



CalOptima Health Comprehensive Community Cancer Screening and Support Program Notice of Funding Opportunity

Increasing early detection of cancer through improved awareness, access to screenings and quality of member experience throughout cancer treatment.

CalOptima Health solicits grant applications to increase early detection and reduce late-stage cancer diagnoses among CalOptima Health members.

Application Deadline — March 29, 2024 (5 p.m. PST)

Background

CalOptima Health's mission is to serve members' health with excellence and dignity, respecting the value and needs of each person. To remove barriers to optimal cancer care and improve member health outcomes, CalOptima Health is committed to decreasing late-stage cancer discoveries by focusing on increasing member and community awareness, education, and access to cancer screenings, and improving member experience and support throughout cancer treatment.

CalOptima Health sought input from key community stakeholders to inform the design of the Comprehensive Community Cancer Screening and Support funding opportunity. Stakeholders shared barriers faced in their efforts to improve cancer awareness, screening access, and member experience throughout cancer treatment. These barriers include:

- Limited resources among smaller organizations to develop member communication, educational materials, and awareness campaign toolkits
- Lack of patient navigators to guide members through cancer screening and support
- Limited resources to support evening and weekend member appointments
- Lack of equipment, technology and automation to support timely and member focused outreach and interventions

- Need for community organizations to build trust and support member linkage to appropriate screenings and services

To address these barriers, CalOptima Health will provide two rounds of funding. The first round will be for a two-year grant cycle providing up to \$15 million in total grant funding to increase early detection and reduce late-stage diagnoses of breast, cervical, colorectal and lung cancer (per guidelines¹) among CalOptima Health members. A second round of funding will be launched at a later date (to be determined) and will build upon best practices and/or priorities emerging from the first round of grants. This first funding opportunity will be open for applications **February 7 - March 29, 2024.**

Description of Funding Categories

Applicants must demonstrate how their funding request will increase awareness and access to cancer screening, decrease late-stage cancer diagnosis rates, and/or improve quality and member experience during cancer screening and treatment. Priority for this grant funding opportunity will be given to projects focused on addressing health inequities for populations highly impacted by breast, cervical, colorectal and/or lung cancer in the following grant categories:

1. [Capacity Building](#)

This grant category is intended to support medical providers and organizations with capacity building to expand services and support for CalOptima Health members. Eligible proposed projects may include:

- Hiring staff, patient navigators or consultants with lived experience and/or expertise to expand and support member programs
- Providing training and skills development
- Implementing other strategies of increasing staff capacity to improve services and support

2. [Infrastructure and Capital Improvements](#)

This grant category is intended for infrastructure and capital investments. Eligible proposed projects may include:

- Investment in technology and/or equipment that support improved systems, workflows, outreach and access

3. [Care Coordination Collaboratives](#)

This grant category is intended for investments that drive collaborative innovations across systems of care. Eligible projects may include:

- Creation and/or expansion of partnerships or collaboration with other organizations and systems of care

¹ Cancer screening guidelines by the United States Preventive Services Task Force

Grant Amounts and Duration

Total grant funding available for this round of funding is \$15 million for a two-year grant cycle.

Awarded funds must be used to improve Medi-Cal covered services and support for CalOptima Health members with a focus on cancer prevention and education, early detection, treatment, and support.

For awarded grants, payments will be made in two installments. The first payment shall be made upon execution of a grant agreement, with subsequent payments made at the end of each project year contingent upon CalOptima Health's receipt and approval of Quarterly Progress Reports, Annual Progress Reports and/or Final Report which are due as condition of payment.

Entities Eligible to Apply

CalOptima Health will consider applications from nonprofit and for-profit organizations, joint ventures, or partnerships that serve the identified purpose of this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

Applicants may submit proposals for one or more categories.

Applicants that previously received funding from CalOptima Health must be in good standing with the terms of their contract or grant agreement to be eligible for new funding.

Proposed Project Requirements

Population

This funding opportunity must be used for CalOptima Health Medi-Cal Members.

Grant Objectives

Applicants must propose projects or programs that align with one or more of the funding priorities described above and support at least one of the following Comprehensive Community Cancer Screening and Support Program pillars:

1. Increase community and member awareness and engagement
2. Increase access to cancer screening
3. Improve member experience throughout cancer treatment

Applicants must clearly define grant objectives and submit a project plan that clearly outlines how expected outcome will be measured.

Reporting Requirements

CalOptima Health monitors and evaluates grant progress reports to appraise grant objectives. Grantees are required to submit semi-annual progress reports in addition to a final report at the end of the grant term. Successful completion of reports is a condition for funding disbursement.

CalOptima Health will require grantees to track key performance indicators in the semi-annual report, examples of which may include (but not be limited to):

1. Total number of CalOptima Health members currently served by the applicant
2. Total additional CalOptima Health Members served through the grant
3. Total number of CalOptima Health members referred to screening and outcome of referral (e.g., successfully completed screening, declined screening, required additional examination prior to screening)

Evaluation Criteria

Complete applications will be evaluated using the following evaluation criteria:

	Criterion	Maximum Points	Description of Basis for Assigning Points
1	Alignment with program	Pass/Fail	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project aligns with the program goals to increase awareness and access to cancer screening, decrease late-stage cancer diagnosis, and/or improve quality and member experience during cancer screening and treatment procedures.
2	CalOptima Health core mission and value alignment	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project improves member health outcomes by addressing health disparities, removing barriers to access and providing opportunities for more CalOptima Health members to be treated with excellence and dignity.
3	Decreases late-stage cancer diagnosis	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project demonstrates ability to increase screening as a means to decrease late-stage cancer diagnosis.
4	Equity	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applicant describes how they will identify and tailor grant activities to meet the needs of the Medi-Cal populations most impacted by cancer.
5	Project Implementation	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project plan is complete, incorporates evidence-based practices and includes specific objectives, logical and feasible activities, as well as clearly defined measures of success.

6	Budget and Financial Management	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project budget is sound and provides detail on program plan. Able to demonstrate strong financial management capacity.
7	Capacity and Project Readiness	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicant demonstrates experience in developing programs and interventions for Medi-Cal populations in Orange County. Projects can be launched soon after the grant award.
Total Earnable Points		100	

Application Steps

All documents related to this Notice of Funding Opportunity and access to the application portal will be made available via this link:

<https://www.caloptima.org/en/About/CurrentInitiatives/CancerInitiatives>

Application portal will be opened from **February 7 - March 29, 2024**.

Timeline*

Date	Activity
February 7, 2024	NOFO Released and Application Portal Opens
February 13, 2024	Q&A Session (<i>virtual</i>)
February 19, 2024	Questions Posted from Q&A Session
March 29, 2024	Application Deadline (<i>application portal will close at 5 p.m.</i>)
April 1 – April 12, 2024	Internal Review and Selection
May 2, 2024	Grantee Approval by CalOptima Health Board of Directors
May 3 – 31, 2024	Grant Agreements Processed
June 1, 2024	Grant Implementation Starts

*Dates subject to change.

Q&A Session

Join the Q&A Session for this funding opportunity by registering below:

Date and Time: Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 2 p.m.

Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uTcGDaOrQT0kg5CoeFm6DQ

Point of Contact

For questions about the funding opportunity or application, contact Population Health Management at populationhealthmanagement@caloptima.org.