Practical Support RFP

WHY is this funding being made available?

On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court overturned *Roe vs. Wade*, allowing states to ban or severely limit access to abortion. California took immediate steps to secure abortion rights and access. The 2022-23 California State Budget appropriated funds to establish an Abortion Practical Support Fund at the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) to assist pregnant people with direct practical support for the purposes of obtaining an abortion. California Health and Safety Code Sections 123451-123453 describe the program. HCAI has designated Essential Access Health (Essential Access) as the Program Administrator and the entity that will manage the distribution of the funds and ensure program compliance with statutory requirements.

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WHO is eligible to apply?

According to state statute, applicants must be non-profit organizations based in California that assist pregnant people with practical support services that help make accessing abortion care possible. Applicants must be located in California and serve pregnant individuals who reside in California or who travel to California seeking abortion care.

WHO is NOT eligible to apply?

Organizations that engage in programs or activities that conflict with the intent and purpose of the program are not eligible to apply as direct grantees or serve as subcontractors.

WHAT is eligible for funding?

Direct practical support to individuals seeking to obtain abortion care such as:
- Transportation (gas, bus, airfare, ride share, taxi, train, etc.)
- Lodging (hotel/motel, short-term rental)
- Meals (per diem meal allowance, restaurant, grocery store expenses)
- Childcare/elder care expenses
- Travel expenses for emotional support companion
- Language access services (patient interpretation services)
- Abortion doula expenses
- Wage replacement for missed work
- Pharmacy expenses (Over-the-counter supplies and prescriptions)

Support for organizations providing practical support services to individuals seeking to obtain abortion care:
- Care management/navigation
- Staff training
- Language access services (translation and interpretation services)
- Communication platforms or systems
- Indirect costs (10% of overall budget)

WHAT is the funding range and project period?

The funding range is **$100,000 -$500,000** for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

Funding requests may be based on:
a) Documented average monthly expenditures for services provided between July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023, or
b) Projected service delivery and cost estimates with documented calculations.

Payments will be split into two disbursements, with 50% of payment distributed on July 1 2023. The second payment will be released in January 2024 and may be adjusted based on actual expenditures from July 1-Dec 31, 2023.

Proposals may not be funded to the maximum amount requested. Additional Requests for Proposals will be released on an annual basis until allocated funding is depleted.

Timeline	
Funding period	July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024
First payment released	June 30, 2023
Midyear report	December 29, 2023
Second payment released	January 15, 2024
Final report	July 31, 2024

HOW does the application process work?
Applicants must complete the ONLIINE APPLICATION form and submit required budget documents using the template provided by **MAY 19, 2023.** A Practical Support Budget Worksheet is provided in the online application portal.

Applicants may access an FAQ document for support in using the APPLY platform online application system. The APPLY online application platform is based on the Survey Monkey Platform. **Applicants must create a new registration for the APPLY portal. Existing Survey Monkey accounts will not be recognized**

Supplemental materials may be uploaded to support project narrative and demonstrate an ability to make effective and rapid use of project funding, including examples of previous work, media links or other materials that reflect the experience needed to advance program objectives and goals.

<u>Applicants will be asked to provide:</u>

1) Organizational background
- Information about the organization's history and mission
- Current organizational budget
- Names, backgrounds and roles of the staff who will work on this project
- The organization's experience providing practical support services
- The organization's demonstrated commitment to abortion and reproductive health access, rights, and justice
- The organization's commitment to and experience advancing health equity and reducing health disparities
- The organization's demonstrated commitment to cultural, racial and SOGI (sexual orientation and gender identity) inclusivity
- The organization's patient/client population and communities served
- The organization's capacity to collect and report service and client demographic data
- The organization's capacity to rapid and efficient use of funds

2) Program Description
- What practical support services does your organization currently offer?
- What practical support services does your organization plan on expanding and offering with grant funding?
- What infrastructure does your organization have in place to implement practical support services?
- What organizational needs do you have to enhance your capacity to provide practical support services?
- What infrastructure does your organization have for financial management of funds provided directly to patients?
- What are your priority populations and what strategies do you employ to reach them?
- Please describe your commitment and plans to advance equity and/or reduce disparities through project activities.
- How do you currently and/or plan to coordinate with practical support/abortion funds and providers in other states?

3) Budget
- Applicants must submit a budget using Practical Support Budget Worksheet provided in the online application portal.
- Indirect costs of 10% of total project budget may be included in the funding request.
- Other sources of funding for practical support services

HOW will funding be allocated?

The amount of an award shall be determined based on the amount of funds requested and the following criteria:

- The applicant's experience, capacity and infrastructure for delivering practical support services
- The relative need of the applicant
- The ability of the applicant to advance health equity
- Proven commitment to reducing disparities and abortion and reproductive health access, rights, and justice
- Demonstrated commitment to cultural, racial and SOGI (sexual orientation and gender identity) inclusivity
- Populations/communities served
- How applicant ensures physical and linguistic access to services
- Project description and narrative
- Capacity to collect and report service and client demographic data
- Capacity to make rapid and efficient use of funds

Reporting and additional requirements:

Essential Access is obligated by statute to submit annual reports to the California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) that reflect the scope and impact of the funding, and funding expenditures. HCAI is required to submit a report to the legislature that will be published and become part of the public record.

Organizations that receive grant awards will be required to submit progress and final reports. Essential Access will provide templates for financial and periodic project reporting, along with opportunities to share stories describing project impact through videos and/or written testimonials. Grantees will submit semi-annual progress reports within 30 days of the 5-month mark and within 30 days of the conclusion of the funding cycle.

All projects must include an evaluation component that includes 10 hours of staff time per 12-month grant cycle to participate in Essential Access-led grantee meetings, interviews and other fact-finding activities to share information and gather qualitative data about successes and challenges encountered throughout the project period.

General additional information:

Questions about the RFP may be submitted to: CAReproHealthEquity@essentialaccess.org **by 5pm Pacific Time April 28, 2023.** We will respond to questions by email as they are submitted. An application FAQ will be posted on Essential Access Health's website on May 3, 2023.

ONLINE APPLICATION
Applications due May 19, 2023

About Essential Access

Essential Access was established in Los Angeles in 1968, grounded in the belief that the ability to plan our families and futures and make informed, autonomous choices about our sexual and reproductive health are essential for overall health and well-being. More than fifty years later, our 2021 – 2024 Strategic Framework builds upon our long-standing commitment to making access to high quality, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services and information a reality for everyone – regardless of income, race, age, gender identity or sexual orientation, zip code, insurance or documentation status. We recognize that in order to truly advance our mission, we must address the root causes of sexual and reproductive health disparities head-on. Our Principles of Equity + Roadmap for Action provides an overview of our efforts to ensure that the future of sexual and reproductive health care is more inclusive, just, and equitable. Learn more at www.essentialaccess.org.