

Advancing Oral Health Equity in California 2027-2030 Office Hours April 23 and May 6, 2026 Questions and Answers

1. **Q:** Will the Office Hours slides be shared with the Local Oral Health Programs (LOHPs)?

A: Yes, the presentation slides are being sent with this document and will also be posted to the California Oral Health Technical Assistance Center (COHTAC) website.

2. **Q:** Will the grant agreement number in the 2027–30 grant cycle be the same as the FY 2022–27 grant cycle?

A: No. Each grant cycle is issued under a new grant agreement, so the 2027–30 cycle will have a different agreement number than the FY 2022–27 cycle.

3. **Q:** Can all grant funds be used to cover personnel costs (e.g., Project Lead)?

A: Yes, this is a possible approach.

4. **Q:** If some LOHPs opt out of applying for funding, will unclaimed funds be divided between other LOHPs?

A: This is not applicable as all LOHPs intend to apply for funding.

5. **Q:** Who should LOHPs reach out to for questions about the Exhibit A – Scope of Work?

A: Please reach out to your assigned program consultant (PC).

6. **Q:** What is the minimum full-time equivalent (FTE) requirement for the Project Lead?

A: There is not a minimum FTE requirement. We recommend ensuring enough staff is allocated to ensure adequate oversight and completion of selected objectives and activities.

7. **Q:** Are the amounts in Appendix 2 – LOHP RFA Funding Table annual amounts?

A: Yes, the amounts in Appendix 2 are the annual funding amounts. The total award for the three-year grant cycle is this amount multiplied by 3.

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8. **Q:** Are the thresholds for minor and major equipment fixed at <\$5,000 and >\$5,000, respectively?

A: Yes, these amounts are established by CDPH Asset Management and must be used. All purchased equipment requires the completion and submission of form CDPH 1203 to your LOHP's grant manager (GM).

9. **Q:** Will LOHPs be allowed to carry forward funds from year to year?

A: Due to current budget constraints, carryforward will not be allowed.

10. **Q:** Can food and refreshments be purchased as a consumable incentive? What about for ReThink Your Drink activities?

A: The most recent guidance from CDPH indicates that "food (e.g. sponsored lunch or dinner at provider education sessions, brown bag lunches, or buffets at screening events, etc.)" are not allowable expenses. Food and drink items used for **educational purposes** (ie taste-testing, sampling, demonstrations) may be allowable. Please contact your PC for further clarity, as purchase of food or drink may need to be evaluated on case-by-case basis, and should be in compliance with any local food purchasing restrictions.

11. **Q:** It was mentioned that Stuff We All Get (SWAG) is not an allowable expense. What items are considered SWAG?

A: SWAG includes free promotional items for health promotion events such as pens, mugs, t-shirts, posters, key chains, bumper stickers, etc. This provision is in accordance with the California State Constitution, Article 16, section 6, which prohibits any gifting of public funds. Additional information can be found [here](#).

Toothbrush/toothpaste, dental kits, etc. are not considered SWAG and are allowable budget items.

12. **Q:** What is the guidance for budgeting indirect costs?

A: Indirect cost rates (ICR) cannot exceed the specified maximum percentage rate stated in the approved [annual CDPH ICR](#) and should not exceed 25% unless exempt by CDP.

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13. Q: When are the revised Appendix 3 and Document E expected to be released? Should LOHPs use the current Document E Budget Template in the meantime? Will that leave LOHPs enough time to complete Document E and submit by June 1, 2026.

A: Appendix 3 and Document E have been revised to streamline content and remove unnecessary detail. We plan to offer an extension until at least July 1 for completing the application package (see email with subject “2027-30 LOHP RFA Status Update” sent on May 15, 2026 for details). LOHPs may continue using the current version of Document E for now. Any LOHP that has already submitted an application does not need to resubmit but will be given the option to resubmit by the new due date if desired.

We will confirm the extension and share the updated documents as soon as approval is received.

14. Q: Out of this list which documents are due on June 1st?

A: Documents A – E and Exhibit A.

OOH is requesting approval to extend the application deadline to July 1 to allow additional time for completion. Applicants who have already submitted may revise their applications through the new due date.

15. Q: Do subgrantees have to be a nonprofit or government entity?

A: Note that there is a distinction between subgrantees and consultants. A subgrantee is responsible for executing a significant portion of the work plan and/or managing its implementation, which is limited to nonprofit or government entities. Conversely, a consultant (e.g., media company, registered dental provider) may perform a specific related task and is not required to be a nonprofit or government entity.

16. Q: Will meetings organized by OOH (e.g., PDMs) have a virtual option in FY 2027-30?

A: OOH wants to ensure that meetings are as accessible as possible and will consider a remote option for meetings whenever possible.

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17. Q: How should our LOHP approach the 5% limitation for administrative costs as specified in Prop 56 statute if our county's approved ICR is 25%?

A: CDPH recommends consulting with your organization's legal counsel on matters of compliance [Revenue and Taxation Code Section 30130.57\(f\)](#). Distinctions regarding administrative costs and indirect (overhead) costs may be found in the State Administrative Manual. If you have specific follow-up questions, we recommend contacting your PC and/or GM.

18. Q: What document can LOHPs reference for unallowable expenses?

A: OOH recommends reviewing Appendix 3 to determine unallowable expenses. Please reach out to your PC and/or GM if you have a question about a specific item of expenditure.

19. Q: Can staff under 10% FTE be budgeted in the personnel category?

A: Yes, this change is pending approval in the revised Appendix 3.

20. Q: Should we anticipate that annual OOH-sponsored events will be organized in Sacramento?

A: Yes, OOH-sponsored events will likely be organized in Sacramento. Please budget accordingly if you plan to attend.

21. Q: Are there any restrictions related to out-of-state travel?

A: Yes, the only out-of-state event for which travel may be approved is the National Oral Health Conference. OOH will allow up to one (1) traveler **only** if the individual is a presenter at the event.

22. Q: Based on the Scope of Work and the Work Plan, our understanding is that LOHPs will collaboratively develop their workplans with support from OOH, including our PCs and GMs. Is that correct? If so, are there any additional details on how this collaborative work-planning process will function?

A: We will be sharing guidance on the work plan. There will be Office Hours for the work plan once the guidance is released.

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23. Q: It was mentioned that the OOH could help with conducting either the Needs Assessment (NA), Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), or Evaluation Report in the upcoming grant cycle. What would that look like?

A: Please reach out to your PC with your specific concerns so we may provide better assistance.

24. Q: Will there be a NA, CHIP, and Evaluation Report required for the next grant cycle? If so, can we use these documents developed in the current grant cycle?

A: Yes. The NA, CHIP, and Evaluation Report will continue to be required deliverables for the 2027–2030 grant cycle, as outlined in Appendix 4: Schedule of Deliverables for California LOHPs. Recognizing that funding has been significantly reduced for all LOHPs, CDPH is also working to streamline all required documents to help reduce administrative burden. In particular, CDPH will work with each individual LOHP to define what would be a reasonable and value-added Needs Assessment (NA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). In some cases, CDPH recognizes that some LOHPs may not be able to provide updates to existing NA and CHIP relative to oral health due to inadequate resources; in these cases, the LOHP’s prior NA and CHIP addressing oral health can fulfill this requirement.

Similarly, CDPH is looking at streamlining the workplan, evaluation plan and sustainability plan and will be providing additional support through the grant cycle to help LOHPs achieve a reasonable and meaningful response for those deliverables that is not overly burdensome.

25. Q: Appendix 4 lists the NA and CHIP, as well as an Evaluation Report and a Sustainability Plan—both due in December 2029. Are there any additional details available about these two items? Additionally, how will documents such as the CHIP, NA, action plans, and evaluation reports be structured moving forward, given that the SOW is reduced and LHJs may select fewer activities and objectives?

A: See response to Question 26. To reduce administrative burden, LOHPs may rely on previously developed documents, including current-cycle NA/CHIP materials and existing countywide assessments (e.g., NAs, CHAs, CHIPs).

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Updates may be brief and focused rather than comprehensive, and LOHPs with limited capacity may opt not to make changes.

The Evaluation Report and Sustainability Plan will be streamlined and scaled given the reduced funding, allowing LOHPs to submit shorter, targeted plans that align with the limited number of activities they choose to implement.

26. Q: Will performance measures or evaluation/reporting requirements be provided before we select our objectives and tasks? And if so, can OOH share any sample performance measures in advance?

A: Performance measures are currently being developed. Given the next grant cycle reflects a marked reduction in funding state-wide, we will be engaging with LOHPs to collaboratively define meaningful and appropriate measures of success.

27. Q: Will the OOH provide a template for the Sustainability Plan that's due Dec 31, 2029?

A: Additional guidance for the Sustainability Plan will be provided. OOH will allow flexibility with this as well and LOHPs may incorporate sustainability efforts into other reports or plans to meet this deliverable instead of developing a standalone plan.

28. Q: In previous grant cycles, an Evaluation Plan/Update was submitted, however on Appendix 4 only an Evaluation Report is listed. Without an Evaluation Plan deliverable, how should we determine the focus and methods for evaluating the 2027–2030 grant cycle? Additionally, will there be an additional Final Evaluation Report due on 6/30/2030, similar to past cycles, or only the Evaluation Report due 12/31/2029 listed in Appendix 4?

A: Templates and guidance to support evaluation will be shared once they are finalized, which will help inform how to structure and plan evaluation activities for the 2027–2030 cycle.

Question 3c in the Narrative Summary Form (Document C) asks how LOHPs propose to measure impact for their selected objectives and activities. At this stage, LOHPs can opt to leave Question 3c blank or put forward what they would find to be meaningful and appropriate measures of evaluation. Any responses

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we get to Question 3c at this stage will inform how CDPH approaches the overarching state evaluation and the TA we provide to LOHPs on designing their evaluation at a later time.

For the upcoming grant cycle, there will be only one Evaluation Report due on 12/31/2029 (we are seeking to extend this to 3/31/2030 to give LOHPs additional time to prepare the report).

29. Q: Regarding metrics and evaluation, can we continue to utilize Results-Based Accountability (RBA) metrics for the Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (KOHA) data?

A: LOHPs may continue using the KOHA data and the RBA approach to guide their activities and metrics for this upcoming grant cycle. As we conduct our broader evaluation review, we will work to align with individual program measures.