



# CalOptima Health Workforce Development Fund Notice of Funding Opportunity

## Round 1: Increasing the Health Care Workforce Pipeline through Educational Investments

*CalOptima Health solicits grant applications to increase the pipeline of health care professionals serving CalOptima Health members.*

**Application Deadline — 1/31/2024 (5:00 p.m. PST)**

### Background

CalOptima Health's mission is to serve member health with excellence and dignity, respecting the value and needs of each person. Health care workforce shortages in Orange County and statewide are significant, and investment is needed to increase the number of health professionals in Orange County. To address these challenges, the CalOptima Health Board approved an investment of \$50 million over five years to create the Workforce Development Fund to increase the supply of safety net providers serving CalOptima Health members in Orange County. Through the Workforce Development Fund, CalOptima Health is committed to increasing the number of providers who are needed to serve Orange County's most vulnerable population.

CalOptima Health engaged in a robust stakeholder listening process to inform the design of the Workforce Development Fund strategy and plan. One of the key challenges highlighted through the stakeholder engagement process was the need for greater investment to expand educational opportunities to increase the pipeline of health professionals in Orange County. To address this challenge, the first round of funding made available under the Workforce Development Fund will provide up to \$10 million in grant funding to increase the health care workforce pipeline through educational investments. A second round of funding will focus on investments in workforce development innovation under a Workforce Training & Development Innovation Fund. This first funding opportunity for workforce development round one grants will be **open for applications December 15, 2023 – January 31, 2024.**

### Description of Project Grant Funding Opportunity

A key driver of growing the health care workforce in Orange County is the pipeline of students that enter health professions. To increase this pipeline of students and strengthen educational affordability

and opportunity to enter health professions, this grant funding opportunity will provide funds for initiatives and programs that increase the pipeline of health professionals. Priority for these educational investments will be given to projects that focus on the health professional workforce in the areas of nursing, behavioral health, primary care (nurse practitioners and physician assistants), and allied health professions. This funding opportunity will focus on non-physician professions.

Eligible projects or programs focused on increasing the health care professional pipeline could include, but not be limited to:

- Pipeline programs from high school into higher education focused on health care professions with commitment to serve Orange County.
- Stipend programs to incentivize students from underrepresented populations and low-income students to participate in health professional programs with a commitment to serve Orange County.
- Stipend programs focused on recruiting students into health care workforce shortage professions.
- Funding to expand existing health care higher education training and education programs to additional cohorts in areas of workforce shortage.
- Investments to expand clinical rotations to a greater number of students.
- Investments to develop and recruit faculty among health professions, including nurse educators, and others.

## Grant Amounts and Duration

The CalOptima Health Workforce Development Fund will invest \$50 million over five years across several focus areas. Grant award requests must be proposed in the Grant Application. Any approved grant requests under this funding opportunity must avoid supplanting or replacing existing Federal, State, and/or CalOptima Health funding sources for workforce development initiatives.

If applicable, applicants may apply for more than one round of funding as it becomes available. For awarded grants, payment is made in full upon completed execution of the grant agreement.

## Entities Eligible to Apply

- Eligible entities to receive this funding would be educational institutions or partnerships among educational institutions and community or provider organizations.
- Grant funds may only be utilized for educational opportunities for Orange County students.
- Applicants must propose projects or programs that align with the funding opportunity in this document and the Grant Application.
- Applicants that previously received funding from CalOptima Health must be in good standing with the terms of that contract or grant agreement to be eligible for new funding.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply for funds when they are ready to implement the activity proposed for funding.

## Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Criterion		Maximum Points	Description of Basis for Assigning Points
1	Funding Sources	Pass/ Fail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not supplant other available Federal, State or CalOptima Health opportunities/sources.</li> </ul>
2	CalOptima Health core mission and value alignment	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project is inclusive and provides opportunity for more CalOptima Health members to be served with excellence and dignity.</li> </ul>
3	Project Implementation	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan is complete and includes specific SMART objectives and defined measures of success.</li> </ul>
4	Budget and Financial Management	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget and financial plan are sound and aligned with the objectives of the project.</li> <li>Identifies potential funding sources for sustainability of the project/program after the end of the grant agreement.</li> </ul>
5	Equity	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project aims to increase representation of underrepresented groups in health professions.</li> <li>Project allows for a wide representation to enter and/or advance in health care.</li> </ul>
6	Increased number of health professionals	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addresses identified shortages in the health care workforce serving CalOptima Health members.</li> <li>Addresses affordability of education and employment pathways.</li> <li>Demonstrates how the project increases the number of health professionals in Orange County.</li> </ul>
7	Capacity of program	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grantee has demonstrated experience to perform the program.</li> <li>If applicable, grantee is able to expand the capacity of an existing program.</li> </ul>
8	Alignment with CalOptima investments	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed program fills an unmet need within the CalOptima Health investment and grantmaking portfolio.</li> <li>Project leverages available funding partners.</li> </ul>
<b>Total Earnable Points</b>		<b>100</b>	

## Timeline

Activity	Date
Notice of Funding Opportunity Released and Portal Opens	12/15/2023 at 9 a.m.
Bidder's Conference ( <i>virtual</i> )	12/18/2023 at 10 a.m.
Questions Posted from Bidder's Conference	12/22/2023
Answers to Additional Questions Posted	1/12/2024
<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>1/31/2024 at 5 p.m.</b>
Internal Review	2/1/2024 - 2/12/2024
<b>CalOptima Health Board of Directors Meeting</b>	<b>3/7/2024</b>
Announcement of Approved Grants	3/8/2024
Grant Agreements Processed	3/11/2024 - 4/1/2024
Grants Start Date	4/1/2024

## Documents and Portal Access

All documents related to this Notice of Funding Opportunity and application portal access will be made available at this site: <https://www.caloptima.org/en/About/CurrentInitiatives/WorkforceDev>

## Bidder's Conference

Join our Bidder's Conference for this funding opportunity by registering below:

### **Bidder's Conference**

Date and Time: Monday, December 18, 2023, 10 a.m.

Link: [https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrc-CgrDsjetznnE\\_6CvG00fKImm395x0t](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrc-CgrDsjetznnE_6CvG00fKImm395x0t)

*Questions about the funding opportunity or application? Contact Strategic Development at [strategicdevelopment@caloptima.org](mailto:strategicdevelopment@caloptima.org)*