



Los Angeles County Abortion Safe Haven Pilot Program Request for Proposals – 2025-2027

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 (LASH) 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.

In the first two years (2023-2025), grantees reported notable increases in clients served, further endorsing the need for access-related funding in Los Angeles County. The third and final competitive RFP cycle is focused on ensuring the long-term sustainability of the initial projects funded in this pilot program.

Who is eligible to apply?

Applicants must:

- Serve individuals or communities in Los Angeles County
AND
- Have received LASH funding in the 2023-2025 project period

Eligible applicants are limited to

- Grantees previously selected for funding during the 2023-2025 RFP cycle

Who is NOT eligible to apply?

This third and final RFP is exclusively open for grantees whose projects were selected for funding in the 2023-2025 RFP cycle. Organizations that engage in programs or activities that conflict with the intent and purpose of the program are not eligible as direct grantees or subcontractors.

What is eligible for funding?



This final funding cycle will be focused on the growth and long-term sustainability of projects funded in the 2023-2025 funding period. 2025-2027 funding must be used to advance and improve access to abortion in Los Angeles County and demonstrate a clear relationship to the project funded in the 2023-2025 funding period. This includes proposals which expand on work completed as part of the 2023-2025 funded project to deepen impact of the original project based on:

- Areas of need,
- Lessons learned, and
- New opportunities identified during the initial project period.

As with previous cycles, applicants may apply for 1- or 2-year project periods and funding may be used 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 a maximum of 15% of the 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 a maximum of 10% of the 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?

We will release **up to \$1,920,680** in funding for our third and final cohort of projects. The funding range is **\$50,000 - \$160,000** per year for up to two years.

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, within 30 days of contract execution. For two-year projects, second year funding will be released prior to the end of the year-one funding 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. Funding decisions will be made based on criteria described in this document, considering the proposed project's scope, scale and potential impact and long-sustainability.

How does the application process work?

Applicants must complete the [online application](#) form and submit required budget documents using the template provided by **11:59 PM March 7, 2025**.

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.

Applicants will be asked to provide:

1) **Organizational background:** *Please complete this section if any information has changed since your last application*

- 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 10% of the total project budget may be included in funding request.

4) Project Description

- Project description overview
- Goals and objectives and work plan to measure impact using worksheet provided
- Detail about how the organization will ensure that this funding is used to expand programs and services from the first project period and not used to supplant existing funds and programming
- Demonstrate strategies to achieve long-term sustainability
- Strategies for reaching priority populations
- Commitment and plans to advance equity and/or reduce disparities through project activities

Key Considerations for Applications:

Applications submitted will be scored based on the following criteria:

- **Experience:** Applicant has a demonstrated commitment to/experience in sexual and reproductive health, abortion access rights and justice.
- **Project Goals, Objectives, and Measures:** Proposed project goals and objectives

are clear and address stated need, building upon Cohort 1 project goals and objectives. All objectives are attainable and feasibly measurable, including steps to evaluate success (indicators of success).

- **Expanding Access:** Proposed project demonstrates a clear and strategic plan for expanding abortion services and education, leveraging the insights, lessons learned, and successes from the 2023-2025 funding period. . Expanded work must build upon the foundation established in the first two years, ensuring continuity, scalability, and long-term impact.
- **Advancing Health Equity:** Organization demonstrates a robust track record of advancing health equity in LA County and proposed project clearly and directly prioritizes health equity.
- **Partnerships:** Proposed project details robust, achievable partnership(s) with other organizations. Partnership clearly advances stated goals and addresses stated needs.
- **Demonstrated Impact:** 2023-2025 funded project clearly shows positive and measurable impact on access to abortion and comprehensive SRH care in LA County
- **Project Sustainability:** Proposed project fits within organizational priorities. Application includes clear, attainable steps to ensure project sustainability beyond the grant period.
- **Budget and Scope Alignment:** Budget and budget narratives clearly detail and support funds requested. Funds requested align with project goals, objectives, and scope of project
- **Strength of Overall Proposal:** The proposal clearly establishes the need for the proposed project, thoroughly explains how the project will address the needs outlined, including well- supported statements and statistics.

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, the 18-month 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. Selected projects will prioritize work with Essential Access staff to develop and finalize an evaluation plan within the first 3 months of 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:

1/21/25	Release RFP
1/29/25	Informational webinar 11 AM Register Now
3/07/25	Applications due by 11:59 PM
3/28/25	Funding decisions announced
4/01/25	Project start date

NOTE: Contracts and contract amendments must be signed within 30 days of their issue. The first disbursement will be released within 30 days of contract execution.

Questions about the RFP may be directed to: CAReproHealthEquity@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.