

Advancing Oral Health Equity in California 2027-2030 Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Q1: Will it be possible to carry forward unspent funds from the 2022-2027 grant cycle to the 2027-2030 grant cycle?

A: No, unspent funds from the 2022–2027 grant cycle cannot be carried over into the 2027–2030 cycle. While this was allowed in the past, recent fiscal changes no longer permit such reallocations.

Q2: Will OOH redistribute funding to the Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs) that apply, if there are some Local Oral Health Programs (LOHP) that decline funding?

A: OOH will monitor any remaining funds and assess next steps.

Q3: Will there be any budget restrictions such as mandatory categories or line items? Is there a minimum full-time employee (FTE) percentage?

A: OOH does not anticipate imposing restrictions, other than state and statutory requirements, on how the allocation can be spent. Our goal is to provide maximum flexibility to support your local priorities in alignment with overall program objectives.

Q4: Will the FTE for the Project Director be flexible?

A: Yes, it will be flexible.

Q5: Will the upcoming Request for Application (RFA) include any mandatory travel requirements for LOHPs?

A: The RFA will outline travel expectations and will include detailed budget and justification instructions to help LOHPs plan accordingly.

Q6: If a LOHP contracts with a community-based organization, non-profit, or other approved entity, what are the guidelines for how the Prop 56 funds can be spent?

A: Detailed budget and budget justification instructions will be included in the Request for Application. A subgrantee/consultant must meet the following criteria: 1) is a government entity or a nonprofit organization, 2) possesses a level of expertise that extends beyond that held by LOHP staff, 3) supports the skills and effort of the LOHP staff but does not duplicate those skills or effort, and 4) completes a specialized task that is directly related to the project's work plan activities.

Q7: If a regional approach is chosen, is there a prescribed way in which the funds must be distributed?

A: OOH intends to allow flexibility in how LOHPs participating in a regional approach decide to allocate funding for the implementation of oral health programs across all partnering jurisdictions. The proposed distribution of funds should align with the selected objectives and activities.

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Q8: Will LOHPs be permitted to continue using some of the funding for KOHA stipends?

A: OOH is currently updating program letter guidance.

Q9: With the 50% reduction to our funding, do LOHPs have flexibility to use FY 26/27 remaining funding to build an inventory moving into FY 27/30?

A: Budget requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Requests must demonstrate clear alignment with approved work plan. Flexibility will depend on the justification directly supporting work plan activities and outcomes.

Q10: Will the ability to rollover unspent funds be brought back for the 2027-2030 grant cycle?

A: This will be dependent on Prop 56 revenues and budget projections.

Q11: Is there any flexibility to modify the indirect cost rate?

A: The indirect cost rate is negotiated between CDPH and LHJs. Your grant manager can provide the latest copy.

Q12: What is the timeline for the new grant cycle application process?

A: The RFA will provide the deadlines for submitting but the tentative dates are:

- April 1, 2026 – RFA released
- April - May 2026 – OOH will hold office hours for instruction and to answer questions.
- May 1, 2026 – Mandatory submission of letter of intent due
- June 1, 2026 – Grant application due
- June 2026 - January 2027 – Co-develop workplans
- September 1, 2026 – Grant recipients announced
- January - June 2027 – LOHPs to secure board approval
- July 1, 2027 – Launch of new 3-year grant

Q13: Who can apply for the RFA? Is it competitive?

A: The grants are non-competitive and only existing grantees may apply.

Q14: For flexible funding options, it was mentioned to give a portion to CDPH to handle certain functions. Could CDPH give a portion to LHJ to handle certain statewide contracts?

A: OOH will consider proposals by LHJs.

Q15: When are applications due and what will need be submitted?

A: Applications are due June 1, 2026. Similar to previous grant cycles, the application will include a scope of work, narrative summary, and a proposed budget, along with some administrative forms and a checklist to ensure the application package is complete. Required documents are limited to only those necessary for processing a new grant.

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Q16: Could OOH clarify whether LOHP funding levels will remain consistent throughout FY 2027–2030?

A: This will be dependent on Prop 56 revenues and budget projections.

Q17: If our LOHP wanted to consider a regional approach, how many LOHPs should we partner with? If there is not a suggested number of LOHPs, could an example be LOHPs that are served by the same FQHC or Medi-Cal managed care plan?

A: LOHPs will have flexibility to determine what a regional approach looks like. There is no required or recommended number of LOHPs to partner with. Programs may propose a partnership structure that best supports their local needs and capacity.

Q18: We currently contract as our County Office of Education, but our department is also a nonprofit. Can this be changed?

A: Please provide more information to your grant manager.

Q19: What's the criteria to be considered a region?

A: OOH does not define regions and will not impose restrictions on any groupings.

Q20: Regarding flexible application options, can LOHPs select multiple provided options? For example, can they combine with another LOHP for a regional approach and give a portion to CDPH to take on evaluation functions?

A: Yes, LOHPs will have flexibility to identify and propose this type of approach.

Q21: When choosing a priority area, are LOHPs expected to address all the activities listed under that priority, or can they focus on only one of the listed activities?

A: OOH will work collaboratively with each LOHP to develop a workplan that aligns with local needs and capacity. There is flexibility—LOHPs are not required to implement every activity listed under a priority. Workplans will be tailored, allowing LOHPs to determine which activities within a priority are most appropriate for their community.

Q22: Among the possible "flexible" objectives provided, how many are LOHPs expected to select?

A: LOHPs are expected to choose from the list of objectives by selecting at least one objective and associated activities, ensuring alignment with program requirements while allowing flexibility to address local needs.

Q23: Will we choose only one priority population/area?

A: Not necessarily. LOHPs will have flexibility to design a program that meets the community's needs.

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Q24: Will LOHPs, with support from OOH, be responsible for developing a workplan that is tailored to the specific needs of the communities they serve?

A: Yes, a template and guidance are expected to be released in June 2026.

Q25: How will the 2027-30 scope of work look? Will we receive a template from OOH to select objectives and activities?

A: The RFA will include Exhibit A, Scope of Work. Each objective will have suggested activities with the option to add other activities not already included. A separate workplan will be co-developed between the LOHP and OOH. A template and guidance will be provided in June 2026.

Q26: Why are LOHPs still required to complete a CHIP given the new context and structure of the upcoming grant cycle?

A: The CHIP remains a requirement of the current grant and helps guide alignment with priorities in the upcoming RFA. OOH has previously provided guidance to streamline this process, including the option to integrate oral health questions into your LHJ's broader public health CHIP instead of maintaining a stand-alone version.

Q27: Will LOHPs be required to do a Needs Assessment update and CHIP in the next grant cycle?

A: Yes, an updated Needs Assessment and CHIP will be required in the next grant cycle as deliverables.

Q28. What can LOHPs expect regarding funding and workplan deliverables in the upcoming grant cycle?

A: LOHPs can expect increased flexibility in the next workplan. Based on community needs, each LOHP will identify and propose the approach that works best locally.

Q29. When will the state hold informational meetings regarding the upcoming 2027-2030 grant cycle?

A. OOH held a webinar on February 24th to share information about the upcoming grant cycle and take questions. We will also discuss this work at the Project Directors Meeting on March 5th. Following the release of the RFA, OOH will hold office hours to provide guidance on completing the application package and answer additional questions LOHPs may have.

Q30: Will OOH continue to support COHTAC and SCOHR?

A: This will depend on Prop 56 revenues and budget projections.

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Q31: Will the UCSF Dental Residents be available for future projects working with LHJs as they were previously?

A: UCSF and LOHPs can decide which projects dental residents can work on.

Q32: Will LOHPs be required to submit an annual data form in the next cycle?

A: Yes, there will be an annual data reporting requirement, and it will depend on selected objectives and activities in the scope of work.