

Expanding Collaborative Capacity to Prevent Domestic Violence

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT



CALL FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST

**** All Letters of Interest (LOIs) are due by Monday, August 6, 2018 at 5pm PST****

July 2018

**PREVENTION
INSTITUTE**

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**FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT
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ANNOUNCEMENT

Prevention Institute and Blue Shield of California Foundation are pleased to announce a new funding opportunity entitled, “**Expanding Collaborative Capacity to Prevent Domestic Violence.**” This planning and capacity-building grants program will award five collaboratives across California \$50,000 each, for a one-year period, to integrate community-level, domestic violence prevention into their local work. These five collaboratives will receive funding and technical assistance to deepen their shared understanding of community conditions that contribute to domestic violence and those that can promote safe relationships; leverage strengths and broaden engagement of local organizations; and adopt strategies that create community environments that are conducive to safe relationships and domestic violence prevention. Awardees will also participate in a learning community.

We are looking to fund and partner with collaboratives that: are well-established and functioning with a high degree of trust; are comprised of representatives from the communities of focus and a variety of sectors; have a track record and/or focus on improving community conditions from a prevention perspective; and, do not explicitly or primarily focus on domestic violence, but see value in integrating community-level domestic violence prevention into their work at this time.

With the understanding that *preventing* domestic violence means supporting safe relationships in healthy, equitable communities, we are seeking well-established collaboratives that are addressing community conditions such as affordable housing, economic development, immigration rights, climate change, etc., and that are not focused primarily on coordination of domestic violence intervention services. While coordinated domestic violence intervention services are vitally necessary, this grants program is focused on community-level prevention to cultivate environments that support safe relationships and prevent domestic violence. This means influencing the community-level factors that contribute to domestic violence, including: norms that perpetuate gender inequities and other inequities in relationships; weak social networks that result in distrust and isolation; insufficient action to address domestic violence at the community level; retail environments with high alcohol outlet density and harmful marketing practices; and housing and economic insecurity. The grant program will support communities that are most impacted by domestic violence to bring together multiple sectors with range of perspectives and capabilities to influence these community-level factors and facilitate broad and holistic community change.

This funding approach is rooted in research and practice,ⁱⁱ and is designed to facilitate innovation and learning. It is also a part of a new strategic direction for Blue Shield of California Foundation. Therefore, this program also includes an explicit focus on learning together, and capturing lessons and implications that can inform future domestic violence prevention efforts in California.

Please review this entire document to understand the vision, expected outcomes, and requirements, as well as the application instructions and review criteria. Note that this is a two-step process beginning with this letter of interest (LOI). If your collaborative is selected from LOIs submitted, you will be invited to submit a full grant proposal. Five finalists will then be selected and notified mid-October. The grant period will run from November 1, 2018 through October 31, 2019.

**** All Letters of Interest (LOIs) are due by Monday, August 6, 2018 at 5pm PST****

Please direct all questions to: Abena Asare, Program Assistant at abena@preventioninstitute.org.

ABOUT THE FUNDERS

Prevention Institute

Prevention Institute (PI) is a focal point for primary prevention, dedicated to fostering health, safety, and equity by taking action to build resilience and to prevent problems in the first place. A national nonprofit with offices in Oakland, Los Angeles, and Washington D.C., we advance strategies, provide training and technical assistance, transform research into practice, and support collaboration across sectors to catalyze innovation, advance policy and systems change, and build momentum for prevention, wellbeing, and health equity. Since its founding in 1997, Prevention Institute has focused on transforming communities by advancing community prevention, health equity, injury and violence prevention, healthy eating and active living environments, health system transformation, and mental health and wellbeing. For more information visit: www.preventioninstitute.org.

Blue Shield of California Foundation

Blue Shield of California Foundation is one of the state's largest and most trusted grantmaking organizations. Our mission is to improve the lives of all Californians, particularly the underserved, by building lasting and equitable solutions that make California the healthiest state with the lowest rates of domestic violence. The Foundation was formed by Blue Shield of California, a not-for-profit corporation with more than 3.3 million members, 5,000 employees, and 16 offices throughout California. For more information visit: www.blueshieldcafoundation.org.

GRANT STRUCTURE & REQUIREMENTS

Funding

This funding opportunity provides a one-time, \$50,000 planning and capacity building grant for a 12-month period beginning November 1, 2018 through October 31, 2019. Funds will be awarded to a lead agency (a nonprofit organization with a 501c3 status, or a public agency). While we understand that some collaboratives may have multiple lead agencies, we request the designation of one agency as the lead for this grant. It is expected that funds will be dispersed and/or shared appropriately to ensure active participation by all members, and to compensate any new members or advisors as needed. Collaborative expenses, including project staffing, meetings, and activities and fees associated with data collection and analysis, consultation, etc., should be covered by the grant funds, but participation in required out-of-area technical assistance meetings (including a kick-off meeting and a closing convening in Oakland, California) will be covered by Prevention Institute.

Expected Outcomes

This grant is intended to support planning and capacity-building activities for collaboratives to reach a common understanding and a shared commitment to community-level domestic violence prevention. It is designed to support collaboratives in efforts that acknowledge how domestic violence interrelates with other community priorities, help to break down issue siloes, and facilitate a holistic, integrated, and sustainable approach to community health, safety, and wellbeing. Through the capacity building and planning, the selected collaboratives will undergo several iterative stages of authentic inquiry and dialogue, community building, collaborative planning, and collective decision-making.

While specific activities may vary among grantees, given different community strengths, challenges, and opportunities, all grantees will achieve the following outcomes:

By the end of the grant period:

- ♦ Collaborative partners will have a greater shared understanding of the extent, nature, and dynamics of domestic violence as a relationship and community issue.
- ♦ New partners will be recruited and/or current partnerships will be strengthened to reduce community-level risks and enhance community-level resilience to prevent domestic violence.
- ♦ Promotion of safe relationships and prevention of domestic violence from a community-level perspective will be adopted as ongoing collaborative priorities.
- ♦ Collaborative capacity and protocol will be developed and/or enhanced to address disclosures of past or current domestic violence that arise within the context of the collaborative's work.
- ♦ Workplans will be developed or updated to include new, community-level domestic violence prevention strategies and/or to integrate community-level domestic violence prevention components into existing strategies.
- ♦ Lessons learned and suggestions for how to approach this work will be reflected upon and shared with the statewide learning community.

Technical Assistance & Other Requirements for Participation

Throughout the year, lead organizations and collaborative members will participate in a variety of discussions with a learning community that includes Prevention Institute and Blue Shield of California Foundation. These discussions will help to identify key lessons and implications to inform future multi-sector domestic violence prevention efforts in California. Some engagement will be collaborative-specific, while others will be cross-collaborative, interactive sessions. Prevention Institute will organize and lead these activities, and more information, including the number and diversity of participants, will be communicated at a later date.

Required participation during the grant period includes:

- ♦ In-person kick-off convening held November 7-9, 2018 at Prevention Institute in Oakland California.
- ♦ Periodic, virtual community of practice meetings to promote cross-collaborative learning.
- ♦ Collaborative-tailored coaching and support led by Prevention Institute (e.g., monthly phone calls, site visits, and ongoing guidance).
- ♦ In-person closing convening to be held October of 2019.

Evaluation & Reporting

Because the focus of this grants program is planning and capacity building, the evaluation will emphasize capturing lessons learned, progress made toward expected outcomes, and recommendations for future efforts. In other words, to tell the story about "what happened" (including photos, stories, etc.) as the collaborative embarked on this new area, challenges and successes encountered along the way, and reflections on what worked, what did not, and what could be improved upon in the future. In addition to the collaborative's reporting, Prevention Institute will also track progress and insights along the way, as they are discussed in collaborative-specific technical assistance calls and other inter-collaborative meetings.

We would like the evaluation and reporting to be manageable and realistic for the size of the grant's expenses and activities, and are interested in ideas for how to approach it. The LOI does not require that collaboratives address evaluation. In the second application phase, we will ask for initial ideas. In finalizing grant agreements, we will agree on specific approaches and expectations for evaluation and reporting with each selected collaborative.

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

The quality and safety of our partner relationships have vast immediate and long-term physical, emotional, social, economic, and other impacts on our lives. Yet in California and across the country, violence in relationships is pervasive, creating harm for those directly affected, including children, as well as repercussions in the broader family and among community members. Domestic violence, also known as intimate partner violence, or partner violence, refers to physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, and psychological aggression, including coercive acts, by a current or former intimate partner.ⁱⁱⁱ More than 3.5 million Californians have experienced domestic violence as an adult, which is comparable to the population of Los Angeles – the most populous city in California. Domestic violence disproportionately affects young women, women with low household incomes, women of color, and LGBTQ+ individuals.

California has achieved success in shifting some norms and behaviors related to domestic violence through advocacy, organizing, healing, and social change efforts. For example, in a statewide California survey, 88% of participants from diverse demographic backgrounds stated that domestic violence is a serious problem in society right now.^{iv} This represents progress from decades ago when the issue was largely considered a private matter, not a serious social problem. Increasingly, community members, leaders, and organizations are calling for more significant investments in community-wide solutions that proactively support people in having safe relationships and families, with attention to reducing the racial, gender, and other systemic inequities that underlie violence.

This call for action is occurring in the context of growing understanding that addressing the determinants of health is critical for wellbeing and safety. The determinants of health refer to the broad set of factors that influence health and safety directly and that shape the environments in which we live, work and play. However, few initiatives focus on preventing domestic violence through addressing the determinants of health. With support from Blue Shield of California Foundation, and in partnership with representatives from multiple sectors, including domestic violence prevention advocates and researchers, Prevention Institute developed SAFE (Sectors Acting For Equity), a health equity and multisector approach to domestic violence prevention. Through this project Prevention Institute is working with leaders at the state and local levels to address the underlying determinants of domestic violence and build community environments that support safe relationships. By working with an unwavering commitment to safe relationships and equity across sectors and communities, collectively we can support safe and equitable relationships, families, and communities, and decrease domestic violence and inequities in rates of domestic violence.

The SAFE approach acknowledges that there isn't one model for achieving impact, but rather there are critical elements to consider while leveraging local assets and addressing needs.

Key elements of the SAFE approach include the following:

1. **Leading with health equity and social justice:** Precisely identifying and countering the unequal and unjust conditions that lead to domestic violence and inequities in violence and ensuring that community members drive prevention work.
2. **Change community conditions through underlying contributors:** Understanding “what’s happening to/in our communities” by looking at community-level factors* that increase the risk of domestic violence such as harmful norms, weak social networks and trust, and housing and economic insecurity.
3. **Promoting community resilience:** Focusing on enhancing community and cultural strengths to answer “how do we amplify what’s going well in the community?” This includes bolstering resilience at a community level* by supporting factors like healthy norms and culture; strong social networks; safe, affordable, and supportive housing; and economic opportunity.
4. **Collaborating across sectors and social movements:** Authentically engaging community members, culturally-rooted organizations committed to racial and gender equity, and various sectors such as family support, public health, community development, businesses/workplaces, etc.
5. **Attending to prevention and healing:** Seeking holistic solutions that reduce future violence while acknowledging and addressing the harms of current and past violence. This may mean integrating individual and community healing and accountability practices, e.g., healing circles and other culturally-rooted practices, restorative justice, and other practices.

Many multi-sector collaboratives and coalitions are implementing powerful strategies to create greater safety, wellbeing, and equity in communities across California. With many identifying domestic violence prevention as an emerging priority, or a long-standing unaddressed priority, there are many opportunities to more intentionally foster community environments that support safety in relationships and families throughout the State. As a result of the decades of tireless efforts among many, there are wonderful examples from which we can learn. Through continued partnership, innovation, and learning through this grant program and other similar efforts, there will be even greater diversity and creativity of approaches to multi-sector community-level domestic violence prevention throughout California.

To learn more about the background and context for this grant program, including definitions of terms used in this announcement, and examples of multi-sector community-level prevention, please visit: <http://www.preventioninstitute.org/publications/safe-approach-publications>.

APPLICATION PROCESS

This grant program includes a two-step application process, designed to be appropriate for its size, scope, and purpose:

- 1) Organizations must submit a Letter of Interest (LOI), with cover sheet and narrative information. See pages 9-11.
- 2) Selected LOI applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal application. Instructions for submitting a full proposal will be provided at that time and only to invited organizations.

* Visit <http://www.preventioninstitute.org/publications/safe-approach-publications> for full descriptions of community-level factors associated with domestic violence and safe relationships, and other materials.

Organizations must submit an LOI to qualify for participation in the funding opportunity.

Collaboratives that are invited to submit a full proposal application will be selected based on criteria described on pages 7-8. These collaboratives will be provided a template and have approximately four weeks to submit a full proposal. Brief interviews may be held with the top applicants by telephone. We anticipate that up to 5 collaboratives will be funded.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY & CRITERIA

Basic Eligibility

This grant program requires one agency to apply on behalf of the collaborative. While we understand that some collaboratives may have multiple lead agencies, we request the designation of one agency as the lead for this grant. The lead agency must be a current 501c3 organization or a public agency, have the ability to distribute financial and other resources to collaborative members, and assume responsibility for completing all grant reporting and administrative requirements. The lead organization listed on the LOI will receive all correspondences, and is expected to share information with collaborative members. While the lead agency will be responsible for grant management, it is intended that the leadership and responsibility for implementing the capacity building and planning work will be distributed throughout the collaborative.

Decision-Making Criteria

We seek to select a robust group of collaboratives that span the geographic diversity of the State, and to invest in communities and populations experiencing significant inequities in rates of domestic violence. We also seek to select groups that possess unique strengths and present opportunities for creativity and learning to help end domestic violence in California. In addition to these parameters, applicants will be considered according to the following criteria:

Commitment to Expand Capacity for Community-Level Domestic Violence Prevention:

- ♦ Collaborative is interested in moving from its current state of not explicitly or primarily focusing on domestic violence, toward building capacity to implement community-level domestic violence prevention.
- ♦ Collaborative has an interest in achieving the intended outcomes for this grant program, including participating in a statewide learning community and receiving guidance and support from Prevention Institute.
- ♦ Collaborative has initial insight into the community-level factors that contribute to and that can prevent domestic violence in the community.

Collaborative Strength and Capacity:

- ♦ Collaborative is well-established and has a track record and/or focus on improving community conditions from a prevention perspective (as compared to, for example, a focus on coordinated intervention services).
- ♦ Collaborative has diverse members, including representatives from the communities of focus and a variety of sectors.
- ♦ Collaborative has strong connections and ability to engage authentically with local community members and has earned and maintained trust.
- ♦ Collaborative currently has, or can develop, capacity and protocol to address disclosures of past or current domestic violence that arise within the context of the work.

- ♦ Collaborative has demonstrated ability to implement the grant, including distributing leadership, coordinating decision-making and action, attending to issues and challenges along the way, and participating in technical assistance and inter-grantee meetings.

Lead Agency Capacity:

- ♦ Lead agency is a current 501c3 organization or a public agency with the ability to distribute financial and other resources to collaborative members, and to assume responsibility for completing all grant management, reporting, and administrative requirements.

ALLOWABLE COSTS

Letters of Interest (LOI) should discuss generally how awarded funds will be used. More specific budget information will be asked of organizations invited to submit a full proposal application.

Expenditures, such as these listed below, are eligible through this funding:

- ♦ Personnel costs for staff who will implement or enhance the effectiveness of the project.
- ♦ Costs related to data collection and analysis, engagement of community members and other stakeholders, and dissemination of findings.
- ♦ Costs related to local networking, including collaboration, planning, community building, training, consultation, and learning exchange.
- ♦ Stipends and/or reimbursements for new/additional collaborative partners and planning/capacity building participants.
- ♦ Costs related to hiring facilitators and/or local technical assistance providers.
- ♦ Office space or other supporting facilities rental.

The following expenditures are not eligible under this grant:

- ♦ Institutional overhead costs.
- ♦ Tuition and professional membership dues.
- ♦ Capital costs, including costs associated with construction and renovation.
- ♦ Secondary grants or awards issued by the award recipient.

KEY DATES

Funding announcement released	Monday, July 9
Webinar on funding announcement & LOI	Thursday, July 12, 1-2 pm PST
Deadline to submit LOI	Monday, August 6, 5pm PST
Invitations to submit full proposal application sent to selected applicants	Monday, August 27
Deadline for full proposal application	Monday, September 24, 5pm PST
Funding award announcement	Friday, October 12
Grant period begins	Thursday, November 1
Kick-off meeting in Oakland	Dinner on November 7, all day November 8, and morning of November 9

QUESTIONS?

All correspondence and questions relating to this announcement should be submitted to: Abena Asare, Program Assistant, at abena@preventioninstitute.org.

We encourage interested parties to participate in an **informational webinar** on **Thursday, July 12th from 1 to 2pm Pacific Time**. Register at <https://calcasa.ilinc.com/register/rkwbphy>. Please note that the registration page is called, "CALCASA Web Conference Services." The webinar will be recorded and posted on our website at <https://www.preventioninstitute.org/projects/expanding-collaborative-capacity-prevent-domestic-violence>. As appropriate, questions that are submitted by email and during the webinar will be posted with responses on our website at <https://www.preventioninstitute.org/projects/expanding-collaborative-capacity-prevent-domestic-violence>.

For information about other Blue Shield of California funding opportunities, visit <https://www.blueshieldcafoundation.org>.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

To Submit a Letter of Interest (LOI)

- ♦ All LOIs are due no later than **5:00 PM PST on Monday, August 6, 2018**.
- ♦ Please email completed LOI to: abena@preventioninstitute.org.
- ♦ Please write subject line as follows: **LOI DV Prevention – Name of Collaborative – August 2018**.
- ♦ Late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted.
- ♦ Please do not provide any supplemental materials at this time.

Format Guidelines

LOIs must adhere to the following guidelines:

- ♦ Microsoft Word or PDF format.
- ♦ Cover sheet and all narrative sections completed.
- ♦ Narrative section not exceeding 3 pages total in length
- ♦ Minimum 11-point Calibri font; minimum of 1" margin on all sides of each page.
- ♦ Collaborative name and page number included on pages in header.

Cover Sheet

Please include the following information as the first page of your LOI:

Collaborative:

- ♦ Name of collaborative
- ♦ Names of collaborative members and the communities and sectors they represent. (This can be included as an attachment at the end of the document, and does not count toward the narrative page limit.)
- ♦ Year established
- ♦ Mission statement (or similar overarching statement of purpose)
- ♦ Geographic area and communities / populations of focus. Please also indicate the region

within California (i.e., Northern, Bay Area, Central, Los Angeles, or Southern).

- ♦ Statement committing to having up to 5 collaborative members representing the lead agency and key partners attend the kick-off meeting in Oakland, November 7-9, 2018.

Lead agency:

- ♦ Name of organization
- ♦ Length of time serving as lead agency
- ♦ Contact Person
 - Name
 - Title / position
 - Phone number
 - Email address
- ♦ Website address
- ♦ Mailing address

Narrative Section

Please answer each of the questions below and include the question numbers and corresponding letters/sub-numbers. The narrative section should not exceed 3 pages total in length.

1. Community

- A. Define and describe the community and population of focus, including examples of community strengths and assets that may assist with this project.
- B. Provide some evidence of the extent and nature of domestic violence in the community.
- C. Describe your current understanding of some community-level factors that may contribute to domestic violence in the community, and community-level factors that may support safe relationships.

2. Applicant Strength and Capacity

- A. Describe the collaborative's most significant current priorities and activities.
- B. Describe some unique collaborative strengths and assets that may support the work.
- C. Describe the membership and governance structure of the collaborative, including how decisions are made and how new members are identified and on-boarded.
- D. Describe how the collaborative has earned and maintained connections, trust, and the ability to engage authentically with local community members.
- E. Provide an example of how the collaborative has conducted planning and capacity building, and outcomes that have been achieved as a result of those efforts.
- F. Provide an example of a successful community-level change effort undertaken from a prevention perspective (as compared to, for example, a response or intervention perspective) and outcomes that have been achieved as a result of those efforts.
- G. Describe the collaborative's capacity to implement the grant, including distributing leadership, coordinating decision-making and action, attending to issues and challenges along the way, and participating in technical assistance and inter-grantee meetings.
- H. State if the lead agency is a current 501c3 organization or a public agency, and describe its capacity to complete grant management, fiscal, and administrative requirements.

3. Commitment to Expand Capacity for Community-Level Domestic Violence Prevention

- A. Discuss why the collaborative is interested in participating in this project. Include an

explanation of why it is interested in moving from its current state of not explicitly or primarily focusing on domestic violence, to build capacity to implement community-level domestic violence prevention.

- B. Describe some initial ideas for how the collaborative would begin to pursue each of the expected outcomes described on page 4 of this announcement.
- C. Describe some ideas of the technical assistance the collaborative anticipates needing during the grant period.

4. Budget

- A. Describe major budget areas anticipated from a \$50,000 grant for this project.

REFERENCES

ⁱ Niolon, PH, Kearns, M, Dills, J, Rambo, K, Irving, S, Armstead, T, & Gilbert, L. (2017). Preventing Intimate Partner Violence Across the Lifespan: A Technical Package of Programs, Policies, and Practices. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

ⁱⁱ Prevention Institute. (2017). A Health Equity and Multisector Approach to Preventing Domestic Violence. Oakland, CA: Author.

ⁱⁱⁱ Breiding MJ, Basile KC, Smith SG, Black MC, Mahendra RR. (2015.) Intimate Partner Violence Surveillance: Uniform Definitions and Recommended Data Elements, Version 2.0. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

^{iv} Blue Shield of California Foundation. (2017.) Californians' Views on Gender, Sexism, and Domestic Violence Survey Findings. San Francisco, CA: Author.