

leveraging collaboration to end domestic violence

frequently asked questions

1. Eligibility, Application and Award Questions

The RFP eligibility requirements state that applicant collaborations must “primarily serve Californians.” Can the applying organization be based outside of California, but apply to do work specifically in California?

As a general rule, our Foundation seeks to fund collaborations in a manner that works best for them to achieve desired planning and/or program outcomes that benefit California populations. It is possible for the applying organization to be based outside of California as long as the work of the collaborative will be focused on Californians.

How many grants will Blue Shield of California award?

The final number will range, depending on the amounts requested in the final pool of grants. That said, we're hoping to fund up to 10 awards.

Is the funding for the RFP per year or for the entire grant term of two (2) years?

These grants will range, in total, from \$200,000 - \$400,000 for a two year term. So \$100k - 200k per year.

How many sectors must be included in the project in order to be considered “multisector”?

We are focused on tackling the complexity of what is driving domestic violence and we know from the research, that domestic violence is driven by multiple drivers. Therefore, to get to that potential for systems change, we'd like to see proposals that engage at least three different sectors in prevention. The thinking is that when there is collaboration across sectors to change systems, then there is potential for lasting change in preventing domestic violence.

How are you defining “sector”?

We're defining sectors very broadly – for example, health care, housing, criminal justice, education, etc. Our goal is to encourage collaboration across these distinct sectors, as they hold influence to change the conditions that, together, contribute to domestic violence

Will BSCF announce the pending Value of Prevention grantees before this proposal is due? Will applicants funded under that RFP be eligible to receive funding under this one if the project is different?

Yes. We realize that we have multiple offerings out in the field that are staggered at this moment. We are deferring to you to look at the different offerings that are being released to see where there is the most alignment from a strategy perspective on what it is you're trying to accomplish. If you've applied for the Value of Prevention RFP, you are not excluded from being eligible for this particular offering.

How do you also determine the fiscal sponsor's capacity to manage the fund size?

We will look to the budget related and financial health documents (proposal budget, budget narrative, designated applicant 990 forms, etc.) that are required as part of the proposal submission.

How many people are you wanting to impact with these grants? How many grants will you be awarding?

We do not have a minimum target number; however, if our goal is to push towards systems change, then we are interested in how multisector collaboration can change systems, conditions and structures that have potential to impact a particular population.

What types of organizations may apply for this opportunity?

Collaboratives should designate one organization to submit a nonprofit. Designated applicant organizations must be tax-exempt under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code (IRC) and defined as a public charity under 509(a) 1, 2, or 3 (types I, II, or a functionally integrated type III) or be a governmental, tribal, or public entity.

Are there target locations in California that you are looking to fund with this RFP?

No.

In reviewing the online application, the list of questions on page 9 of the RFP was presented as a Word document. Are we answering those questions in the Word doc and uploading them?

Yes, please cut and paste the questions on page 9 and provide responses in narrative format in a Word document. Please upload the completed Word document as part of the proposal supporting documentation. If possible, please do not exceed 10 pages for this additional narrative.

Are Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) or letters of support required with our submission?

If existing MOUs exist, please include them; however, there is no need to create MOUs for the purposes of the application.

If we have applied for the Value of Prevention grant with a project that calls for drawing together groups, can we apply for this with a similar proposal? I think I might just be a bit unclear on the distinctions between the two RFPs.

The Value of Prevention RFP is about advancing new ways of thinking about prevention and how we may increase the value proposition of prevention through research and testing of new methods. This RFP is also focused on prevention, but specifically focused on prevention of domestic violence and implementation of strategies and systems changes that will drive towards prevention. We would encourage direct outreach to Foundation staff, if there are questions related to a specific proposal idea.

2. Programmatic Questions

For family focused prevention, should services address the "individual" within the family or the "family" (as the client)?

Our focus will be on what you are proposing as far as the prevention approach. The intended outcome of this offering is to better understand how to influence the systems and the structures that drive violence, less so specific services. Proposals that include services must have a primary focus on prevention, whether that be at the family level or the individual. We are most interested in how the collaborative will bring together different sectors to address prevention towards whatever it is you are trying to accomplish, be it at the family or individual level.

What are a couple of examples of how governance of the collaboration could look like?

We would suggest looking at the [Collective Impact](#) model as a popular multisector collaboration model, with some more detail on governance [here](#) and [here](#). We are not prescribing a particular model of collaboration for this RFP offering. Rather, we are looking to you to organize in a way that you feel would allow for optimal governance of your collaborative.

Can RFP applications be focused on addressing the cultural issues that lead to domestic violence among a specific population, i.e., African American males?

We are keenly aware of the role of cultural norms and history that drive domestic violence and we absolutely see those as levers for systems change. We would encourage a focus on systems – how is your program changing the systems and conditions or norms that perpetuate domestic violence in the African American community? Our focus is on making lasting change, so it will be important that the program is not purely focused on services or a specific intervention, but engaging the systems that influence the drivers you're seeing.

Does the RFP need to provide direct services also or can it focus on developing an evidence base for a new method?

The application does not necessarily need to include direct services. We would be very excited and interested in learning about new methods. One of the three big questions we are trying to explore in this RFP is how we can collectively inform new thinking and approaches around prevention of domestic violence.

Will innovative new partnerships be considered?

Yes, we would be interested in both existing, changing or newer collaboratives focused on prevention of domestic violence.

Could you speak a little on how much we need to know/have in place at application time versus using a planning phase?

It will be critical to convey that members of your collaborative have expressed commitment to participation. Having funded work in multisector collaboration, we know and also appreciate how difficult it can be to start a collaborative from scratch. And we also understand that's longer than a two-year process. That's why we are very interested in collaboratives that do have some track record and some experience in participating in multisector collaborations as well as some commitment from those who will participate in the collaborative. Beyond that, we would be very interested in understanding the pieces in place already, what has yet to be put into place and your plans for putting those pieces in place. The planning phase can include things like assessing where to focus, what the needs are, and developing those shared outcomes. The commitment and having that vehicle, or at least the beginnings of that vehicle pulled together, will important.

Can you give an example of what a diverse collaborative membership might look like?

Composition of your collaborative will vary based on who you feel the collaborative needs to include in order to yield the most success in what you are trying to accomplish. Ideally, there will be inclusion of new voices that are working in the

domestic violence sector and outside of the domestic violence sector. Most importantly, collaboratives should include those who have influence and authority to enact whatever it is the collaborative is trying to do. In addition, we feel it's important to center the lived experience of those most impacted by this issue. We encourage you to include the stakeholders who are most critical to yield the most success of what the collaborative is proposing.

What do you mean by “technical support” Can you elaborate?

We refer to "technical support" as "technical assistance". In addition to the grants that will be awarded to selected grantees, our Foundation is also planning to offer specialized support, in the form of technical assistance, that grantees might want. For example, perhaps grantees will want some support related to data collection, or communication or engaging those with lived experience.

Can part of the "planning" phase be reaching out to other collaborative members?

Yes. Part of the planning does mean setting up what your structure is and reaching out to the right players and we recognize that that can take some time. In the application itself, it would be helpful to outline who is committed so far so we have a sense of how far you are in that process, because starting from scratch is different than starting from having a few members identified already. So yes, part of the planning process can include reaching out to other collaboratives members and engaging with them though we would want to see evidence of some commitments already.

Is it required that the proposal address all 4 principles (family-focused, healing and prevention, long-term systems transformation, lived experience & community)?

It is not required that proposals address all four principles; however, the Foundation highly values these principles as critical to advancing our strategies to drive prevention of domestic violence.

Can you share more examples/illustrations of types of systems change that the foundation is striving for?

The Foundation has come to describe systems change as shifting the conditions that hold a problem in place. This definition comes from a recent paper which may offer more helpful examples, with descriptions of the 6 Conditions of Systems Change (The Water of Systems Change, June 2018).

3. Outcomes, Learning and Evaluation Questions

To what extent is there expectation that proposals achieve measurable outcomes related to prevention? Process measures seem more likely if focus is on systems change related to primary prevention.

We recognize that systems change takes time. We also recognize that in order to maintain momentum and trust within impacted communities, systems change that is visible is what's most meaningful. Within the proposal, it will be helpful to understand how you are thinking about measurable outcomes and what you are seeing is possible given what you are proposing, within the grant term and in the long term.

What are some of the reporting requirements?

Grantees will be asked to conduct a mid-grant report out of progress to date. The format of the report out has not yet been defined, but may include a written report, sharing learning via conference call with Foundation staff or via in-person cohort convening. All grantees will also be required to complete a final report that will be due approximately one month after the conclusion of the grant.

Within the two years, will grantees get together with all partners or lead agencies?

Yes. The Foundation plans to convene grantees for two in-person meetings within California – one in the San Francisco Bay Area and one in the Los Angeles area.

For the learning and evaluation component, is a formal research evaluation required?

We expect grantees to be tracking learning and progress throughout the grant term; however, the Foundation is not expecting grantees to conduct a formal research evaluation. The Foundation intends to explore and support an option for formal evaluation of the awarded cohort of grantees, and will engage grantees in that process as it develops.

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4. Budget Question

We're not exactly sure how funds might be spent in Year 2, how should we deal with that in our RFP response? In other words, how detailed does it need to be?

We understand that implementation phase will be informed by the planning phase. The budget and budget narrative for the implementation phase should include

estimates of allocations for key budget categories, for example, personnel, consulting, convening/meetings or events, etc.

Is funding restricted to new programming? Or can it support existing collaborative efforts?

Funding is not restricted to new programming and can be used to support existing collaborative efforts.

Can the budget include travel to meet with other grantees?

Yes. The Foundation plans to convene grantees for two in-person meetings within California – one in the San Francisco Bay Area and one in the Los Angeles area. Budget should reflect \$6,000 for 3-6 members of your collaborative to attend these events (\$3,000 in year 1, \$3,000 in year 2).

Where do we enter the budget? As an attachment or is there a section with a fill-in form?

The budget template is located within the Project Documents section of the Fluxx proposal template. This template should be downloaded, completed, and uploaded back into the Project Documents section, with the budget narrative.

Contact Information

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