



Los Angeles County Abortion Safe Haven Pilot Program Request for Proposals

WHY is this funding being made available?

On June 24, 2022 the Supreme Court overturned *Roe vs. Wade*, allowing states to ban or severely limit access to abortion. California took immediate steps to secure abortion rights and access. Senate Bill 1245 established the Los Angeles County Abortion Access Safe Haven Pilot Program and Assembly Bill 178 appropriated \$20,000,000 to the County of Los Angeles to fund the program. The County of Los Angeles designated Essential Access Health (Essential Access) as the Program Administrator and the entity that will manage the distribution of the funds and ensure program compliance with statutory requirements. Funds will be allocated to support innovative approaches and community and patient-centered collaborations to safeguard and expand patient access to abortion and information about services available and provide linkages to care.

WHO is eligible to apply?

Applicants must serve individuals or communities in Los Angeles County.

Eligible applicants may include:

- Non-profit or private health care providers and provider groups participating in the Medi-Cal and/or Family PACT programs (Including but not limited to FQHCs, private medical offices, independent abortion providers, etc.)
- Non-profit community-based organizations
- Hospitals
- Associations representing health care providers that serve Los Angeles County
- Academic institutions
- Government agencies and departments, including city, county, and tribal agencies

WHO is NOT eligible to apply?

Organizations that engage in programs or activities that conflict with the intent and purpose of the program are not eligible to apply as direct grantees or as subcontractors.

WHAT is eligible for funding?

Funding must be used to advance and improve access to abortion in Los Angeles County.

Applicants are invited to apply for funding to support one or more of the following focus areas:

- Training:** Provide training to abortion providers, other health care workers, and service providers in other sectors
- Education:** Conduct community-based education activities that provide medically accurate education and training tools that counter misinformation
- Clinical care:** Advance and improve access through expanded clinical services
- Practical support:** Coordinate care and provide patient support services to make access a reality including transportation, lodging, childcare, etc.
- Infrastructure:** Build secure infrastructure to ensure the safety of patients, staff and volunteers
- Other:** Engage in activities that increase and improve access to abortion care including providing legal support and educating decision makers

Allowable activities include:

- Expanding clinical services
- Providing medically accurate information and countering misinformation campaigns about abortion care and access through community education, social media and public awareness campaigns
- Coordinating abortion care and patient support services
- Training health care staff and abortion providers
- Training front line service providers to improve competency in discussing abortion and reproductive health issues and in making appropriate referrals
- Providing and/or accessing legal guidance and support
- Conducting research and analyses to understand barriers and support and improve access to abortion
- Educating decision makers about issues related to abortion access in Los Angeles County **(up to maximum of 15% of total budget request)**

Allowable project expenses include:

- Staff time
- Consultants
- Infrastructure such as building costs, equipment, systems to support access and/or security
- Project promotion, outreach, and dissemination including printing and marketing
- Costs incurred in practical support of patients (transportation, lodging, childcare, etc.)
- Costs related to convenings, including catering and facility rental
- Travel costs
- Indirect costs **(up to maximum of 15% of total budget request)**
- Other costs necessary to support the project goals and objectives



The following are NOT allowable uses for funding:

- Activities that counter the intent of the funding, including misinformation about abortion, and providing other information and/or services that are not medically or scientifically accurate
- Lobbying
- Funding requests to supplant existing funding and/or programs

WHAT is the funding range and project period?

The funding range is **\$100,000 - \$500,000** per year.

Applicants may choose between one-year or two-year project periods.

Full funding for year-one will be released at the beginning of the grant cycle. Year-two funding may be adjusted based on scope revisions and progress on year-one goals and objectives.

Not all proposals will be funded to the maximum amount requested. Request for Proposals will be released in January on an annual basis until allocated funding is depleted.

HOW does the application process work?

Applicants must complete the [online application](#) form and submit required budget documents using the template provided by **February 20, 2023**.

Supplemental materials may be uploaded to support project narrative and demonstrate an ability to make effective and immediate use of project funding, including examples of previous work, media links or other materials that reflect the experience needed to advance program objectives and goals. The intent is for this application process to be easy and efficient to support timely release of funds.

Priority factors for funding allocations:

- Demonstrated commitment to/experience in sexual and reproductive health, abortion access rights and justice
- Expected scope of expansion of abortion services and education
- Geographic regions served
- Diversity of communities served
- Organizational capacity to achieve goals and objectives
- Demonstrated commitment to cultural, racial and SOGI (sexual orientation and gender identity) inclusivity
- Demonstrated commitment to advancing health equity and reducing disparities
- Collaboration with other partners in program activities and capacity for collaboration
- Capacity for project sustainability beyond the funding period



- Program focus area(s) and demonstrated need

Applicants will be asked to provide:

- 1) Organizational background
 - Information about the organization's history, mission and structure
 - Names, backgrounds and roles of the staff who will work on this project
 - The organization's experience supporting abortion access in LA county
 - The organization's capacity to sustain this work after the funding period
 - The organization's commitment to and experience advancing equity and reducing disparities
- 2) Funding time frame (applicants may select one-year or two-year project periods)
- 3) Funding amount requested

Applicants must submit a budget and budget narrative using the budget template provided.

Indirect costs of up to 15% of total project budget may be included in funding request.

- 4) Project Description
 - Project description overview
 - Goals and objectives and evaluation plan to measure impact using worksheet provided
 - Detail about how the organization will ensure that this funding is used to expand programs and services and not used to supplant existing funds and programming
 - Strategies for reaching priority populations
 - Commitment and plans to advance equity and/or reduce disparities through project activities

Reporting and additional requirements:

Essential Access is obligated by statute to submit annual reports to the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) that reflect the scope and impact of the funding, and funding expenditures. DHCS is required to submit the report to the legislature that will be published and become part of the public record.

Organizations that receive grant awards will be required to submit progress and final reports. Essential Access will provide templates for financial and project reporting, along with opportunities to share stories describing project impact through videos and/or written testimonials. Grantees with one-year projects will submit progress reports within 30 days of the 6-month mark and within 30 days of the conclusion of the funding cycle. Grantees with two-



year project periods will submit progress reports within 30 days of the 6-month mark, the one-year-on mark, and of the conclusion of the funding cycle.

All projects must include an evaluation component that includes 10 hours of staff time to participate in Essential Access-led grantee meetings, interviews and other fact-finding activities to share information and gather qualitative data about successes and challenges encountered throughout the project period.

General additional information:

Eligible applicants may submit proposals that include eligible partners/subcontractors. Applicants may not conduct or partner with entities that engage in activities that conflict with the intent and purpose of the program.

Timeline:

1/20/23	Release RFP
1/24/23	Informational webinar 10 AM Register Now
1/26/23	Informational webinar 2 PM Register Now
2/20/23	Applications due
3/10/23	Funding decisions announced
3/31/23	Year one funding released
4/1/2023	Project start date

Questions about the RFP may be directed to: LASafeHaven@essentialaccess.org

[APPLY NOW](#)

About Essential Access

Essential Access was established in Los Angeles in 1968, grounded in the belief that the ability to plan our families and futures and make informed, autonomous choices about our sexual and reproductive health are essential for overall health and well-being. More than fifty years later, our [2021 – 2024 Strategic Framework](#) builds upon our long-standing commitment to making access to high quality, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services and information a reality for everyone – regardless of income, race, age, gender identity or sexual orientation, zip code, insurance or documentation status. We recognize that in order to truly advance our mission, we must address the root causes of sexual and reproductive health disparities head-on. Our [Principles of Equity + Roadmap for Action](#) provides an overview of our efforts to ensure that the future of sexual and reproductive health care is more inclusive, just, and equitable. Learn more at www.essentialaccess.org.