement and evaluate selected comprehensive school-based projects.

In order to qualify for this RFA submission process, applicants must meet the eligibility requirements and qualifications as stated in the RFA on page 7. Please read these carefully and ensure that you meet these requirements.

- This RFA is limited to local rape crisis centers in California.
- Agencies that receive CDPH funding for the Domestic Violence/Teen Dating Violence Primary Prevention Program for Tier 1 are not eligible to apply for RPE funding for Tier 1. These are agencies funded through RFA No. 18-10016 for the period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2022. However, these agencies are eligible to apply for Tier 2 funding.
- Agencies may apply for funding under one tier only.
**Tier 1: Close to Home Model**

Background information on the Close to Home model is outlined in the RFA, pages 13-16, including the principles, essential elements, and intended outcomes.

**Program Requirements**

The specific program requirements for Tier 1 are detailed in the RFA, pages 24-28. Please review these requirements carefully in the RFA document, as we will only be highlighting them here.

**Tier 1 Requirements**

1) Tier 1 project applicants must select a community in a defined geographic area or neighborhood and cannot be limited to a school setting.

2) Tier 1 projects must implement the Close to Home community mobilization model with fidelity, as detailed in the “Essential Elements” on pages 13-16.

3) Tier 1 projects must maintain access to youth, defined as ages 11-24. This can be done either through an existing youth program within the applicant organization, or through a formalized community partnership, for a minimum of 12-16 hours per month, outside of the academic classroom.

4) Tier 1 projects must engage adult community members and other organizational leaders. This can be done either through outreach and recruitment within the applicant organization or through a community partnership, for a minimum of 12-16 hours per month.

5) Tier 1 project applicants must ensure adequate organizational readiness and staffing to meet program requirements. Organizational readiness and fit for implementing a community mobilization strategy is critical for project success.

   Please review carefully the minimum staffing requirements and staff competencies outlined in the RFA. This staffing pattern is designed to maximize project staff’s ability to implement the project effectively.

6) Tier 1 project staff must complete required training, technical assistance, and professional development.

7) Tier 1 projects must comply with administrative reporting, monitoring, and evaluation requirements, including the standardized Scope of Work provided in this RFA, developing an Implementation Work Plan, submitting an Annual Report, and following the Evaluation Plan.

8) The Close to Home Project Implementation Work Plan will be initially developed by the organization in the first three months of the contract and updated annually. The Work Plan will include staff development plans; supervision plans; recruitment of community members; and implementation of the essential elements. More details are outlined in the Scope of Work, Attachment B, and instructions will be provided upon award.
9) A standardized Scope of Work template has been provided as Attachment B for each Tier that includes the required components of the project activities and deliverables for each of the budget periods.

**Tier 2: Comprehensive School-Based Projects**

Background information on school-based projects is outlined in the RFA, pages 16-21 including the principles, essential elements, and intended outcomes.

**Program Requirements**

The specific program requirements for Tier 2 are described in the RFA, pages 28-32. Please carefully review these requirements in the RFA document, as we will only be highlighting them here.

For this RFA, primary strategies that may be implemented for comprehensive school-based projects include the following categories:

- Gender Equity
- Active Bystander
- Healthy Relationships

The primary strategy selected must be the focus of all the activities implemented under the essential elements.

**Tier 2 Requirements**

1) Tier 2 program applicants must propose a project within a defined area based on data and need. The selected community must include a defined school setting. The organization must have capacity to work in the selected community and selected schools. All of the required essential elements must be implemented in the selected schools. Organizations must have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by an appropriate level within the school administration in order to ensure timely implementation.

2) Tier 2 projects must implement the essential elements of the comprehensive school-based project, as detailed in the “Essential Elements” on pages 18-20 of the RFA.

3) Tier 2 projects must maintain access to youth. This can be done either through an existing youth club on campus or a new youth leadership project established within the applicant organization or school setting.

4) Tier 2 projects must engage school staff and administration as well as students, parents, caregivers, and members from the community.

5) Tier 2 applicants must ensure adequate organizational readiness and staffing to meet project requirements. Organizational readiness and fit for implementing a
comprehensive school-based project is critical for project success.

6) Tier 2 project staff must complete required training, technical assistance, and professional development.

7) Tier 2 projects must comply with administrative reporting, monitoring, and evaluation requirements, including the standardized Scope of Work provided in this RFA, developing an Implementation Work Plan, submitting an Annual Report, and following the Evaluation Plan.

8) The Comprehensive School-based Project Implementation Work Plan will be initially developed by the organization in the first three months of the contract and updated annually. The Work Plan will include staff development plans; supervision plans; recruitment of community members; and implementation of the essential elements. More details are outlined in the Scope of Work, Attachment B, and instructions will be provided upon award.

9) A standardized Scope of Work template has been provided as Attachment B for each Tier that includes the required components of the project activities and deliverables for each of the budget periods.

10) Please note that CDPH has developed an Implementation Guide for Shifting Boundaries. Organizations that select this project will be required to implement the curriculum based on this guide included as Appendix 1. As with other strategies, the organization will also develop an Implementation Work Plan, and be provided with an Evaluation Plan upon award.

**Funding Guidelines:**
- CDPH expects to make approximately $2,750,000 available annually for this RFA, contingent on the availability of federal funds.

- CDPH has established the following annual funding amounts for each tier:
  - Tier 1, Community-based projects: $125,000
  - Tier 2, Comprehensive school-based projects: $85,000

- Although CDPH anticipates that most agencies can accomplish the work required by this RFA at these funding levels, we will consider requests for funding up to 10 percent higher than these levels based on salary requirements within the agency.

- CDPH anticipates funding up to eight Tier 1 projects. The total number of funded projects will vary, depending on the number of applications that meet minimum requirements for each Tier.

*Now we will address the questions that were submitted prior to the teleconference.*

**Questions and Answers:**
GENERAL

Question 1: On page 7 of the RPE RFA, Eligibility section states that agencies funded for Tier 1 through the Domestic Violence RFA #18-10016 may only apply for Tier 2 funding, but it does not mention limitations for other agencies. May agencies not funded by the Domestic Violence RFA #18-10016 apply for both Tier 1 and Tier 2 funding through the current RFP?

Response: Agencies may only apply for one of the two tiers as stated on page 12 of the RFA, which reads: “Applicants to this RFA may submit applications that address only one of two tiers: a Community-Based Project or a Comprehensive School-Based Project.”

Question 2: The RFA requires that applicants submit a letter of intent (LOI) by email. The RFA indicates that applicants must submit the LOI via email on letterhead using a “PDF with electronic signature.” Does this mean that applicants need to scan the signed LOI and attach as a PDF? Alternatively, does it mean that applicants need to create a “certificate-based digital signature”?

Response: Applicants need only scan the signed LOI and submit as a PDF as indicated in the RFA. [Applicants should indicate the Tier for which they plan to apply when submitting their LOI.]

Question 3: Our understanding is that CDPH has had an administrative policy of limiting indirect costs to 5 percent, but this cap is not mentioned in the RFA. We have a federally-approved indirect cost rate. Can we apply our full rate, or is there a cap on indirect costs?

Response: The cap for the indirect rate under this RFA is 5 percent.

Question 4: If we operate under the board of a larger institution, is it acceptable if our letter of commitment are signed by our Executive Director and their direct superior within the institution?

Response: Yes, if the person identified can demonstrate the requirements in the RFA, page 40, under Letters of Commitment.

Question 5: Should applicants include funds for technical assistance and training in their budgets?

Response: Applicants should not include a line item for technical assistance. However, as detailed in the RFA, applicants should budget accordingly for travel to required TAT events.

Question 6: In the RFA, page 29 refers to “youth stipend.” During our current contract, we were advised to use the term “youth scholarship.” Which term should we use in the application?
Response: The most appropriate term is “youth scholarship.” The standardized Scope of Work that will be part of all contracts utilizes this term.

Question 7: Exhibit A: The way in which the objectives are written are drastically different from what we have been coached to use previously. We currently include percentage of participants that will exhibit change and by what date.

Response: Please use the standardized SOW for the Tier for which you apply. As stated on page 31 of the RFA, successful applicants for Tier 2 projects will develop the Comprehensive School-based Project Implementation Work Plan, which includes process and outcome objectives for their project.

Question 8: Exhibit A: All four years are itemized within each goal. Previously, we were instructed to submit separate pages for each year. Please clarify.

Response: Please use the standardized SOW for the Tier for which you apply and provide budgets for each Fiscal Year. Although the SOW is standardized for the four years, agencies will update their Work Plan annually.

Question 9: If an organization applies for one Tier, but CDPH determines the project to be more suitable for the other Tier, would the organization automatically be considered for that other Tier?

Response: No. Applications will only be considered for the Tier under which the application is submitted.

Question 10: Can an applicant subcontract part of the staff requirement, for example, through an MOU partner’s staff?

Response: In some cases, it may be appropriate to use subcontractors to conduct project activities. The burden is on the applicant to clearly delineate and justify how its staff will meet the Full Time Equivalent (FTE) requirements, roles, and responsibilities for each position.

Question 11: Is it a requirement for MOU partners to be paid?

Response: CDPH does not require MOU partners to be paid under this RFA.

Question 12: Is there a priority for underserved communities/populations?

Response: This RFA does not identify specific priorities for high need populations. However, as described on page 37 of the RFA (B. Community Profile) the applicant must provide a clear description of the intended audience that is the focus of the proposed project, the need within this audience for SV prevention, and why this audience was chosen as a priority for the project.

Question 13: Will you be providing Attachments B and C as Word documents, rather than PDFs?
Response: No. Attachments B and C will not be provided as Word documents. Applicants should not edit the SOW or the Logic Model.

Question 14: Are we to complete separate applications for each service area as we did last time?

Response: No. As described on page 7 of the RFA (D. Funding Guidelines) rape crisis centers may submit only one application.

Question 15: For the mandatory trainings (two in Southern California and two in Northern California); are those over the course of the entire contract or each year?

Response: The training requirements described in the RFA are on an annual basis.

Question 16: Is the SOW provided in the RFA a sample template that can be modified by applicants, including specific objectives?

Response: No, per page 40 of the RFA (E. Scope of Work), applicants are to include the applicable SOW for either Tier 1 or 2 with no modifications. The Project Implementation Work Plan will provide agencies the opportunity to detail how they will accomplish the SOW objectives. The Work Plan will be initially developed by the organization in the first three months of the contract and updated annually.

Question 17: Is any other information than what is presented, considered in making award decisions?

Response: No. All of the criteria for making award decisions are listed on pages 44-49 of the RFA under Part VI. Application Review and Selection.

Question 18: Do proposals need to be printed on white bond paper, as indicated in the RFA? Bond paper is very expensive.

Response: CDPH will accept application on white paper of any weight.

Question 19: If an applicant has a youth leadership team at the middle school, can they also have a youth leadership team at the high school?

Response: Yes, the requirement is to have one core youth leadership team of a minimum of ten leaders, but the applicant may have additional groups. However, each youth leadership team must meet the requirement of 12-16 hours per month.

Question 20: Do agencies need to secure MOUs for the four years of the grant or do they need to obtain a new one every year?

Response: MOUs should be updated, signed, and submitted to CDPH on a yearly basis.
Question 21: Can you give example(s) of youth scholarships? When should they be given out to youth and for what types of activities?

Response: Youth scholarships will vary based on the youths’ activities and other considerations. The applicant will need to determine the methods for distribution of youth scholarships.

Question 22: Is there a specific format that agencies are supposed to use when submitting their Letters of Intent?

Response: There is no specific format required. However, please note on the LOI the Tier for which you are applying.

Question 23: Our rural area is very large; therefore, we cannot separate out our geographic area into different target populations. Is this acceptable?

Response: The applicant will need to define the target population and demonstrate the target population’s need in their application.

TIER 1

Question 24: On page 26 under the "Required Staffing," it is broken down into three categories. Does this mean that we have to have three separate staff working on this? We had planned to have one staff serve in both the 10 percent FTE Manager position and one of the 75 percent FTE Community Organizers and one other staff. Is that possible or are we going to restructure?

Response: The intent of the minimum staffing pattern is to maximize staff’s ability to implement the project effectively, including the three separate positions as detailed on page 26 of the RFA. The purpose of the manager requirement is to build organizational commitment beyond project prevention staff. The burden is on the applicant to clearly delineate and justify how its staff will meet the FTE requirements, roles, and responsibilities for each position. The Manager position needs to be staffed by a supervisor who provides oversight of the project and supervises staff.

Question 25: Will agencies need to fill the 25 percent FTE gap for both the Adult and Youth organizer? The 75 percent FTE staffing requirements may cause staff hours to be cut and result in staff turnover during this process. Allowing one of the organizer/facilitator position to be closer to 85-90 percent FTE would be much more beneficial to the execution of the program and retaining program staff.

Response: The applicant may propose to budget staff above the minimum staffing requirements.

Question 26: For Tier 1 projects, do applicants need to have two community organizers at 75 percent FTE each or are other options possible? For example, is it acceptable for an agency to hire one community organizers at 50 percent FTE and another at 100 percent FTE?
Response: The intent of the requirement for two 75 percent FTE Community Organizers is to maximize staff’s ability to implement the project effectively. The burden is on the applicant to clearly delineate and justify how its staff will meet the requirements, roles, and responsibilities for each position.

Question 27: If a Tier 1 applicant already has in-house youth and adult programs that can be leveraged for this work, what are the MOUs that CDPH would like to see as a part of the project?

Response: Since the applicant agency will not be relying on a community partner for youth and adult programs, the agency will not need to include any MOUs for that aspect of its work. However, if the applicant has community partners for other aspects of the project, MOUs should be included.

Question 28: For Tier 1, is the 6-8 hours per month devoted to intergenerational team meetings included in the 12-16 hours/month total, as described on page 24 (Part III. A.3), or is it in addition to the 12-16 hour requirement, as described on page 14 (Part II. C. 3)?

Response: The 6-8 hours per month related to intergenerational team meetings may be inclusive of the 12-16 hours/month for youth and adult members who are participating in these activities.

Question 29: For Tier 1, does the 12-16 hour participation requirement have to be with the same group of people every week? If I have a group at one school and another group at another school, can we meet the 12-16 hour participation by combining the number of hours they meet together?

Response: The RFA explains that applicants need to recruit a core group of a minimum of 10 youth leaders to participate 12-16 hours per month. The hours cannot be combined by two separate youth groups. The 12-16 hour participation requirement also applies to the adult group.

Question 30: Under Tier 1, the RFA states that the target community must not be limited to a school setting. Our program predominantly works within the school community. How many additional groups must we work with in order to demonstrate that we have broadened our project into the community?

Response: Tier 1 is intended to be a community-based project and not a school-based project. Please refer to pages 24-28 of the RFA in order to review how an applicant must meet the requirements.

Question 31: For Tier 1, the age range for youth leadership groups is listed as 10-24. Can some young adults in this age range play more of an adult leadership role?

Response: The applicant has discretion to determine the leadership capacity of individuals and their roles.

TIER 2
Question 32: The Staffing Requirements for Tier 2 indicates that one 100 percent Prevention Specialist is required. Does this mean one full-time person or can applicants propose two staff persons that together make up one FTE?

Response: The intent of the requirement for a 100 percent FTE position is to have a staff person who oversees the comprehensive approach of Tier 2. The burden is on the applicant to clearly delineate and justify how its proposed staff will meet the RFA requirements, roles, and responsibilities for this position.

Question 33: The deadline for submission is problematic for Tier 2 applicants since the RFA requires that Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) be secured and submitted with the applications. Most schools are not currently in session, which will make it impossible for some applicants to secure the MOUs before the deadline. Would you consider extending the deadline?

Response: The deadline for submission of applications has been extended to September 7, 2018 in order to allow applicants to communicate with potential school partners and secure MOUs once schools are back in session.

Question 34: Our agency is in its 5th year of working with an elementary school. Current RPE funding will end on January 31, 2019. If successful in securing a new contract, our agency would like to finish the school year (June 2019) at the current elementary school and simultaneously begin work at a new school. We then intend to implement the new program at the new school in the fall of 2019. Is this acceptable?

Response: If your agency competes successfully for the RPE RFA, your agency would need to implement the (new) proposed program in the target school(s) under the new contract as of February 1, 2019. Activities for the current contract will need to be completed by January 31, 2019.

Question 35: Our agency will utilize Shifting Boundaries in its entirety. Additionally, we will augment the program with Girl’s Circle and The Council (with SV modifications) and workshops for adults (allies, teachers, classified staff, administration, parents, and volunteers). We want to verify that it is acceptable to add additional components when utilizing Shifting Boundaries.

Response: Agencies that choose to implement Shifting Boundaries will need to follow the Implementation Guide for Shifting Boundaries, which is included in the RFA as Appendix 1. It is acceptable to add additional components.

Question 36: The RFA indicates that school based SV prevention projects are inclusive of work on college and university campuses. However, the description of Tier 2 activities in the RFA is geared towards working with the middle school and high school youth. Do college-based interventions qualify for this RFA?

Response: Yes. Per the RFA, page 16, Tier 2 projects may be conducted at colleges/universities.
Question 37: We are already working with a community college and have been focusing on Policy change. Does this contract allow for that focus only?

Response: Comprehensive School-Based Projects must follow all of the essential elements outlined on pages 17-19 of the RFA. Policy change is an integral part of these projects but must be done within the context of the comprehensive strategy.

Question 38: In order to have clubs on the community college campus 1) we need to have a full time faculty member to volunteer to be the adviser, 2) ICC has to approve the club, and 3) how will this process effect our application?

Response: Applicants for Comprehensive School-Based Projects must include all the essential elements for Tier 2. The recruitment of youth group members can be done during the startup period of the contract. It will be necessary to show in your application that the school administrators are supportive by securing an MOU. The Implementation Work Plan will detail out the steps for organizing the school club.

Question 39: Is Expect Respect a Healthy Relationships strategy or a Gender Equity strategy? There is a discrepancy in how it is categorized on pages 19 and 23 of the RFA.

Response: Expect Respect is a Healthy Relationships strategy. In the Additional Resources section of the RFA (page 23), Expect Respect was listed under “Gender Equity” in error.

Question 40: For Tier 2, are we expected to utilize all three (Gender Equity, Active Bystander, Healthy Relationships) programs or can we pick one or two to work with?

Response: As stated on page 16 of the RFA, applicants for Tier 2 should select only one of the eligible strategies under the Comprehensive School-Based Projects. The primary strategy selected must be the focus of all the activities implemented under the essential elements in order to align the selected strategy across all levels of the Social Ecological Model.

Question 41: If we are working with college students, the involvement with parents is very limited. Will this hurt our application?

Response: The organization will be required to engage school staff and administrators as well as student, parent/caregivers, and members from the community in order to create community networks to support school or community activities. However, it is understood that parent engagement will not be the same at the college level as it is for other school levels.

Question 42: Are any of the areas of emphasis in the Tier 2 project limited to a specific age group?

Response: Tier 2 projects are school-based, ages 10 to 24.
Question 43: Using the Comprehensive School-based Logic Model, do you want us to delete everything other than the color that relates to our specific program; i.e. use the red sections for bystander and delete all the others from the document?

Response: No, please use and submit the original Logic Model with no revisions.

Question 44: For the Comprehensive School-Based Projects, are the programs such as Green Dot listed as examples or are you indicating that we must select from the list?

Response: The programs listed for the Comprehensive School-Based Projects are intended as examples. However, proposed programs should be evidence-based or evidence-informed. Applicants should be able to make a strong case for their selected school-based curriculum.

Question 45: For Shifting Boundaries, do you have any tips on how to get teachers to give prevention educators the amount of time required to implement the program? What if the educator is unable to complete all four to six sessions of the curriculum?

Response: Applicants should have well-established relationships with the school(s) being considered for implementation, in order to develop a competitive application and increase the likelihood of success. Applicants must develop MOUs with school partners that clearly outline project requirements.

Question 46: If an agency has an MOU with a school district, is it necessary to obtain MOUs for each school and other district-run programs with which they plan to be working?

Response: As stated in the RFA, the applicant should submit an MOU for each school where it would implement the proposed project.

Question 47: If I have an employee who only works 32 hours per week, would it be okay to consider this person 100 percent FTE?

Response: 100 percent FTE is defined as 40 hours per week. The burden is on the applicant to clearly delineate and justify how its proposed staff will meet the RFA requirements, roles, and responsibilities for this position.

Question 48: For Tier 2, if there is a change in the environment in a school prior to the end of the four years of the program cycle, can an agency change schools?

Response: If this occurs, the funded agency will need to determine appropriate changes and additions to activities by working with the assigned CDPH RPE Program Consultant to make modifications to the Implementation Work Plan.

Question 49: For Tier 2, is the expectation that adult community members will commit to four years of participation?
Response: As stated on page 25 of the RFA, “the applicant organization must confirm the participation of adult community members in key project activities through a participant agreement on an annual basis.” However, the intent of the project is to build a core network of adult leaders over the course of the four-year project with an understanding that there may be turnover.

CONCLUSION
At the conclusion of this teleconference, no other questions may be submitted. A transcript of today’s teleconference with any additional clarifications on the questions received today will be posted on the CDPH/SACB website.