

Abortion Practical Support Grant Program – FAQ

Eligibility:

Q: Can for-profit clinics/providers that offer services to individuals/patients with lower-incomes apply for funding?

A: No, state law that established the Abortion Practical Support grant program stipulates that only non-profit organizations in California are eligible to apply for funding.

Q: Do practical support services need to be already established to apply for funding? Can grant funding be used to establish new services?

A: Grant funding may be used to establish new practical support services. Funding decisions will be based on funding/scoring criteria including need for funding, and infrastructure in place to make effective and rapid use of grant funding.

Q: Can practical support services be applied to patients seeking and accessing medication abortion care?

A: Yes, grant funding may be used to support access to abortion care, regardless of the type of abortion services delivered/received.

Q: Can grant funding be used to rent space?

A: Office/location rental expenses are considered indirect costs. Applicants may include indirect costs in their budgets. Indirect costs may not exceed 10% of the total program budget.

Q: Can grant funding be used to purchase new platforms or services?

A: Grant funding may be leveraged to support platforms and services that are directly related to practical support services provided and advance equitable access to abortion care. Translation services and platforms are allowable expenses.

Q: Can grant funding supporting staff training be used only for internal (Practical Support grantee) staff or can it be used to provide trainings to external partners who provide care (medical or mental health) to individuals who have received abortion care?

A: This would not be an allowable use of funding. The purpose of the grant funding is to provide direct practical support to individuals seeking abortion care, and bolster organizational capacity to offer and enhance the practical support services they provide.

Q: Are abortion funds who assist with covering costs associated with abortion care but who do not provide practical support eligible for this grant funding?

A: Funding may not be used to cover the cost of abortion care. The intent of the Practical Support grant program is to link patients to care through activities like transportation, lodging, etc. The Uncompensated Care fund is intended to help Medi-Cal enrolled medical providers cover costs specifically associated with abortion or contraceptive care delivered in California to eligible clients.

Budget:

Q: Is there a preferred budget breakdown for direct practical support, care coordination and navigation staff, etc.?

A: Applicants may complete and submit the provided budget worksheet based on the organization's established need for funding and practical support services provided.

Q: Will there be supporting documentation needed for line items included in the budget?

A: Grant expenditures will be reported through progress and final reports through narrative and financial report templates provided. Upon signing grant program agreements, grantees will attest to reporting expenditures accurately in alignment with program and statutory requirements, and activities/expenditures outlined in their scope of work and budgets.

Q: If funding is not spent-down during the project period, will there be an extension or will remaining funds have to be returned?

Grantees will receive 50% of the amount awarded at the beginning of the project period. The second disbursement of funding and funding amounts may be adjusted based on funding spend-downs reported in the first reporting period. The expectation is that all funds awarded will be utilized to advance grant program goals and support allowable activities.

Q: Will the second half of project funding be dispensed up front and reimbursed at the end of the project period?

A: The first half of grant funding will be dispensed at the start of the project period. The second half of project funding will be dispensed in January 2025.

Q: Our organization receives financial support from another source to cover provision of direct practical support services. Can we apply for institutional support only?

A: There is no required allocation for direct practical support versus institutional support. Each application will be evaluated in accordance with the published rubric and in the context of the applicant pool.

Q: Does an after-hours phone line count as a “communication platform or system”?

A: Yes, an after-hours phone line is considered a communication platform.

Reporting + Grantee Expectations

Q: Are there mandatory meetings that grantees must participate in?

A: Grantees will be required to participate in a minimum of two grantee network and two individual meetings with members of the program team per program year to share progress, challenges, and best practices.

Q: What will grant reporting look like? Will there be reporting templates provided?

A: Grantees will be required to report on the number of individuals served and the types of practical support services provided, and basic demographic information. Financial reporting will also be required to report how funds were leveraged. Report templates will be provided and reviewed during the program kick-off meeting that will be scheduled soon after grant agreements are fully executed and funding is distributed.

Q: Are there program guidelines or requirements regarding practical support services for individuals that do not access the abortion care they were scheduled to receive?

A: The number of individuals served and all practical support services provided in good faith must be reported through progress and final report templates. Grantees are expected to have systems and infrastructure in place to ensure that grant funds are used effectively. Best practices for direct practical support will be shared during grantee network and individual meetings. Additional technical assistance may be provided as needed and requested.