# NOFO

Q&A

Do you have any additional advice you are offering Faith-based organizations?

- Our advice is to consider the following questions while serving families:
- Are you transparent about your organization's Christian identity?
- Are these conversations initiated only if the client expresses interest or comfort in discussing faith?
- Is participation in religious activities entirely voluntary?
- Services/support are not contingent upon participation in faith-based activities.
- If you believe the answers to the above questions are "yes" you will likely comply with the grant requirements and legislative intentions. We are committed to ensuring that all clients receive non-discriminatory support, regardless of their religious beliefs or desire to engage in religious discussions.

How can a school district apply for this funding?

- Schools will identify an associated school-based foundation or a partner organization that operates as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.
- This could be a parent-teacher organization (PTO), education foundation, or any other nonprofit entity associated with the school district.
- Ensure that the identified partner organization has a valid 501(c)(3) status.
- This collaboration application should include all components outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

If we are currently contracted through OPCN but wish to bid on a new contract for expanded services that are the same/similar as we what we currently provide through that contract do we need to terminate our contract with OPCN prior to bidding on this or can we write a contingency into our bid that we will terminate once awarded this contract?

- Receiving reimbursement for the same expense or service through both existing CCB funds and new CCB funds is prohibited. Reimbursement under this current NOFO would apply only to separate or an expanded scope of services. Otherwise, reimbursement for like services is limited to one funding stream until such a time as another competing obligation ends. Organizations currently contracted with or funded by OPCN must include a current scope of work or services contracted with OPCN as part of its application. Additionally, Organizations will be required to clearly demonstrate through appropriate documentation that any and all grant funds are utilized for services separate and distinct from those provided pursuant to an OPCN contract.
- It is up to an individual organization to determine to apply for funding. Any organization currently contracted with OPCN is welcome to apply; however, please follow the guidance specifically provided in the NOFO.
- Whether additional funding will be awarded to OPCN under the current contract will be determined between OSDH and OPCN.

Will the current OPCN contract be amended to include new age range and/or new allowable program services? Or are these updated terms only for this NOFO?

The expansion dictated by legislation are terms included only in the NOFO.

Eligible applicants shall: Not charge women for services provided using grant funds. Does this mean that we are unable to bill for services in L/D?

• Families receiving CCB services can not be billed for services. That would be a duplication for families and grant funds to both cover one service.

In regards to not being able to require payment from patients, are we able to require payment from Medicaid or private insurance?

• Yes, as long as no cost will be incurred by the client. For example, any cost not covered under private insurance, should not then fall to the client. Additionally, any reimbursement should be used to further support program efforts.

Our agency currently has the direct provider staffing of the Basic Level while serving the number of families of the Maximum Level; however, many staff are compensated below the suggested salary ranges listed in the Budget Guidance sheet provided. Could supplemental income to fund these wage gaps of CCB-related staff qualify as a personnel cost in order to retain staff and sustain the quality and integrity of the program?

• Income adjustment cannot be provided to staff who's job duties are not expanded.

If our organization currently operates the federally funded Healthy Start program which provides pre, peri and post natal services for women and their children with a focus on reducing infant mortality primary through education about the importance of prenatal care, dangers of cosleeping, etc., would that be considered a conflict or duplication of services. Or, would we still be eligible to apply for the choosing childbirth opportunity?

We already have a contract with Oklahoma State Dept. of Health for our Great Beginnings Parents as Teachers Program. Can I put any of the Parent Educator's Salaries that we already have on staff from that grant on this grant? Can I put some of the Supervisors salary over on this grant since she will be supervising the Parent Educators we plan to hire with this grant? Is addition of staff/Health Navigator/operating hours considered an expansion of services if it helps us serve more families while also providing more quality/wraparound services to participants?

- The application must demonstrate how Choosing Childbirth funding will be used to serve new/more efforts; additional families, service length, service area, etc.
- ex.) A program serves 25 families with federal funds and proposes to serve 50 families with federal and Choosing Childbirth funds.

I am writing to ask for clarification, example and or definition of what **Nuritional Support Services**" are, please.

 Nutritional Support Services can include but are not limited to supporting families eligibility with SNAP or WIC, providing food boxes in partnership with the regional foodbanks, providing education and best practices around nutritional health, etc.

Is lactation support/services considered nutritional or medical?

• Lactation support/services could be considered nutritional, medical, and/or parenting support. This can be described in the narrative or workplan.

Could costs for translation/interpretation services be included in the CCB grant request?

• Translation/Interpretation is not a stand-alone service/program. It is an allowable cost and could be included in the budget narrative alongside an evidence-based model.

We know with our Great Beginnings grant you are only supposed allowed 10% of DHS families does this same rule apply for this grant

• This is not a requirement for CCB funds.

Please explain/give an example of the 3 year cycle of funding

- October 1, 2024 September 30th, 2025
- Renewable for 2 additional years, running October to September.

Are the budget amounts listed in the NOFO for one year or all three years combined? For example, if an applicant were requesting the max of \$5 million, would that be over the three year period or could they ask for \$5 million each year (\$15 million total)?

- The funding level is for an annual budget, your application should outline your budget for each year of the 3-year cycle.
- If you request 400,000, that is 400,000 per year.

We acknowledge the instruction to outline the proposed budget for each year of the 3-year grant cycle, but do we need to request the same amount ('flat') of funding each year of the grant

cycle, or could we ask for different amounts (within the same funding tier) each year. For example, asking for \$300k (year 1), for \$350k (year 2), and then for \$400k (year 3) - as the program scales over three years.

• This is a flat funding opportunity. The work plan should describe how the program plans to scale efforts and utilize their budget.

Can we request funding for a smaller amount for the first year and then more for the second year?

• This is a flat funding opportunity. The work plan should describe how the program plans to scale efforts and utilize their budget.

With this grant will there be match in Kind?

• This program has no cost-sharing requirements, also referred to as match.

Would awards lesser than the minimum level be considered if all criteria of requirements are met

- OSDH reserves the right to fund an application at a lower amount as decided upon by the scoring team.
- The funding level is for an annual budget, your application should outline your budget for each year of the 3-year cycle with an indepth reasoning for budget line items.

Do you have a budget template?

- The budget guidance and budget template are linked in the NOFO application.
- https://healthokgov.app.box.com/s/sp2ynpa3jhcip61bz8n5owby0ilkb7ww

Is there a budget template you would like for us to use. If so, can the budget template be uploaded to the Splash page? If so, does the budget template allow for providing each individual year of the 3 year contract?

- The budget guidance and budget template are linked in the NOFO application. You will complete 3 forms for each year.
- https://healthokgov.app.box.com/s/sp2ynpa3jhcip61bz8n5owby0ilkb7ww

The NOFO (page 13) says to submit a budget for each year of the project, so the project period would be for all three years, beginning October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2027, is that correct?

Yes, that is correct.

Could the duties described for a Health Navigator be performed by staff who do not have the title of Health Navigator?

For the ideas provided in the budget guidance, would we have to call our employees by the same titles proposed (i.e. "health navigators" or "home visitors"?)

• The budget guidance sheet is a guide to support agencies completion, position titles can be adjusted. The title must be aligned with legislative and application requirements, include a clear expectation of the job duties.

Can OB wages, benefits, rent/lodging and travel reimbursements, and PL/GL and workers compensation insurance be included as expenses for this grant? Or if we include it in the benefits package?

• The financial guidelines review allowable costs for salary, benefits, and travel.

What is the distinction set at between Major and minor renovations?

• A major remodel would involve restructuring, expanding, or significantly altering space. Minor renovations are primarily cosmetic in nature while the existing structure is preserved.

Federal background checks - can CCB funds be used for the cost of all team members or only those that are CCB grant funded? Are OSBI checks also required of direct program staff?

• CCB funds can only be used for the cost of team members background checks who will be grant-funded. Best practice would dictate that all staff members receive a background check.

Would the purchase of a mobile medical unit consistent with the grants goals be an allowable expense?

• Grant funds cannot be used to purchase the vehicle. Grant funds could be used to staff and supply a mobile unit.

I was looking through the General Financial Guidelines that are referenced in the NOFO. On page 12 it states that "purchase of baby scales or other equipment deemed medical in nature" are under unallowable costs. Does that mean we are not allowed to include any medical equipment in our budget for the choosing childbirth grant?

• There are no direct medical services being provided under CCB currently, so medical equipment was an unallowable cost. We periodically update those General Financial Guidelines depending on the scope of awards, so that is an update that will more than likely be made after determining awards under this NOFO.

Is minor car maintenance for program participants considered under transportation cost? Within reason, of course.

Can we use money from this grant to help pregnant moms or moms with children under 3 with motel stays if they are homeless or evicted from their home or to pay utilities if they have been disconnected

Can we use money from this grant for women to use for legal expenses for adoption, child support, custody issues & safe placement

Are gas vouchers an allowable transportation cost as incentive for program participation to eligible families?

Is formula cost allowable under nutrition services? What about partnership with a food bank to provide mother/child food packs?

Can CCB grant funds for housing assistance be used to directly pay landlords for clients' delinquent rent, or directly pay utility companies for clients' delinquent bills?

Can CCB grant funds be used to buy grocery store gift cards or cash gift cards for clients?

• If providing Concrete Supports to families are aligned with the chosen program/model and accounted for in the budget narrative those would be allowable costs.

Can you expand on the expectation of use of web based databased mentioned that OSDH will provide - is this primarily for data collection points that might already be collecting in another form? Or for program participation similar to what OPCN uses (Briteworks PS)?

• ETO, Unite Us, and Qualtrics are the platforms aligned with OSDH and Family Support and Prevention Service area programs. These platforms are used for data collection, documentation, closed-loop referrals, etc. These platforms are how we will track data and evaluation efforts.

Are Efforts to Outcomes (ETO) and Qualtrics the required OSDH administered data systems for CCB grantees, or could Salesforce suffice as an approved paperless data system? Could CCB grant funds be used for technology costs necessary to build a bridge between ETO and alternate platforms?

 ETO and Qualtrics are the platforms aligned with OSDH and Family Support and Prevention Service area programs. These platforms are how we will track data and evaluation efforts. For this funding opportunity, it's the intent of the legislature that the funding is maximized for direct services

Will there be special equipment that will be provided for collecting and transmitting required data?

• Equipment will not be provided by OSDH. Equipment can be included in the budget & application request.

Is Unite Us the required or expected closed loop referral platform, or could other referral systems be utilized to link families to appropriate resources and services?

• Unite Us is the platform aligned with Family Support and Prevention Service area programs. This platform is how we will track data and evaluation efforts.

What are the insurance amounts/requirements if awarded?

Regarding the Certificate of Insurance, what are the liability limit amounts we need to show? Please provide liability limit requirements for each award level

• Insurance requirements will vary depending on agency capacity and the level of award. The range is typically between 2 and 5 million; however, negotiated rates of 1 million have been allowed in the past. This is under the purview of our Legal department and may be addressed after the notice of award and during the negotiation period.

Given the submission of the 990 is required, is the page count for the 990 document separate from the 75 page limit? Our 990 is approximately 50 pages

Our 990 is 41 pages long, as are some of the other required attachments. Do these large documents count against our 75 page max?

Does the required attachment of an IRS Form 990 count toward the application's page limit of 75 pages? (I.e., out agency's Form 990 is over 40 pages long.)

• No, the 990 will not count towards your page limit.

If we encounter email upload issues because of the size of the files, can we upload and send our application and attachments under 2-3 separate emails

• Please follow directions as outlined in the NOFO on submission. A zip file may be submitted to accommodate file size.

Is a not-for-profit corporation that was incorporated in Texas and registered to do business in Oklahoma as a foreign not-for-profit corporation eligible to apply to receive funds under the OK Choosing Childbirth Act program, if it is currently serving women in Oklahoma via telecare but does not have a physical location in OK

• As a registered nonprofit you're welcome to apply for funding for services in Oklahoma, and we will review for applicability and compliance based on NOFO guidelines and statutory requirements.

Can organizations that receive Title X funding apply for CCB funding. Can organizations that receive Title X funding also receive CCB funding if the funding is kept separate? What are the requirements to keep CCB and Title X funding separate? Must the CCB program be entirely separate from Title X?

 Nothing precludes an entity currently receiving Title X funding from applying for CCB funding as long as other specifications outlined in legislation and the NOFO are met. Funding should, however, remain separate. Additionally, per statute, organizations must be fully compliant and cannot encourage, counsel or refer for abortion except to prevent death.

Page 14 mentions "information on compliance with state and local government standards" as required organizational capacity supporting information. Can you explain what documentation is needed for this?

• These are standards outlined by your organization to demonstrate compliance. Although these standards may vary slightly, there are processes and procedures in place to ensure the ability to manage grant funds in adherence with state and local requirements.

Is there a project narrative template or specific question set to be answered to describe the proposed eligible program?

• Due to the different program/models eligible for funding each application description should include proposed efforts aligned with legistlative efforts and community needs.

On page 3, in the summary section, the notice states that this funding opportunity will make grants available for the reimbursement of reasonable expenses of programs providing services, education, and resources to "pregnant women or women who believe *they may become* pregnant." How would a contractor determine whether a woman qualifies as a "woman who believes she may become pregnant"? Please clarify

#### Choosing Childbirth Act Q&A

• This language comes directly from legislation. Regarding services to women who believe they may become pregnant, for example if a woman was contemplating getting pregnant, sexually assaulted or engaged in unprotected sex and sought counseling services, this would be a reasonable expense under CCB. Depending on the scope of work submitted, the expense may not be reasonable or allowable. For example, if an evidenced-based program is implemented, such as Children First: Oklahoma's Nurse Family Partnership, a woman must be pregnant to enter the program. Technical assistance will be provided by OSDH and can provide guidance in these situations.

On page 8, the notice states, "The contractor shall have and provide written privacy policies and procedures in place to ensure client confidentiality, including, but not limited to, ensuring that the name, address, telephone number and any other information that might identify any woman seeking the services of the program are not made public or shared with any other agency or organization without the written consent of the woman. Is this requirement intended to be more stringent than the requirements under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, as amended ("HIPAA"), which provides certain exceptions and circumstances under which disclosure is permitted without the written consent of the woman. If a woman withholds written consent to disclose identifying information, but the contractor is required to disclose such identifying information to comply with state law and/or another agreement, e.g., child abuse and neglect reporting, how would a contractor be able to comply with this provision of the NOFO and comply with such other law(s).

 Agencies providing services funded by the CCB grant will be under the state requirements for HIPAA, child abuse reporting, and OSDH policy. If the agency follows policy and procedure in place by OSDH, you will be compliant with NOFO requirements and state law.

How can an applicant ensure that proprietary and confidential information included in its application is protected?

- OSDH is bound by agency and state confidentiality laws.
- You can find more about OSDH policy & confidentiality here: https://oklahoma.gov/health/about-us/osdh-transparency.html

The NOFO for this opportunity states to calculate IDC using the de minimis rate, applying MTDC (Page 13 of the NOFO). If an organization has an approved IDC, can that be used in place of the de minimis rate?

• Although typically that would be allowed, for this funding opportunity, it's the intent of the legislature that the funding is maximized for direct services, so we are requiring the de minis rate be applied for all IDC.

The Oklahoma State Medical Board is responsible for publishing the material that includes the fetal development component in the statute. Could you please clarify the grant guidelines for providing the fetal deployment information in 63 § 1-738.3? Or is that information no longer a requirement since abortion is now illegal in Oklahoma?

Will applicants be required to provide documentation of internal protocol/processes around pregnancy counseling

• For agencies providing information and counseling services during pregnancy, that is a requirement as dictated by legislation. OSMB does not have a legislative mandate to continue publication, but since the fetal development component is still within legislation, we will work with awarded entities to appropriately address and meet this requirement.

Can this grant fund programs focused on adolescent health/teen pregnancy prevention work that nonprofits like Amplify provide?

• The programming/services eligible for this grant funding must align with legislative intentions and meet all eligibility requirements outline in the NOFO.

Is there a specific definition or fidelity model of Family Resource Centers (FRCs)? Could a community action agency be considered a FRC?

• The Family Resource Center information can be found utilizing National Family Support Network and Oklahoma Family Support Network resources.

Can we use this grant money to get trained for Doula Services

 Programs/Services must meet eligibility requirements as stated in the NOFO: "Parenting education and support services; specific evidence-based and evidence-informed Parenting and Support Services may include but are not limited to: Doula Programs"

Can we use this grant to get trained for Parenting Classes

• Parenting classes must meet eligibility requirements as stated in the NOFO "Parenting education and support services; specific evidence-based and evidence-informed".

Can we use this grant to further establish our Family Resource Center to hire personnel and get computers for families to use to apply for resources

- The Family Resource Center model is an approved program/model for this grant. The funds from CCB must be demonstrated how they will expand and extend services. Allowable costs can be viewed in the financial guidelines.
- https://healthokgov.app.box.com/s/sp2ynpa3jhcip61bz8n5owby0ilkb7ww

If we were selected for services in Oklahoma County, would we be restricted to providing services to only residents of that county?

Do you have to choose a full country, or can you select specific zip codes

• CCB Funds are not allocated by location. Applications can outline service area by zipcode, city, county, etc.

Do we need to submit multiple applications for different programs? Or can we include multiple programs into a single request?

• Agencies should write and submit one application. The workplan narrative and budget should fully detail how the agency plans to allocate CCB Funds.

Do clients supported by CCB grant funding need to be documented as U.S. citizens?

• Citizenship status is not outlined as a legislative eligibility requirement.

When discussing launching new programs with CCB funding, what is the long term expectation in terms of sustainability

• The sustainability of CCB Grants are up to legislative discretion. With increased evaluation requirements CCB funding will be in a strong position to leverage for continued funding.

Is there potential that CCB funds will be sustaining or should the infusion be treated as seed or startup fund

• Best practices indicate that diversified funding is highly important as well as continued consideration of sustainability.

Is OSDH expecting programs that demonstrate long term sustainability

• The NOFO work plan will be a place to demonstrate the programs current capacity and ability grow and sustain programming.

## **CCB Townhall**

Q&A

https://oklahoma.gov/health/choosingchildbirth.html

Notice of Funding closes 09/11/24 11:59 PM send to choosing.childbirth@health.ok.gov

What's the funding period for these dollars?

- 3-year funding cycle
- October 1, 2024 September 30th, 2025
- Renewable for 2 additional years.

Is a 501c considered non-profit for this funding?

Can a sub-award be given to a subrecipient that is not a non-profit?

• All awards and sub-award entities are required to be registered with the secretary of state as a not-for-profit located in Oklahoma. This alone does not guarantee eligibility for this award. All applicants must meet the other criteria as outlined in legislation and the NOFO.

Can you expand on the Grant max amounts you mentioned?

Are there limits on minimum and mid-level funding? If so, could you expand on that

We are a small PRC, what if we don't need the \$300,000? Do we apply and can we be given a smaller amount?

Are these levels annual or total ask?

How many awards are expected to be made this cycle?

Does the amount we apply for need to be for one year of funding or the full 3 years?

With the levels of funding, are you locked into the requested level or can we be considered for more or less depending on our application?

- Basic: \$300,000- \$1,499,000
- Moderate \$1,500,000-\$2,999,000
- Maximum \$3,000,000 \$5,000,000
- OSDH reserves the right to fund an application at a lower amount as decided upon by the scoring team.
- The funding level is for an annual budget, your application should outline your budget for each year of the 3-year cycle.
- OSDH has a total of \$17,640,000 to award, a predetermined number of accepted applications has not been made.

How does this affect our organization if we already participate in the Choosing Childbirth Act via OPCN? And should we request funding through OSDH?

Will the current OPCN contract be amended to include the new legislation or is that something we should apply directly for if the current contract isn't being amended (program services and eligible age)

Are any additional dollars going to be awarded for current services up to that OCT1 date? We are currently underfunded especially if we expand to 3 years of age eligibility Why did the funding process change?

• Applicants currently receiving CCB funding through the Oklahoma Pregnancy Care Network (OPCN): This funding opportunity is in addition to existing CCB funding available through OSDH's contract with OPCN. Organizations currently contracted with or funded by OPCN are eligible to apply for funding through this new program. However, existing CCB funds and new CCB funds shall not be sought or utilized to support the same services. Receiving reimbursement for the same expense or service through both existing CCB funds and new CCB funds is prohibited. Reimbursement under this current NOFO would apply only to separate or an expanded scope of services. Otherwise, reimbursement for like services is limited to one funding stream until such a time as another competing obligation ends. Organizations currently contracted with or funded by OPCN must include a current scope of work or services contracted with OPCN as part of its application. Additionally, Organizations will be required to clearly demonstrate through appropriate documentation that any and all grant funds are utilized for services separate and distinct from those provided pursuant to an OPCN contract.

### Choosing Childbirth Act Q&A

- It is up to an individual organization to determine to apply for funding. Any organization currently contracted with OPCN is welcome to apply; however, please follow the guidance specifically provided in the NOFO.
- Whether additional funding will be awarded to OPCN under the current contract will be determined between OSDH and OPCN.
- The Choosing Childbirth Act was amended under SB538 this past legislative session.

Will organizations that support/promote abortion be able to apply for these funds?

• No, as outlined by legislative requirements

What is eligible funding under housing assistance?

Can funding requests cover employee compensation for accepted services as part of our work plan?

Does the NOFO include an overview of allowable costs?

Would an ultrasound machine be considered under these guidelines?

- The NOFO includes an outline of allowable costs. This document reviews funding that can be allotted for employee compensation, housing assistance, etc.
- The NOFO includes a budget guidance sheet to support the budgeting and requested funding on applications.

Applying for funding services for expansion or newly added services, is there a time frame requirement for those services to begin or is it within the 3-year cycle in general? Such as adding counseling services that are not currently available in our agency.

• All timelines will be reviewed during the scoring process and timelines will highly depend on the outlined steps in the work plan, model expectations, and agency capacity.

Can you explain what happens at the end of the three-year period - will new organizations be able to apply for the next cycle or just existing within the first cycle?

• Near the end of this 3-year funding cycle, dependent upon available appropriated funding, a new bid cycle will open to all eligible applicants. The bid cycle will begin prior to the ending of the award to allow time for the full application, award and contracting process to ensure continuation of services.

Is the work plan example on this chat stream or on the website?

• The work plan example is linked in the NOFO.

Is there a particular data system that will have to be used?

Are there required evaluation components if funding is awarded to an entity?

Are data and analytics solutions to inform the geographic / demographic targets of service delivery or measure success considered under this NOFO?

- Evaluation and outcome tracking is a required aspect of the funding.
- Completed contracts will ultimately decide on data systems. The data systems currently utilized at OSDH–FSPS are Efforts to Outcomes (ETO) and Qualtrics.
- OSDH support includes evaluation and outcome support. If funding is requested outside of OSDH's support this should be clearly outlined in the budget and the workplan with ultimate discretion left to the final contract.

If you have an existing home visitation program with OSDH would you have to have a different set of providers to provide home visitation services?

Could these funds be blended with other public/OSDH funds such as MIECHV to enhance services for Oklahomans? (E.g., enhance a PAT program with CCB funds)

Can this funding be used for existing program expansion?

• Applications must outline how they will expand services at agencies. Expansion can include additional counties served, families served, and additional services/models.

# Choosing Childbirth Act

Would a resource center that provides diapers, wipes, safe sleep solutions, formula, and car seats be reimbursable under this opportunity?

Would mental health be provided by school counselors or do they have to be a LPC?

We could start a program such as parents as teachers with this funding, correct?

When I asked earlier about midwives, I want to clarify I'm speaking of Certified Nurse

Midwives which is evidence-based for improved prenatal outcomes specifically for rural health

Would life coaching be considered a reimbursable service

Does this program support in-school services?

Can this funding be applied to things like physician/midwife/nurse (labor costs)?

- Services that are eligible for this funding opportunity include but are not limited too
  - Medical Care
  - o Mental Health & Substance Use
    - Infant Mental Health
    - Perinatal Mental Health
  - Nutritional Services
  - o Transportation Services
  - Housing Assistance
  - Adoption Services
  - o Education & Employment Assistance
  - o Home visitation
  - o Family Resource Centers
  - Community Health Workers
    - Maternal Child Health Focus
  - o Doula
- Services must be outcome-based, evidence-informed/evidence-based. They should support informed decisions on choosing childbirth and maximizing potential, extending until the child is 3 years of age.

Can you define geographically underserved areas?

- Underserved areas can include rural counties, maternal child health desserts, food desserts, etc.
- Application narratives should outline what underserved populations will be served and how they plan to support families.