

Project Empowerment FAQ

1. Our agency are located in West Covina, Pomona, La Puente and Covina in Los Angeles County. Would we be able to extend services to San Bernardino County under this application?

Yes. Please note that health departments should be made aware of services provided within their jurisdiction by outside health departments/CBOs. This may include letters of support from the health department where you intend to provide services.

2. For Track C, does funding have to go to staff or can it go towards funding a mobile unit to provide services such as HIV testing, education on HIV/PEP/PrEP/STI, intake for PrEP & HIV Care and referrals/appointments for medical services. The funding would go to staffing, gas for the mobile unit and maintenance/repairs for the mobile unit.

No. For Track C, Funding may be used to hire and or re-assign staff to provide HIV prevention services to build capacity to serve Black/African American and/or Latinx populations. Purchase of a vehicle is an unallowable cost. A list of unallowable costs can be found in the Budget Guidance (Attachment #4).

3. For Track B, same question as #2.

Funding may not be used to purchase vehicles. Funding may be used for mobile unit operating expenses (fuel, insurance, unit supplies, etc.

4. Letter of Support would be needed only if they are subcontractors? Would we need letter of support from Health Departments in each County we serve?

Letter of supports are needed if the EE will be utilizing a referral model or intra-agency collaborations. If the EE is conducting services in surrounding counties, they will need to provide letters of support if referrals, warm hand-offs or collaborations with those counties are being made.

5. Are you open to grants that will fund global health research in HIV (South Africa) that could ultimately benefit black and Latino populations in CA/USA.

Funds for Project Empowerment must be used to conduct services in California and align with the project requirements outlined in the RFA.

6. My question is if we want to apply to service both Black and Latina population/sub populations in Track A/B, for example, how do you denote that in the LOI and application.

You may only choose Black/AA populations for Track A and Latinx populations for Track B. The LOI only needs to include the award track, amount and an authorized wet or electronic signature. EEs will list the sub-populations they propose to serve in the application narrative.

7. Can San Francisco Department of Public Health apply as the lead agency in collaboration with Alameda Public Health Department and two San Francisco-based CBOs that will provide services in Alameda County?

Yes. OA welcomes collaborations between CBOs and LHJs as well as multi-jurisdictional applications.

8. Are the amounts identified in each Track total an amount for 4 years or an award each year for 4 years?

Project Empowerment is State General Fund local assistance of 4.5 million for four years annually. Track award amounts are annual awards.

9. I didn't see a link to a recording on the website so just wanted to check-in to see if/when a recording will be available to view.

Webinar recording and questions from the webinar were posted December 9, 2019.

10. In the RFA it states a due date of Dec. 27th 5pm, was this extended to Jan 10th???

Yes, In light of the holiday and to allow additional time for respondents to develop their applications, the California Department of Public Health/Office of AIDS (CDPH/OA) has extended the application submission due date to January 10, 2020 by 5:00 PM.

11. Why are these populations being studied separately and not together?

Project Empowerment recognizes that both Black/AA and Latinx populations are disproportionately affected by HIV in California as demonstrated by HIV surveillance data. While these populations are both vulnerable to HIV, Project Empowerment acknowledges that these are two different populations within very different communities and must be addressed and supported as such.

12. Attachment 7: Item 1c “Provide an estimated number of individuals from the priority population(s) to be served by the program.” Please clarify if the number served refers to the staff members providing direct service or the clients served by the direct service staff?

The number served refers to both staff members providing direct services and to clients served by the direct service staff.

13. Attachment 7: Item 2e “List all programmatic activities that staff will provide to Black/AA and/or Latinx individuals and communities.” Please clarify if the program activities relate to the staff members providing services or the clients served by the direct service staff? Could activities include members of local planning bodies and coalitions?

Track C relates to those providing services as well as Black/AA and Latinx populations served. Activities may include members or local planning bodies/coalitions that represent Black/AA and Latinx populations.

14. Attachment 7: Item 3b “Describe how the EE will provide a trauma-informed approach in caring for staff who represent Black/AA and/or Latinx populations.” Please clarify if trauma informed training includes vicarious trauma?

Yes. Track C allows for trauma informed care of those providing services as well as Black/AA and Latinx populations served.

15. General question: While we understand that the priority populations are AA and Latinx; can partners of these populations be served under this funding? Will trainings and activities that address cross racial and ethnic relationships be supported?

Allowable priority populations to be served are Black/AA for Track A and Latinx for Track B.

16. General question: Can the population served include LHJ staff, subcontractor staff and members of local planning and coalitions?

Yes.

17. On the call, we thought we heard it mentioned that although we could only be funded for only **one** control activity if applying for a \$250,000 annual grant, we could propose **more than one** control activity in our application. We thought we heard someone say that you would then score each control activity separately and select the one with the highest score moving forward to aid our chances of being funded. This was confusing to us for a couple of reasons. First, our plan would be to develop a budget specifically directed to our selected control activity, as opposed to a generic budget that could somehow be applied to different

control activities at once. Since we aren't able to submit multiple budgets, it's unclear how we could apply for more than one control activity and have them all fit a single budget. Also, your approach would seem to give a potential advantage to agencies who propose more than one control activity, since one of those activities might by chance get a higher score than others, even if it wasn't their primary proposed control activity. We just wanted to verify that this was indeed what was said on the call, and how we should address the budget issue if proposing multiple control activities. Would it give us an advantage to apply for multiple control activities in the same application?

EEs applying for the \$250,000 award for Tracks A or B will only be scored on one control activity; however, they may conduct more activities than required. Budgets should reflect all activities EEs plan to conduct each year of the project.

If EEs choose to write on more than the required number of control activities (not required even if EE is planning to conduct more than the required number of control activities) CDPH/OA will select the highest score and include it toward the final score. Extra points for filling out more than what is required in the application narrative will not be given.

18. Where are the attachments for this RFA?

Attachments will be sent to the applicant once the Letter of Intent (LOI) is sent to ProjectEmpowerment@cdph.ca.gov. LOIs must include the Track and award amount for which you intend to apply.

19. As I was going through the attachments, I noticed that there is not an attachment 6. I just wanted to confirm that is correct.

Attachments will be sent to the applicant once the Letter of Intent (LOI) is sent to ProjectEmpowerment@cdph.ca.gov. Attachment 6 is the Application Narrative Template for Tracks A and B. Those who are applying for Track C will only receive Attachment 7. This is the Application Narrative Template for Track C.

20. Can funding be used to purchase STI testing kits and pay for analysis?

Yes.

21. Can funding be used to purchase a mobile van/unit?

No.

22. If targeting a specific community as part of your proposal, are you able to provide services to other populations than those identified in your grant?

Project Empowerment is specifically aimed at improving services to, and HIV-related outcomes among, Latinx and Black/AA individuals and communities (or other populations for which local data indicates a disproportionate impact by HIV). Competitive applications will describe how the applicant will apply innovative approaches to increase and improve services to, and outcomes among, the selected priority population. EEs that currently provide direct client services should continue to serve all clients in need of and seeking services, and should not use Project Empowerment funds to supplant costs associated with existing services.

23. If sac county were to apply would they be competing with the cbo's or is their one pot of money for lhjs and another one for cbos? Or is it all the same pot?

Project Empowerment is one pot of funding for all eligible entities (LHJs as well as CBOs). Not less than 50% of all available funds for Project Empowerment must go directly to CBOs.