

**California Department of Health Care Access and Information
Questions and Answers
Request for Information
Third-Party Administrator for Gender Affirming Care and Reproductive Health
Programs**

1. Q: Will HCAI consider a consortium or prime/subcontractor model, with specialized partners serving defined populations or care settings, such as public higher education?

A: HCAI is seeking a single TPA for each program; however, the RFI does not place limitations on the organizational structure of the TPA.

2. Q: Will a future solicitation distinguish among grant administration, technical assistance, provider training, evaluation, and direct provider-capacity investments?

A: To support rapid administration of these funds, HCAI intends to engage a single TPA per program to carry out all needed functions. This does not preclude any consortia models, as described above. Once a TPA is selected, HCAI anticipates providing more specific information regarding eligible activities through the grant cycle for the Gender Affirming Care Provider Network and Capacity Fund.

3. Q: Could you please advise whether for-profit behavioral health organizations may be eligible to apply directly or participate through partnerships or subcontracts with reproductive health, primary care, or other eligible providers?

A: The RFI is intended to identify a single TPA for one or more of the three funding allocations described in the RFI. Any partnership or subcontracting arrangements related to program administration would be further defined in collaboration with the selected RFI.

4. Q: We are an QTBIPOC and LGBTQIA+ mental health center who provides gender affirming mental health services. Would we qualify for this funding or this funding intended for healthcare organizations/etc?

A: The RFI is intended to identify a TPA for one or more of the three funding allocations described in the RFI. Eligibility for program awards will be further defined in collaboration with the selected TPA and will depend on the specific funding allocation.

5. Q: [redacted] is currently receiving practical support funding from [redacted]. Would we still be eligible to apply for this program?

A: There are no restrictions preventing organizations currently receiving HCAI funding from responding to this RFI. Eligibility criteria for the individual programs will be finalized in collaboration with the TPA once they have been selected.

6. Q: Our practice is organized as a corporation and works with a non-profit. Should the RFI be submitted by the corporation or the non-profit?

A: The RFI seeks to identify a single TPA for one or more of the three funding allocations described. There are no restrictions on the organizational structure of entities responding to the RFI. Eligibility requirements for grant funding will be further defined in collaboration with the selected TPA.

7. Q: As we are preparing our response to the current RFI, we are curious whether it would be appropriate and acceptable to list [HCAI employee] as a reference?

A: You may include a HCAI employee as a reference.

8. Q: May public universities and campus health centers be eligible provider grantees under the Gender Affirming Care Provider Network and Capacity Fund?

A: Eligibility requirements will be further defined in collaboration with the selected TPA. HCAI has not established policies that would preclude public universities or campus health centers from eligibility.

9. Q: Does HCAI anticipate supporting regional network pilots, particularly those that expand access for transition-age youth and young adults?

A: HCAI is committed to supporting populations most impacted by recent federal actions, including minors enrolled in Medi-Cal and CHIP. Additional details regarding eligible activities will be further defined as the program is developed in collaboration with the TPA.

10. Q: What minimum financial, reporting, and advance-payment capabilities will HCAI expect of the third-party administrator?

A: HCAI expects the selected TPA to have demonstrated capacity to administer grant programs of this size and complexity, including robust and timely financial management, reporting, and payment capabilities. Additional administrative requirements will be further defined as HCAI works with the TPA to establish program requirements.

11.Q: Is HCAI seeking responses only from organizations able to serve as the grant administrator for one or more of the three programs, or does it also accept responses from organizations with expertise in specific implementation parts, such as provider outreach and communications?

A: HCAI is seeking a single TPA with the capacity to manage all aspects of program implementation and administration. Responses should demonstrate the ability to oversee the full scope of activities required for one or more of the three programs.

12.Q: Does HCAI anticipate that the award will allow a lead administrator to subcontract or partner with specialized organizations, for example in marketing communications or language access?

A: The RFI does not specify a particular subcontracting or partnership structure. HCAI is seeking a TPA responsible for all program functions. The selected TPA may propose partnerships or subcontracting arrangements as part of their approach, provided they are able to manage the full scope of program administration.

13.Q: Does HCAI plan on separating solicitations for outreach, communications or awareness activities related to these programs or would those fall under the administrators' scope?

A: The approach to outreach, communications, and awareness activities has not yet been finalized and will be further considered as HCAI develops the program and administrative structure with the selected TPA. At this time, HCAI does not intend to administer a separate contract for these functions.

14.Q: For question J, is outreach intended to reach providers only, or will it also include communicating with patients and families about available services and funding?

A: Question J of the RFI specifically refers to engaging providers, while recognizing the populations and care settings they serve. The intent is to ensure outreach reaches providers who can help connect eligible individuals with available services and funding.

15.Q: Is there a desired timeline for which HCAI would like the programs to launch?

A: HCAI hopes to contract with a TPA as soon as possible for the GAC for Youth program, through which payments to providers will be made on an ongoing basis. For the two remaining programs (Uncompensated Care and Provider Capacity Network), HCAI

expects to open grant cycles on or before November 30 for each program.

16.Q: What administrative fee structure, term, procurement path, and award decision timetable does HCAI anticipate?

A: These details will be determined through the contracting process with the Third-Party Administrator. HCAI currently anticipates announcing awards in early 2027.

17.Q: Please share any additional information on anticipated volume, advance-payment authority, claims data, audit standard, and privacy/security requirements?

A: HCAI is working to better understand anticipated program volume and administrative details. These details will be further defined in collaboration with the selected TPA.

18.Q: For uncompensated care: Is payment grant-based, claims-based, or both?

A: The payment methodology has not yet been finalized; however, HCAI anticipates using grant funding based on volume of services provided.