



Health Careers Exploration Program
For Cycle Year 2026

If your program requires approval to contract from a coordinating authority, please inform the authority of the terms and conditions contained in this Grant Guide. All applicants must agree to the terms and conditions prior to receiving funds. The Department of Health Care Access and Information will not make changes to the terms and conditions specified in this Grant Guide.

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A. Background and Mission

Pursuant to the Health Professions Careers Opportunity Program, Health and Safety Code Section 127885 et. seq., the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) will consider applications for the Health Careers Exploration Program (HCEP) that support and encourage underrepresented and disadvantaged individuals to pursue health careers to develop a more culturally and linguistically competent healthcare workforce.

Competitive proposals will demonstrate a commitment to the HCEP goals by implementing one or more of the following components:

- Conducting a conference and/or workshop series aimed at informing individuals of opportunities in health professional careers.
- Providing support and technical assistance to health professional schools and colleges, as well as to student and community organizations active in underrepresented health professional development.
- Conducting relevant workforce research and data analysis in the field of underrepresented and disadvantaged health professional development.

B. Eligible Applicants, Available Funding, and Award Categories

1. Eligible Applicants

Proposals must promote the following eligible health professions:

- Primary Care
- Behavioral Health
- Caring for older adults
- Nursing
- Oral Health
- Allied Health

HCAI will accept proposals from public and private nonprofit organizations located within California. A nonprofit organization is an organization exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. HCAI will validate the organization's non-profit status with the IRS as an eligibility component.

Individuals are not eligible to apply.

2. Available Funding

Approximately \$300,000 is available to support HCEP aimed at building a culturally diverse provider health workforce.

HCAI may award full, partial, or no funding to an applicant based on the applicant's success in meeting the selection criteria score and the amount of available funds.

3. Award Categories

a. Award Category A: Health Career Conferences and/or Workshops

Award Category A focuses on introducing participants to a wide variety of health career options by offering health “career fair” experiences and/or workshops.

Eligible programs must support a minimum of 100 participants.

b. Award Category B: Hands-On Experience in Healthcare

Award Category B focuses on direct exposure of participants to one or more health careers through hands-on experience that includes direct interaction with healthcare professionals in real or simulated healthcare settings.

Eligible programs must support a minimum of 50 participants.

c. Award Category A and B:

Applicants in either category must:

- Inspire and prepare students for careers in health professions through training, mentorship, educational or financial support, and other means.
- Create and/or strengthen educational partnerships, community support, and workforce preparation efforts between entities. Partnerships may include high schools, higher education, health professions schools, community health centers, public health departments, public behavioral health settings, providers who care for older adults, and community-based initiatives that promote health equity.
- Provide programming that is culturally and linguistically responsive to program participants, which requires recognizing and addressing behaviors, values, practices, attitudes, and beliefs.
- Address challenges specific to the target program participants and program demographics:
 - Expose students to health care careers.
 - Provide mentoring opportunities with peers and/or healthcare professionals from diverse cultural backgrounds.
 - Provide academic counseling/academic preparation.
 - Provide financial aid information.
 - Hire faculty from disadvantaged backgrounds.

C. Target Participants

The HCEP activities are open to all participants regardless of age, gender, race, or ethnicity. Program activities should include individuals from historically underrepresented groups and regions and encourage practice in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA).

Underrepresented: means populations including but not limited to persons with lived experience, economically/environmentally disadvantaged, first-generation college students, those residing in HPSAs and those who are, or at risk of, justice system involvement, experienced homelessness, and child welfare involvement (including foster care).

HPSA: Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) are areas designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration as having shortages of primary medical care, dental, or mental health providers. These may be geographic (a county or service area), population (low income or Medicaid eligible), or facilities (e.g., federally qualified health center or other state or federal prisons) shortage designations.

HCAI encourages applicants to conduct outreach and recruitment in rural and medically underserved areas/populations, to educationally and/or economically disadvantaged students, and to former foster youth, veterans, immigrants, refugees, and adult/non-traditional learners.

Applicants should focus on program participants who are educationally and/or economically disadvantaged. HCAI uses the same definition of “disadvantaged background” as the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Scholarship Program. The NHSC uses the definition established by the Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students Program (authorized by Sec. 737 of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. § 293a). This definition remains an active federal standard for FY 2026 and will be reviewed annually for updates.

- **Disadvantaged background:** Refers to individuals identified by their schools or who can document having come from a disadvantaged background based on educational, environmental, and/or economic factors (NHSC Scholarship Program FY 2026 Application and Program Guidance Glossary: <https://nhsc.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/nhsc/scholarships/scholarship-guidance-definitions.pdf>).
- **Economically disadvantaged:** Individuals who come from families with annual incomes below low-income thresholds according to family size published by the U.S. Census Bureau, adjusted annually for changes in the Consumer Price Index, and adapted by the Secretary of Health and Human Services for federal health professions programs. (2026 Federal Poverty Level Standards: <https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/document/2026-federal-poverty-level-standards>).

- **Educationally/environmentally disadvantaged:** Individuals from environments that have inhibited their ability to obtain the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to enroll in and graduate from health professions schools or allied health training programs (NHSC Scholarship Program Guidance, pg. 11: <https://nhsc.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/nhsc/scholarships/scholarship-application-guidance.pdf>).

D. Initiating an Application

Applicants should provide concise descriptions of their ability to satisfy the Grant Guide requirements. Applicants must submit applications that are complete and accurate. HCAI may reject an application that contains omissions, inaccuracies, or misstatements.

Applications must be submitted through the eApp at <https://funding.hcai.ca.gov/> no later than October 16, 2026, by 3:00 p.m. PST.

E. New Requirements for 2026 Cycle

To strengthen eligibility screening and transparency, all applicants must:

1. Verify 501(c)(3) status on the California Department of Justice (DOJ) Registry of Charities and Fundraisers and upload proof of verification with the application.
 - Use the DOJ Registry Search Tool (Existing or Early Release) to confirm registration and reporting status.
 - DOJ guidance and definitions for statuses/fields are available at the following link here: [Registry Search Tool Tips & Filing Definitions | State of California - Department of Justice - Office of the Attorney General](#).
 - DOJ program overview and resources for charities are available at the following links:
 - <https://oag.ca.gov/charities>.
 - [Registry Reports | State of California - Department of Justice - Office of the Attorney General](#).
 - [Resources | State of California - Department of Justice - Office of the Attorney General](#).
2. Provide the applicant's organization website URL in the application profile.

F. Submitting Multiple Applications

An organization shall submit one application that identifies each award category that they are interested in implementing. For example, it is allowable for an organization to submit one application for both award categories provided the organization meets HCAI's eligibility criteria. HCAI will not accept multiple applications from the same organization for the same category.

G. Budget Restrictions

The applicant's budget in response to this grant shall not exceed:

- \$12,000 for Category A or \$20,000 with a focus on behavioral health and/or caring for older adults health careers (at least 50 percent). A minimum of 100 participants are required.
- \$15,000 for Category B or \$25,000 with a focus on behavioral health and/or caring for older adults health careers (at least 50 percent). A minimum of 50 participants are required.

Although Indirect Costs are acceptable expenses, they may not exceed fifteen percent of the total dollars requested or awarded. For example, if you request a total of \$12,000, Indirect Costs must not exceed \$1,800 and they must be a part of the calculation toward \$12,000.

Awardees must not use grant funds to pay for the salaries of existing full-time employees, or to provide training or continuing education for existing staff.

HCAI reserves the right to modify or reduce any or all portions of applicant's submitted budget and/or increase the number of awards if additional funds become available.

For both Category A and Category B awardees, HCAI expects the awardees to begin implementing their proposals upon award of grant funds. HCAI will not allow a planning year or a grant extension.

See Attachment B Sample Grant Agreement, Section D, for information on acceptable use of grant funds.

H. Evaluation and Scoring Procedures

1. Review Process

During the review process, HCAI staff will verify submission of all required information as specified in this Grant Guide and will score applications using only the established evaluation and scoring criteria. The most competitive applicants are those most consistent with the intent of this grant opportunity.

If, in the opinion of HCAI, an application contains false or misleading information or provides documentation that does not support an attribute or condition claimed, HCAI will reject the application. HCAI reserves the right to reject any or all applications or to reduce the amount funded to an applicant.

2. Evaluation and Scoring Criteria

HCAI will calculate a score using the information provided in the application. Please refer to Attachment A for the Evaluation and Scoring Criteria.

I. Final Selections

HCAI will make final selections using the Evaluation and Scoring Criteria described in Attachment A. HCAI also intends for HCEP to support a geographic distribution in California. Applicants seeking to support geographic regions not addressed by other scored applications may receive preference. Once HCAI makes the final selections, HCAI will announce awardees on the HCEP website located here: [Health Careers Exploration Program \(HCEP\) - HCAI](#).

J. Grant Agreement Deliverables and Payment Provisions

1. HCAI makes an initial payment of 80 percent of the total award amount within 60 days of executing the Grant Agreement.
2. Grantees must submit a report within 30 days of the conclusion of the grant term.
3. The Grantee will submit their report and will adhere to the deadlines as specified in this Grant Guide. It is the sole responsibility of the Grantee to adhere to the terms of the grant.
4. HCAI makes a final payment of 20 percent of the total award amount upon approval of the required report.
5. If, upon reviewing the report, HCAI finds that Grantee did not meet all deliverables and/or expend all funds, HCAI will request the remittance of those funds from the Grantee.
6. HCAI may request additional information if Grantee does not satisfactorily complete all terms and conditions.

K. Additional Terms and Conditions

1. Applicants must clearly describe their ability to implement the proposed program and produce other deliverables as required. Applicants must be aware of the state and federal disability laws and procedures for ensuring universal access.
2. Grantees shall not use these funds to supplant existing state or local funds.
3. Grantees must sign and submit agreements by the due date. If the Grantee fails to sign and return the grant agreement by the due date, they may lose their award.
4. By submitting an application, you and your organization agree to the grant terms and conditions specified in this Grant Guide.
5. If your program requires approval to contract from a coordinating authority, you must inform the authority of the terms and conditions contained in this Grant Guide. All applicants must agree to the terms and conditions prior to receiving funds. HCAI will not make changes to the terms and conditions specified in this Grant Guide.
6. HCAI does not accept alternate grant agreement language from a prospective Grantee. HCAI will consider an application with such language as a counteroffer and will reject it. HCAI will not negotiate the terms and conditions outlined in Attachment B: Sample Grant Agreement.
7. When the Grantee is a county, city, school district, or other local public body, a copy of the resolution, order, motion, ordinance, or other similar document must accompany the signed grant from the local governing body authorizing execution of the agreement.
8. HCAI will not allow requests for planning years or grant agreement extensions.
9. The Public Records Act shall apply to all grant deliverables, including reports, applications, and supporting documentation.

Please Note: As an Awardee, HCAI may reach out to you periodically during and after your agreement and ask you to complete a survey. Your participation is vital to our ability to demonstrate the effectiveness of programs such as this one and advocate for future funding to organizations such as yours. We ask that you take the time to complete the surveys.

L. Grant Questions and Answers

You can find answers to most questions in this Grant Guide and/or in the eApp. If you have any questions relating to the intent or interpretation of grant language, email HCAI staff at hpcop@hcai.ca.gov. Please include your Grant Application # in the email Subject Line for all correspondence.

M. Technical Assistance

HCAI will provide a Technical Assistance Guide to assist you in completing and submitting an application. For information about the webinar and other HCEP information, see <https://hcai.ca.gov/workforce/financial-assistance/grants/hpcop/>.

N. Key Dates

The key dates for the 2026 HCEP program year are as follows:

Key Events	Dates and Times
Application opens	August 14, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. PST
Technical Assistance Webinar	September 2, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. PST
Application closes	October 16, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. PST
Awardees announced	January 2027
Grant term	February 1, 2027 to April 30, 2028

O. HCEP Contact Information

For questions related to HCEP and the application, please email staff at hpcop@hcai.ca.gov. Please include your Grant Application # in the email Subject Line for all correspondence.

Thank you!

We would like to thank you for your interest in applying for HCEP funding and for your continued efforts in supporting underrepresented individuals who are interested in healthcare careers.

Attachment A: Evaluation and Scoring Criteria Guideline

Section	Evaluation and Scoring Criteria	Max Points Possible
HPSA Score	Will the applicant's proposed program take place at a program site in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)? Additional points for program site(s) in a rural area. 15 points: The applicant's proposed program has 50% or more of its proposed program sites in a HPSA. 10 points: The applicant's proposed program has 50% or more proposed program sites in a rural area.	25 points max
Health Career Focus	Does the applicant propose to promote primary care, caring for older adults, behavioral health, and/or other health careers? 5 points for each of the following health careers (up to 10 points max): 5 points: Focus on primary care (at least 50%). 5 points: Focus on caring for older adults (at least 50%). 5 points: Focus on behavioral health (at least 50%).	10 points max
Challenges To Participants	How will the applicant's program address the challenges specific to the target program participants/demographics? 2 points for each of the following items (up to 20 points): • Provide financial aid information. • Provide internships and summer enrichment programs. • Provide wraparound services. • Form institutional partnerships. • Provide structured cohort program. • Provide academic counseling/academic preparation. • Hire faculty from disadvantaged backgrounds. • Offer some of the program components online. • Expose students to health care careers. • Provide mentoring opportunities with peers and/or healthcare professionals from diverse cultural backgrounds. • Provide workshops focused on mental/behavioral health issues, including suicide prevention. • Provide free transportation to conferences, workshops, career fairs, or other events. • Provide training on virtual workshops and/or meetings. • Provide college and healthcare facility tours.	20 points max

Section	Evaluation and Scoring Criteria	Max Points Possible
Culturally and Linguistically Responsive	How will the applicant's proposed program be culturally and/or linguistically responsive to program participants? 2 points for each of the following items (up to 20 points): • Hire staff members who are bilingual. • Hire staff members trained to promote equity, inclusivity, and awareness of cultural differences in personnel interactions and behaviors among California's culturally diverse populations. • Provide program staff with cultural competency resources and training materials. • Program leaders who participate in the program come from similar cultural backgrounds as the students who participate in the program. • Consult with leading experts in cultural competency to review program curriculum/activities and provide technical assistance. • Engage community stakeholders from diverse cultural background in program development. • Draw on participant's culture to shape curriculum and instruction. • Conduct regular community needs assessments and use results to adopt trainings/workshops that respond to the cultural and linguistic diversity of program participants. • Include a culturally diverse group of speakers at proposed conferences and/or career fairs. • Provide conference materials, website postings, etc. in various languages.	20 points max
Support For Groups	Does the applicant support individuals from the following groups? 2 points for each of the following groups (up to 14 points): • Former/Current Justice System-Involved Youth. • Former/Current Homeless/Unhoused/Underhoused Youth. • Former Foster Youth. • Economically Disadvantaged. • Educationally/Environmentally Disadvantaged. • Individuals from Health Professional Shortage Areas. • Individuals with few literacy skills, or not literate.	14 points max

Section	Evaluation and Scoring Criteria	Max Points Possible
Activity Days	How many activity days per year does the applicant's program include? 10 points: Program participants will attend 5 or more activity days per year. 5 points: Program participants will attend 3-4 activity days per year. 2 points: Program participants will attend 1-2 activity days per year. 0 points: Program participants will not attend any activity days.	10 points max
Supporting Intent	Does the applicant identify specific program objectives that support the intent of the Health Careers Exploration Program? 10 points: The applicant identifies at least 5 specific program objectives. 5 points: The applicant identifies at least 1-4 specific program objectives. 0 points: The applicant does not identify any specific program objectives. • Conducting a conference and/or workshop series aimed at informing individuals of opportunities in health professional careers. • Providing support and technical assistance to health professional schools and colleges, as well as to student and community organizations active in health professional development of underrepresented groups. • Conducting relevant workforce research and data analysis in the health professional development of underrepresented groups. • Providing participants with access to virtual tours, mentoring, and job shadowing. • Creating volunteer opportunities in primary and other healthcare fields for participants. • Exposing participants to key skills, work ethics, and fundamental elements of a diverse healthcare workforce. • Providing career development training opportunities focused on interviewing, setting goals, and networking.	10 points max

Section	Evaluation and Scoring Criteria	Max Points Possible
Encourage Health Careers	Does the applicant identify how they will encourage primary care, caring for older adults, behavioral health, and/or other health careers? 2 points for each of the following items: • Will expose students to research on how pandemics affect vulnerable populations. • Will expose students to aspects of health care practices and policies affecting professional shortage areas and health disparities organizations active in health professional development of underrepresented groups. • Will engage participants in relevant/motivating health care programming including workshops, panels, field trips, mentoring, mock interviews, and networking. • Will support first generation and/or underrepresented college students with intensive in-person or virtual leadership. • Will provide students with ‘testimonials’ from previous HCEP recipients regarding positive experiences and benefits working in the healthcare environment.	10 points max
Program Activities	Does the applicant’s program include any of the following activities? 2 points for each of the following listed activities in the program (up to 10 points): • Healthcare facility tour. • Extended individualized mentoring (multiple interactions with mentor over weeks or months). • Job shadowing a healthcare provider. • Tour of a college or university. • Opportunity for program participants to volunteer in healthcare field. • Structured cohort programs (enrichment, career, internships, summer research, graduate school/medical school preparation). • Engagement with health professions school and residency programs. • Student health clubs. • Courses (Science and Health careers). • Financial and funding education workshops. • Newsletters. • Research and community experiences. • Web based and social media support. • Student coordinators and case managers. • Tutoring. • Parental/family engagement. • Conferences (hosted and external). • Test Preparation (SAT, GRE, MCAT, DAT, etc.). • Mental health awareness and support. • Assistance with health professions school application. • Saturday academies or retreats. • Housing assistance. • Scholarship assistance. • Guaranteed income. • Mentorship.	10 points max

Section	Evaluation and Scoring Criteria	Max Points Possible
Organizational Experience	The applicant has experience exposing the following individuals to primary care, caring for older adults, behavioral health, and/or other health careers? 5 points for each of the following individuals: - Economically disadvantaged individuals. - Educationally/environmentally disadvantaged individuals. - Individuals from HPSAs.	15 points max
Experience Years	How many years of experience does the applicant have exposing underrepresented individuals to primary care, caring for older adults, behavioral health, and/or other health careers? 10 points: More than 10 years of experience. 5 points: 1-10 years of experience.	10 points max
Program Access	Will the applicant's proposed program provide students with access to internships, fellowships, or shadowing hours in primary care, caring for older adults, behavioral health, and/or other health career fields? 10 points: Yes. 0 points: No.	10 points max
Academic Support	Will the applicant's proposed program provide the following services to support the students' academic success? 2 points for each of the following items: - Academic tutoring. - Provide academic supplies. - Provide guidance and assistance in applying to HCAI scholarship opportunities. - Provide guidance and assistance in applying to general scholarship opportunities.	8 points max
	Total Points Possible	172

Attachment B: Sample Health Careers Exploration Program Grant Agreement

DRAFT

GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS AND INFORMATION AND

[CONTRACTOR NAME] HEALTH CAREERS EXPLORATION PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER [GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER]

THIS GRANT AGREEMENT (“Agreement”) is entered on **[Agreement Start Date]** (“Effective Date”) by and between the State of California, Department of Health Care Access and Information (“HCAI”) and **[Contractor Name]** (the “Grantee”).

WHEREAS, HCAI is authorized by the California Health and Safety Code Section 127885 et seq. to maintain a Health Professions Careers Opportunity Program (“HPCOP”) to inform and motivate underrepresented and disadvantaged students to pursue health professional careers and provide support, encouragement, and training to underrepresented health professionals to practice in health professional shortage areas of California.

WHEREAS, HCAI supports healthcare accessibility through the promotion of a diverse and competent workforce while providing analysis of California's healthcare infrastructure and coordinating healthcare workforce issues.

WHEREAS, HPCOP provides grants to encourage economically disadvantaged and/or underrepresented minorities ranging from middle school to college to pursue health careers.

WHEREAS, Grantee applied to participate in the HPCOP by submitting an application in response to the Health Careers Exploration Program (“HCEP”) Grant Guide **[Cycle Year]**.

WHEREAS, Grantee was selected by HCAI to receive grant funds in the amount of **[Award Amount]** through procedures duly adopted by HCAI for administering such grants.

NOW THEREFORE, HCAI and the Grantee, for the consideration and under the conditions hereinafter set forth, agree as follows:

A. Definitions:

1. "Application" means the grant application/proposal submitted by Grantee.
2. "Deputy Director" means the Deputy Director of Health Workforce Development or their designee.
3. "Director" means the Director of HCAI or their designee.
4. "Grant Agreement/Grant Number" means Grant Number **[Agreement #]** awarded to Grantee.
5. "Grantee" means the fiscally responsible entity in charge of administering the Grant Funds and includes the Program identified in the Application.
6. "Grant Funds" means the money provided by HCAI for the Program described by Grantee in its Application and the Scope of Work/Deliverables contained herein.
7. "Indirect Costs" means administrative costs related to the line-item budget grant agreements.
8. "Program" means the activity described in the Application and Scope of Work to be accomplished with the Grant Funds.
9. "Program Manager" means the HCAI manager responsible for the grant program.
10. "State" means the State of California and includes all its Departments, Agencies, Committees, and Commissions.

B. Term of the Agreement:

1. This Agreement shall take effect on **[Agreement Start Date]** and shall terminate on **[Agreement End Date]**.

HCAI will not allow for a planning year and/or extensions to the grant agreement term. There shall be no activity pursuant to this Agreement after its expiration.

C. Scope of Work/Deliverables:

Grantee shall perform the Scope of Work and provide the Deliverables outlined in Application **[Application #]** incorporated by reference herein and made a part hereof and comply with the following additional conditions. In the event of a conflict between the provisions of this section and the Application, the provisions of this Scope of Work Section shall prevail.

1. Grantees will be required to report on student outcomes using metrics and instruments developed by HCAI to collect program impact data.

Report Requirement	Due Date
Provide a report to HCAI, to include, but not be limited to, the following information: a. Program Information and Implementation Details. b. Evaluation and Data Collection – Summary data on all program participants attending all events, including qualitative and quantitative response/outcome summary of pre and post surveys and workshop/presentation highlights. c. Both Category A and B recipients must conduct participant post surveys to include, but not be limited to, the five questions below. The program shall aim to positively impact participants' responses to these questions: i. Were you, are you, or will you be the first person in your immediate family to attend college or health career technical school? Yes or No. ii. On a scale of 1-5 (1 being strongly disagree and 5 being strongly agree), please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the statements below: • Participating in this program increased my interest in becoming a health care provider • Participating in this program increased my interest in serving in a medically underserved area iii. What program activity had the greatest influence on your interest in pursuing a health career? iv. On a scale of 1-5 (1 being very unlikely and 5 being very likely), how likely are you to recommend this program to someone? v. How did your program recruit students from underrepresented regions and backgrounds and/or from disadvantaged backgrounds (e.g., economically and/or educationally/environmentally disadvantaged)?	March 1, 2028

d. Category A recipients shall also collect data and provide HCAI with an HCEP Activities Report for each cohort of students that includes but is not limited to the following: Number of: • Students in attendance at recruitment events. • Students who submitted applications to the cohort program. • Students accepted to the cohort program. • Students who received academic advising on entry to health professions school. • Students who received advising about entering a health career. • Students who received peer mentorship. • Students who received faculty mentorship. • Students who participated in a health internship, research fellowship, and/or part-time employment in a health-related position or setting. • Students by health profession. For both Category A and B, each Grantee will include the following data in the HCEP Activities Report to HCAI: • Languages spoken. • Race/ethnicity. • Date of birth. • Is student the first member of their family to attend college? • High school name and address. • Full-time or part-time student. • Educational background (entry level and highest level of degree, if applicable). • Name and address of higher educational institutions attended, if applicable. • Current employer information and address, if health-related and if applicable. • Employment status, if applicable. e. Budget Accountability—Describes how Grantee spent Grant Funds.	
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2. The Grantee shall perform the tasks and activities set forth in the Scope of Work and submit the required deliverables within the deadlines specified in this Agreement, regardless of the number of Grants awarded. Grantee shall be responsible for anticipating potential overlaps, conflicts, and scheduling issues to adhere to the terms of this Agreement.
3. The Grantee shall be responsible for the performance of all tasks and deliverables specified in the Scope of Work, including but not limited to, locating and securing facilities and speakers for events.

D. Budget Detail:

Grant Program Activity	FY 26-27
Advertising	\$XXXXXX
Meals	\$XXXXXX
Supplies	\$XXXXXX
Transportation	\$XXXXXX
Facility Costs	\$XXXXXX
Indirect Costs (Total shall not exceed 15 percent of the total grant amount)	\$XXXXXX
Total	\$XXXXXX

1. Budget: Grantee shall expend the Grant Funds in accordance with the Budget provided in the Application **[AGREEMENT #]**, incorporated by reference herein and made a part hereof, or as amended herein. In the event of a conflict between the Budget submitted as part of Application and this section, the provisions of this section shall prevail. **Note: Indirect expenses shall not exceed fifteen percent of the total dollars awarded to this grant.**

2. Grant Funds can be used:
 - To hire consultants, lecturers, workshop instructors, and/or sub-grantees for the delivery of grant services.
 - For in-state travel (in accordance with HCAI travel policies), advertising, meals, supplies, and off-campus facility costs.
 - For reasonable accommodations for participants with disabilities, including instructional/program aids.

Grant Funds cannot be used:

- For out-of-state travel.
- For entertainment purposes including, but not limited to, raffles, games, contest prizes, gambling, bingo, etc.
- To purchase alcohol.
- To construct or renovate facilities or to purchase equipment.
- To rent space from your own organization (this cost should be included in your indirect expense calculation).
- To pay for the salaries of the existing full-time staff of the organization.
- For release time to free full-time staff for participation in the program.

3. Budget Adjustments: Grantee's Budget shall be adjusted as follows:
 - a. Budget adjustments consist of a change within the grantees' approved budget that does not amend the total amount of this Agreement or any other terms of the Agreement.
 - b. Grantee will submit any requests to change the Budget in writing (with a justification to explain why the funds were reallocated) to HCAI for approval.

HCAI will not entertain changes to the budget that add to or increase facility costs when the grantee's organization owns the facility. An accounting of how the funds were expended will also be submitted with the required report.

E. Reports and Deliverables:

Submission Deadline—Grantee shall submit a report to HCAI on the date specified in Section C. Scope of Work/Deliverables, item 1.

The Grantee shall comply with the following additional conditions:

1. Payments of Grant Funds shall be contingent on the on-time submission of deliverables outlined in Agreement Section C-1.

HCAI will release Grant Fund installments to Grantee upon approval of the report and deliverables submitted by Grantee in accordance with the schedule below:

Report/Activity	Description	Due Date
Payment 1	A payment of 80% of the Grant Agreement total paid within 60 days of execution.	Grant Agreement Execution
Report 1	Complete report via eApp and provide all work activity for FY 2026-27.	March 1, 2028
Payment 2	A payment of 20% of the Grant Agreement total paid upon approval of Report 1 by HCEP staff.	April 1, 2028

2. Grantee shall begin performance of the Deliverables on the date of execution of this Agreement.
3. HCAI may monitor the Grantee activities and progress by attending or convening local or statewide health careers exploration program meetings and reviewing annual Activities Reports submitted by the Grantee. HCAI reserves the right to require the Grantee to submit additional reports or documentation to evaluate the Program and performance of the Deliverables during the term of the Agreement.
4. Payments of Grant Funds shall be contingent on the satisfactory submission of the Deliverables. HCAI reserves the right to withhold funding for subsequent years until Grantee complies with the terms of this Agreement including this Scope of Work provision.
5. In the event that Grantee has not encumbered and/or expended all of the funds by the end of the grant term, HCAI will only reimburse the grantee for allowable and approved expenditures.

6. If all Grant Funds have not been expended upon completion of the grant agreement term, HCAI will request the remittance of all unexpended funds with a justification to explain why funds were not expended.

F. Budget Contingency Clause:

1. It is mutually agreed that if the Budget Act of the current year and/or any subsequent years covered under this Agreement does not appropriate sufficient funds for the program, this Agreement shall be of no further force and effect.

In this event, HCAI shall have no liability to pay any funds whatsoever to Grantee or to furnish any other considerations under this Agreement and Grantee shall not be obligated to perform any provisions of this Agreement.

2. If funding for any fiscal year is reduced or deleted by the Budget Act for purposes of this Program, HCAI shall have the option either to cancel this Agreement with no liability occurring to HCAI, or, in the event that funding is reduced and not deleted, HCAI will offer an agreement amendment to Grantee to account for the reduced amount; provided, however, that in the event that HCAI elects to offer an agreement amendment consistent with the terms of this budget contingency clause, HCAI shall retain the right to cancel this Agreement at any time until and unless an agreement amendment reflecting the reduced amount has been signed by the parties.

G. Breach:

HCAI reserves the right to recover any and all amounts provided to the Grantee for Grantee's failure to perform the Scope of Work set forth in this Agreement. HCAI expressly reserves the right to pursue all legal and equitable remedies in the event of a breach by Grantee, including the right to disqualify Grantee from future funding opportunities.

H. Executive Order N-6-22 – Russia Sanctions

On March 4, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsome issued Executive Order N-2-22 (the EO) regarding Economic Sanctions against Russia and Russian entities and individuals. “Economic Sanctions” refers to sanctions imposed by the U.S. government in response to Russia’s actions in Ukraine, as well as any sanctions imposed under state law. The EO directs state agencies to terminate contracts with, and to refrain from entering any new contracts with, individuals or entities that are determined to be a target of Economic Sanctions. Accordingly, should the State determine Contractor is a target of Economic Sanctions or is conducting prohibited transactions with sanctioned individuals or entities, that shall be grounds for termination of this agreement. The State shall provide Contractor with advance written notice of such termination, allowing Contractor at least 30 calendar days to provide a written response. Termination shall be at the sole discretion of the State.

I. General Terms and Conditions:

1. **Timeliness:** Time is of the essence in this Agreement. Grantee will submit the required deliverables as specified and adhere to the deadlines as specified in this Agreement. Anticipating potential overlaps, conflicts, and scheduling issues, to adhere to the terms of the Agreement, is the sole responsibility of the Grantee.
2. **Final Agreement:** This Agreement, along with the Application, exhibits, and forms constitutes the entire and final agreement between the parties and supersedes any and all prior oral or written agreements or discussions. In the event of a conflict between the provisions of this Agreement and the Grantee’s application, exhibits, and forms, the provisions of this Agreement shall prevail.
3. **Cumulative Remedies:** A failure to exercise or a delay in exercising, on the part of HCAI, any right, remedy, power or privilege hereunder shall not operate as a waiver thereof; nor shall any single or partial exercise of any right, remedy, power or privilege hereunder preclude any other or further exercise thereof or the exercise of any other right, remedy, power or privilege. The rights, remedies, powers, and privileges herein provided are cumulative and not exclusive of any rights, remedies, powers, and privileges provided by law.”
4. **Ownership and Public Records Act:** All reports and the supporting documentation and data collected during the funding period which are embodied in those reports, shall become the property of the State and subject to the Public Records Act (Gov. Code § 7920.000 et seq).

5. **Audits:** The Grantee agrees that HCAI, the Department of General Services, the State Auditor, or their designated representative shall have the right to review and to copy any records and supporting documentation pertaining to the performance of this Agreement. The Grantee agrees to maintain such records for possible audit for a minimum of three (3) years after final payment, unless a longer period of records retention is stipulated by the State. The Grantee agrees to allow the auditor(s) access to such records during normal business hours and to allow interviews of any employees who might reasonably have information related to such records. Further, the Grantee agrees to include a similar right of the State to audit records and interview staff in any subcontract related to performance of this Agreement. (Gov. Code §8546.7, Pub. Contract Code §10115 et seq., Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 2, Section 1896).
6. **Site Visits:** The Grantee agrees to allow HCAI to schedule a site visit during the term of the grant agreement to meet program faculty and conduct trainee interviews. The purpose is to evaluate the training and training site to ensure alignment with HCAI's objectives.
7. **Independence from the State:** Grantee and the agents and employees of Grantee, in the performance of this Agreement, shall act in an independent capacity and not as officers or employees or agents of the State.
8. **Non-Discrimination Clause:** During the performance of this Agreement, Grantee and its subcontractors shall not deny the Agreement's benefits to any person on the basis of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, sexual orientation, or military and veteran status, nor shall they discriminate unlawfully against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, sexual orientation, or military and veteran status. Grantee shall ensure that the evaluation and treatment of employees and applicants for employment are free of such discrimination (See Cal. Code Regs., title 2, section 11105).
9. Grantee and its subcontractors shall comply with the provisions of the Fair Employment and Housing Act (Gov. Code §12900 et seq.), the regulations promulgated thereunder (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, §11000 et seq.), the provisions of Article 9.5, Chapter 1, Part 1, Division 3, Title 2 of the Government Code (Gov. Code §§11135-11139.8), and any regulations or standards adopted by HCAI to implement such article.

10. Grantee shall permit access by representatives of the Civil Rights Department and HCAI upon reasonable notice at any time during the normal business hours, but in no case less than 24 hours' notice, to such of its books, records, accounts, and all other sources of information and its facilities as said Department or HCAI shall ascertain compliance with this clause.
11. Grantee and its subcontractors shall give written notice of their obligations under this clause to labor organizations with which they have a collective bargaining or other agreement.
12. Grantee shall include the nondiscrimination and compliance provisions of this clause in all subcontracts to perform work under this Agreement.
13. Waiver: The waiver by HCAI of a breach of any provision of this Agreement by the Grantee will not operate or be construed as a waiver of any other breach. HCAI expressly reserves the right to disqualify Grantee from any future grant awards for failure to comply with the terms of this Agreement.
14. Approval: This Agreement is of no force or effect until signed by both parties. Grantee may not commence performance until such approval has been obtained.
15. Amendment: No amendment or variation of the terms of this Agreement shall be valid unless made in writing, signed by the parties and approved as required. No oral understanding or Agreement not incorporated in the Agreement is binding on any of the parties.
16. Assignment: This Agreement is not assignable by the Grantee, either in whole or in part, without the consent of the State in the form of a formal written amendment.
17. Indemnification: Grantee agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the State, its officers, agents and employees (i) from any and all claims and losses accruing or resulting to any and all Grantee's, subcontractors, suppliers, laborers, and any other person, firm, or corporation furnishing or supplying work services, materials, or supplies resulting from the Grantee's performance of this Agreement, and (ii) from any and all claims and losses accruing or resulting to any person, firm, or corporation who may be injured or damaged by Grantee in the performance of this Agreement.

18. Disputes: Grantee shall continue with the responsibilities under this Agreement during any dispute. Any dispute arising under this Agreement, shall be resolved as follows:

- a. Grantee will discuss the dispute informally with the HCAI Program Manager. If unresolved the dispute shall be presented, in writing, to the Deputy Director stating the issues in dispute, the basis for Grantee's position, and the remedy sought. Grantee shall include copies of any documentary evidence and describe any other evidence that supports their position with its submission to the Deputy Director.
- b. Within ten (10) working days after receipt of the written grievance from the Grantee, the Deputy Director or their designee shall make a determination and shall respond in writing to the Grantee indicating the decision and reasons for it.
- c. Within ten (10) working days of receipt of the Deputy Director's decision, the Grantee may appeal the decision of the Deputy Director by submitting a written appeal to the Chief Deputy Director stating why the Grantee does not agree with the Deputy Director's Decision.
- d. Within ten (10) working days, the Chief Deputy Director or their designee shall respond in writing to the Grantee with their decision. The Chief Deputy Director's decision will be final.

19. Termination for Cause: HCAI may terminate this Agreement and be relieved of any payments should the Grantee fail to perform the requirements of this Agreement at the time and in the manner herein provided. Grantee shall return any Grant Funds that were previously provided to Grantee for use within 60 days of termination.

If all Grant Funds have not been expended upon completion of the Agreement term, HCAI will request the remittance of all unexpended funds. If HCAI determines that improper payments have been made to Grantee, HCAI will request disgorgement of all disallowed costs. Grantee may dispute disallowed costs in accordance with Section I, Paragraph 12. Grantee will submit a check or warrant for the amount due within 60 days of the Grantee's receipt of HCAI's disgorgement request or 30 days from the Grantee's receipt of HCAI's last Dispute decision. If Grantee fails to remit payment, HCAI may withhold the amount due from any future grant payments.

20. Grantee's Subcontractors: Nothing contained in this Agreement shall create any contractual relationship between the State and the Grantee or any subcontractors, and no subcontract shall relieve the Grantee of its responsibilities and obligations hereunder. The Grantee agrees to be as fully responsible to the State for any and all acts and omissions of its subcontractors and of persons either directly or indirectly employed by the Grantee. The Grantee's obligation to pay its subcontractors is an independent obligation from State's obligation to disburse funds to the Grantee. As a result, the State shall have no obligation to pay or to enforce the payment of any money to any subcontractor.
21. Governing Law: This Agreement is governed by and shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of California.
22. Survival: The right of HCAI to recoup grant funds provided to Grantee under this Agreement shall survive termination of this Agreement.
23. Use of Funds: These funds shall not be used to supplant existing federal, state, local, or private funds to support this program.
24. Unenforceable Provision: In the event that any provision of this Agreement is unenforceable or held to be unenforceable, then the parties agree that all other provisions of this Agreement have force and effect and shall not be affected thereby.

J. Grant Representatives:

The program representatives during the term of this agreement are listed below.
Direct all inquiries to:

State Agency: Department of Health Care Access and Information	Grantee:
Section/Unit: Health Workforce Development/HCEP	Program Name:
Name: [Program Officer Name]	Name of Main Contact:
Address: 2020 West El Camino Avenue Sacramento, CA 95833	Address:
Phone: [Program Officer Phone Number]	Phone:
Email: hpcop@hcai.ca.gov	Email:

Official Authorized to Sign Grant for Organization:

State Agency: Department of Health Care Access and Information	Grantee:
Section/Unit: Procurement and Contracts Services	Program Name:
Attention: [Program Officer Name]	Attention:
Address: 2020 West El Camino Avenue Sacramento, CA 95833	Address:
Phone: [Enter Program Officer Phone Number]	Phone:
Email: pcs@hcai.ca.gov	Email:

By signing this Grant Agreement, I acknowledge that I am subject to the eligibility requirements identified in the **[Cycle Program Name and number, if applicable]** Grant Guide For **[Cycle Year]** (the “Grant Guide”), which is incorporated into this Agreement in its entirety by reference. I understand that I may be disqualified from the process if an eligibility conflict is identified based on the criteria set forth in the Grant Guide.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed or have caused their duly authorized officers to execute this Agreement as of the date first written above.

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE
ACCESS AND INFORMATION**

Signature:

Name:

Title:

Date:

GRANTEE:

Signature:

Name:

Title:

Date:

[ADDITIONAL SIGNATORY]

Signature:

Name:

Title:

Date: