

Request for Applications (RFA):

Local Public Health Department Support for CHA/CHIP Development

Issued by: Partnership HealthPlan of California

Program Title: CHA/CHIP Development Support Grant Program

Website: www.partnershiphp.org/Community/Pages/CHACHIP-Grant-Program.aspx

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Background

Future of Public Health Funding established in the 2022 Budget Act (Chapter 249, Statutes of 2022) requires local health jurisdictions (LHJ) to complete a three-year public health plan informed by their Community Health Assessment (CHA), Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), and/or Strategic Plan. While accreditation is not required to complete a three-year public health plan, it has been shown to strengthen public health infrastructure and improve emergency responsiveness. However, many counties — particularly small and rural ones — face barriers to completing this work due to limited staffing, funding, or local health care infrastructure.

In parallel, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) mandates that Medi-Cal managed care plans (MCPs) meaningfully participate in and support local CHA/CHIP processes. This includes contributing to in-kind staff and/or funding to local health departments as part of a broader effort to align health care delivery with community health priorities.

Intersection with Community Reinvestment Requirements

On Feb. 7, 2025, DHCS issued APL 25-004 Community Reinvestments, which outlines Partnership's requirements to reinvest a minimum level of our net income into their local communities. Through this policy, DHCS requires that Partnership's Community Reinvestments must be directly informed by the Community Health Assessment (CHA) conducted by the LHJ. Though not required, DHCS strongly recommends that Partnership use Community Reinvestments to fund activities identified in the communities' CHIP and needs identified in the Behavioral Health Integration Plan. (BH IP).

Eligible expenditures under Community Reinvestment are limited to a specified menu of allowable activities, and must reflect robust stakeholder engagement, including but not limited to:

- Partnership's Community Advisory Committee(s)
- Partnership's Quality Improvement and Health Equity Committee (QIHEC)
- Tribal organizations
- Community-based organizations
- Providers

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Partnership is required to submit our initial Community Reinvestment plan to DHCS in early Q3 of 2026 and every three (3) years thereafter. This timeline is to allow for the alignment of Partnership's Community Reinvestments with other required programmatic timelines for LHJ's CHA/CHIP cycles and BHT Integration Plan processes. The Initial Community Reinvestment plan will also include a summary of input from Partnership's Chief Health Equity Officer and signed attestations of support from the local Public Health Officer and County Behavioral Health Director.

Based on revenue in calendar year 2024, Partnership is expected to begin distributing funds under Community Reinvestments in late 2026. Since Partnership expanded our network in January 2024 to include ten additional counties, DHCS states in their APL that those counties are eligible to receive community reinvestment dollars in late 2027. DHCS guidance and timing on Community Reinvestments policy language does not align with communities who already have CHIP activities in progress; Partnership is not able to fund current CHIP implementation activities and receive acknowledgement from DHCS for Community Reinvestment funding as the program has not yet started.

Partnership is currently reviewing DHCS policy documents and will share key guidance with all county partners before the end of 2025.

Partnership's CHA/CHIP Support Grant Program

Partnership's CHA/CHIP Support Grant Program aims to fulfill Partnership's role in meeting DHCS expectations for MCPs to actively participate in and contribute to local CHA/CHIP processes. More importantly, the grant program further solidifies our mission to help our members, and the communities we serve, to be healthy.

Many of the LHJ's in Partnership's network are in different stages of their CHA/CHIP development and implementation cycles. While DHCS and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) work toward statewide alignment of these processes and programs, with the goal and expectation for all LHJs, MCPs and County Behavioral Health Departments to be on shared, three-year cycles by 2028 and 2029 respectively. In addition to the in-kind staffing and meeting participation, Partnership has made available a unique funding opportunity to all LHJ's in our network. Partnership's CHA/CHIP Support Grant Program is intended to cover CHA/CHIP needs during this timeframe.

Funding Framework

- **Allocation:** Up to \$100,000 per county over three years (July 2025 – June 2028)
- **Transition:** This new funding structure replaces the \$4,000/year meal support allowance, which ended on June 30, 2025

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• **Primary Purpose:** Funds are intended to support the development and tracking of each county's Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)*.

*To support counties in transition, Partnership will allow limited flexibility in how the \$100,000 grant may be used. Counties may request to apply a portion of the funding to implementation activities tied to a current CHIP—as long as the core goal of supporting the next CHA/CHIP cycle (2025–2028) is preserved. Counties that have already submitted a grant application will be given the opportunity to reevaluate and adjust their plan considering this added flexibility.

To request this flexibility, counties must:

1. Demonstrate alignment with a current CHIP:
 - Amount requested
 - Description of the implementation activity
 - Direct reference to the current CHIP
2. Ensure continued support for CHA/CHIP development through 2028:
 - Outline planned CHA/CHIP activities
 - Estimated budget
 - Identify other funding sources (non-Partnership) to support remaining work
3. Acknowledge funding limits:
 - Submit a statement confirming that the \$100,000 is the full allocation for CHA/CHIP work through June 2028
 - No additional funding will be provided during this period