

Request for Information (RFI)

Third-Party Administrator for Gender Affirming Care and Reproductive Health Programs

DATE: September 22, 2026

TO: All Interested Entities

FROM: California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI)

SUBJECT: Third-Party Administrator for Gender Affirming Care and Reproductive Health Programs

A. Purpose of the Request for Information

The 2026-27 Budget Act appropriates a total of \$66 million dollars (\$66,000,000) to HCAI across three funding allocations to support uncompensated care and strengthen the provider capacity needed to deliver gender affirming care and reproductive health programs.

California Reproductive and Transgender, Gender Diverse, and Intersex Health Equity Program (\$30,000,000). Now referred to as the Uncompensated Care Program, this program will support uncompensated abortion, abortion-related, family planning, family planning-related, and gender affirming care services¹.

Gender Affirming Care Services for Children and Youth (\$10,000,000). This funding allocation will support gender affirming care services for children and youth, including medical and pharmacy services for Medi-Cal members under 18 and CHIP members under 19 that are ineligible for federal funding as of October 13, 2026.

Gender Affirming Care Provider Network and Capacity (\$26,000,000). This fund will allocate \$10 million in FY 2026-27 to organizations to maintain and develop capacity to deliver gender affirming care, with an additional \$8 million planned for each 2027-28 and 2028-29, subject to appropriation in those fiscal years².

HCAI seeks information from organizations with relevant experience to inform the potential administration and implementation of one or more funds. The funds may be administered independently or in combination. Respondents should provide

¹ Senate Bill No. 111, 2026-2027 Reg. Sess. (Cal 2026) Section 80, Provision 5

² Senate Bill No. 111, 2026-2027 Reg. Sess. (Cal 2026) Section 80, Provision 9

information based on their knowledge and experience with organizations and initiatives of a similar nature.

Respondents should read this RFI thoroughly and adhere to the response submission guidelines.

B. Key Action Dates

Event	Date
Release of RFI	September 22, 2026
Question Submission Deadline	September 29, 2026
RFI Responses Due	October 6, 2026

C. Background

- a. Federal policies and actions since the beginning of the current federal administration have targeted access to gender affirming health care, in particular for children and youth. A series of Executive Orders, proposed rules, statements from high-ranking government officials, federal agency clinical and policy guidance changes, and investigations and subpoenas of providers, have had a chilling effect on and affected the availability and delivery of gender affirming care. Most recently, in August 2026, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized a rule prohibiting federal Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) funds from covering specified gender affirming care, including puberty blockers, hormone therapy, and surgical interventions, for children and youth (under age 18 for Medicaid and age 19 for CHIP). This rule is scheduled to take effect October 13, 2026. More broadly, federal policy changes impacting Medi-Cal eligibility will lead to additional uncompensated care needs among low-income Californians, including for reproductive and gender affirming health care.

California law contains many provisions designed to ensure access to high-quality, equitable, and clinically appropriate gender affirming care and reproductive health services. However, in the current federal environment, California providers and patients face more challenges than ever before in delivering and accessing these services. For providers, there is a considerable amount of uncertainty, which can create complexities related to the continued provision of care and compliance concerns. Similarly, for patients, there can be many different barriers to accessing care (e.g., geographic limitations, limited provider availability, lack of insurance coverage, and/or safety concerns, etc.). In response to these challenges, state investments in uncompensated care and provider capacity building, and changes to how certain kinds of care are funded by the state, will help bolster access and strengthen the network of providers delivering services.

This RFI seeks to identify a potential partner or partners to establish, administer, and manage programs supporting reproductive and gender affirming health care in California, through three distinct funding allocations.

1. **\$30 million Uncompensated Care Program.** This program will provide grants to health care providers to support uncompensated care for eligible patients who are at or below 400% of the federal poverty line (FPL) and do not have coverage for abortion, abortion-related, family planning, family planning-related, and gender affirming care services under the Medi-Cal, CHIP, or Family PACT programs.
2. **\$10 million for Gender Affirming Care Services for Children and Youth.** This funding will support the delivery of high-quality, equitable, and clinically appropriate gender affirming care services for youth (under age 18 for Medicaid and age 19 for CHIP), including medical and pharmacy services specifically ineligible for federal Medicaid and CHIP funding as of October 13, 2026. The program will focus on minimizing disruptions and maximizing access to care for impacted Medi-Cal members through key partnerships and engagement with culturally competent medical and pharmacy providers throughout California.
3. **\$26 million to support Gender Affirming Care Provider Network and Capacity.** This fund (comprised of \$10 million in FY 26-27 and \$8 million each in the subsequent two fiscal years, subject to appropriations) will provide grants to organizations to maintain and develop capacity to provide gender affirming care, with funding intended to strengthen the provider network and address clinical and operational capacity needs that may limit access to care. Grants should address the need for gender affirming care provider capacity to serve populations most impacted by recent federal actions, including but not limited to children and youth.

Funding for the programs is available for encumbrance or expenditure through June 30, 2029.

D. Response Instructions

To respond to this RFI, respondents must review and complete Attachment A. Responses must be submitted by email to the HCAI inbox listed below no later than October 6, 2026, and must include the following:

- a. Signed cover letter
 - i. A signed cover letter on organization letterhead that includes:
 1. The name, title, address, telephone number, and email address of the respondent's primary contact for this RFI; and
 2. A brief statement describing the respondent's interest in reproductive health and/or gender affirming care services and pathways for ensuring access.
- b. Attachment A
 - i. Complete and submit Attachment A.

- ii. Respondents may supplement Attachment A with additional information they believe is relevant based on their expertise and experience.

E. RFI Responses Exempt from Public Disclosure

Please be aware that contracts, grants, and related information created or obtained pursuant to this provision are exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title 1 of the Government Code). This exemption is intended to protect confidential and personal medical information, the safety of medical providers, and access to reproductive health and gender affirming care services.

F. RFI Disclaimers and General Information

Not a Solicitation: This RFI is issued for information and planning purposes only and does not constitute a solicitation. A response to this RFI may be used by HCAI to form a binding contract. Respondents are solely responsible for all expenses associated with responding to this RFI.

Effect of Submitting an RFI Response: HCAI may follow up with any respondents that submit an RFI for the purpose of entering into an agreement. However, submitting a response to this RFI will not enhance nor disadvantage the review of that Respondent's proposal(s) to any future opportunities. Not submitting a response to this RFI will not prohibit a response to any future opportunities.

Budget Information: HCAI asks willing respondents to share non-binding budgetary information regarding the administrative costs associated with operating the grant program(s). Pricing is only for planning purposes. Pricing provided in a response to this RFI will not be considered a proposal/bid on the part of the respondent.

G. Questions for Clarification

Respondents may submit questions regarding this RFI by email to the specified HCAI inbox listed below by the date specified in the Key Action Dates.

H. Contact Information

Respondents must submit their written response by email to the HCAI inbox listed below:

genderaffirmingcare@hcai.ca.gov

Attachment A

A. Response Instructions

Respondents may supplement or otherwise adapt their responses to Attachment A based on their unique circumstances, expertise, and experience. Respondents are not required to address every question and may use the questions to frame or inform their responses. HCAI is interested in a range of perspectives on the potential administration and implementation of the Uncompensated Care Program, funding allocated for Gender Affirming Care Services for Children and Youth, and Gender Affirming Care Provider Network and Capacity Fund.

B. RFI Questions

About the Organization

- a. Provide a brief overview of your organization including the organization's vision and mission, number of years in business, number of employees, nature of organization, and a description of the services provided by the organization.
 - Include a brief description of your organization's experience in the gender affirming care and/or reproductive health care fields.
 - Provide a brief overview of your organization's experience doing business with the State of California.
 - Indicate whether the State of California is taking or has taken any administrative, civil, or criminal action against your organization.
 - Include a list of your organization's leadership staff and board of directors and their affiliations, if any.

Grantmaking, Program Administration, and Oversight

- b. Please indicate whether you are interested in contracting for one or more (in any combination) of the following three investments:
 - Uncompensated Care Program
 - Gender Affirming Care for Children and Youth
 - Gender Affirming Care Provider Network and Capacity fund
- c. Describe your organization's experience in grantmaking, including its demonstrated capacity to rapidly establish and administer a grant cycle.
- d. Describe the volume of grants your organization has administered, including the total amount of funding awarded, the time period over which the grants were administered, the type and scope of services delivered through the grants, and the type of grantees (e.g., single providers, provider groups, large organizations, etc.) it has funded.
- e. Describe the criteria your organization would propose to determine which organizations receive funding under the Uncompensated Care Program, Gender Affirming Care for Children and Youth, and/or Gender Affirming Care Provider Network and Capacity fund.

- f. Describe how your organization would monitor to ensure funds are used for their intended purposes.
- g. Describe how your organization monitors grantee expenditures.
- h. Indicate whether your organization is able to advance funds to providers and, if so, describe the process.
- i. Describe your organization's experience providing culturally competent services to transgender, gender diverse, and intersex (TGI) communities, including gender affirming care.
- j. Describe how your organization would promote grant opportunities to gender affirming care providers, including providers serving low-income populations, communities of color, and Limited-English proficient communities.
- k. Describe your organization's approach to collecting, maintaining, and reporting program data while protecting the privacy and confidentiality of both provider and patient information.
- l. Describe how your organization would evaluate its effectiveness, including the metrics your organization would use to assess progress toward intended impact.
- m. Identify any additional organizational qualities or criteria HCAI should consider.

If you are interested in applying for the Gender Affirming Care Services for Children and Youth fund, please respond to the following questions:

- n. Describe how your organization would approach the provision of funding so as to minimize disruptions and maximize access to care for impacted Medi-Cal members.
- o. Describe your organization's experience with providing administrative oversight and payment for clinical services, particularly gender affirming care services. If relevant, include any experience with utilization management controls, including prior authorization processes, to ensure medical necessity.
- p. Please describe your organization's experience with supporting equitable access to high-quality clinical services, including policies or practices related to addressing complaints, grievances, and appeals, as applicable.
- q. Describe how your organization would operationalize the provision of pharmacy services to promote maximum access to hormone therapy and puberty blocking medications used for gender affirming care for qualified patients across the state, including identifying any specific strategies you would employ and experience you have in this area.

If you are interested in applying for the Uncompensated Care Program and/or Gender Affirming Care Services for Youth and Minors fund, please respond to the following questions:

- r. Describe your organization's experience with documenting clinical services provided and paid for, including any systems, processes, or coding practices used to track and verify service delivery and payment.

References and Past Performance

- s. Include names and contact information for at least two references from individuals or organizations with whom you have worked on similar projects.