

## All Children Thrive–California REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

### BACKGROUND

All Children Thrive–California (ACT) is a statewide, community-driven initiative fostering holistic solutions to longstanding problems facing California families. ACT unites community members and their city officials to co-design policy solutions that improve child well-being. The collaborative design model ensures that those most harmed by inequities receive the greatest support.

ACT is committed to supporting local policy projects designed to allocate resources in a way that assures that all children thrive. ACT prioritizes cities that are seeking to establish policies benefiting historically marginalized communities—the same ones that have been underserved and over surveilled – and names equity as central to the distribution of resources.

ACT accelerates change by building networks of California communities that transform the ecosystem shaping child well-being. ACT will bring together city officials and community leaders who understand their cities to co-design solutions through one of six focus areas:

- Strengthening economic supports for children and families
- Creating protective environments
- Promoting healthy child development
- Youth development and civic engagement
- Access to safe and stable housing
- Mental health and wellness

**PURPOSE OF RFA.** The purpose of this Request for Applications (RFA) is to support ACT Design Teams in the ACT Transformation Process.

**KEY DATES.** Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

**FUNDING AVAILABILITY.** Twenty cities will receive \$20,000 to \$60,000 each to support eligible activities (\$10,000 to \$15,000 per activity) and allowable expenditures during their participation as an ACT city. (See Activities, Budget, and Use of Funds below.) Funding for additional activities may be requested throughout the project but may not exceed a total of \$60,000 per city. These funds are a one-time allocation to support ACT activities in 2020 and 2021. Applicants are to remain cognizant that the use of Mental Health Services Act funds and the activities proposed in response to this RFA must be consistent with the authority provided under SB 840. Funding is contingent upon available revenues and appropriation by the Legislature and the California Department of Public Health.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.** Applicants must be a 501(c)3, other non-governmental entity, or tribal sovereignties that is a current member of their city’s existing ACT Team. Before applying, an applicant must work with an ACT Coach and the ACT Core Team to develop a scope of work and learn about activity options. The table below provides full eligibility requirements to receive funding and means of meeting them.

## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

- **Community Action Area:** One of the following six Community Action Areas (i.e., policy strategies) chosen by a Design Team on which to focus to improve child wellbeing in their city:
  - Strengthening economic supports for children and families
  - Creating protective environments
  - Promoting healthy child development
  - Youth development and civic engagement
  - Access to safe and stable housing
  - Mental health and wellness
- **Community Systems Map:** A graphic illustration developed by a Design Team describing the partnerships, key players, key data and community trends, and desired impact of their ACT activities.
- **Transformation Process:** ACT city participation is divided into 3 stages: (A) engage, (B) grow, and (C) accelerate (see Funding Activities). See Figure 1: ACT Big Picture Map for more details on the Transformation Process.
- **ACT Coach:** Public Health Advocates and UCLA staff who are responsible for oversight and coordination of technical assistance activities in ACT cities.
- **ACT Core Team:** A team of at least two city staff/officials\*, a youth-serving community-based organization, an adult-serving community based-organization, and two resident leaders who together identify and assemble a Design Team.
- **Design Team:** A team of youth, community members, community partners, city officials and their staff\* who jointly identify and rally support for programs, policies, and/or other strategies to improve child well-being in their city by making meaningful progress in their chosen Community Action Area. The Design Team also educates their city council about the need for resolutions or local ordinances that provide a framework for and commitment toward child wellbeing.
- **Asset Mapping:** The process by which community members identify the level, status, and/or condition of behaviors, knowledge, and/or skills that individuals, groups, or institutions possess which serve as supports, resources, and/or other sources of strength to the community.

\*\* ACT Coach will work with the applicants, case- by- case.

Eligibility Criteria	Documentation Required
<b>Nonprofit status:</b> 501(c)3 organizations, other nongovernmental entity, tribal sovereignties	Employer Identification Number or other documentation**
<b>Affiliation:</b> Affiliated with an ACT City Design Team	Identify ACT city and ACT Coach
<b>Organization has a non-discrimination policy</b>	YES / NO
<b>Financial audit:</b> Audit with no substantive findings within the last 3 years	YES / NO
<b>Fiscal experience:</b> Administrative and fiscal experience with grant funding	YES / NO
<b>Fast start:</b> Ability to initiate grant funded activities within 30 days of receiving funds	YES / NO
Review Criteria	Status
<b>Demonstrated commitment:</b> Willingness to convene a team of city staff or other officials, representatives from youth-serving community-based organizations, and community members to ensure the inclusion of community voices and the support of partners having the authority to select a policy priority and educate about the need to adopt and implement policy changes.	YES / NO
<b>Readiness for change—community awareness:</b> Awareness among community members that a public health problem exists affecting child well-being within the priority action areas listed in the ACT Toolkit.	YES / NO
<b>Readiness for change—community support:</b> Community members have demonstrated support for action to improve child well-being within chosen priority action area(s).	YES / NO
<b>Decision-maker support:</b> Decision-makers and community leaders have demonstrated support for action to address the chosen priority action area(s).	YES / NO

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<p><b>Prior Experience:</b> Experience in policy development; advocacy for policy, systems, and/or organizational culture change; or other experience relevant to child well-being or selected priority areas.</p>	<p>YES / NO</p>
<p><b>Additional Criteria:</b> If at any time the number of interested and eligible cities exceeds the initiative’s capacity to support them, the following additional funding criteria will be applied.</p>	
<p><b>Geographic diversity.</b> ACT is funded by the California Mental Health Services Act. To ensure that funds are equitably distributed to support the state’s geographic diversity, cities will be prioritized for funding in the following order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Cities within the <a href="#">Superior Counties Mental Health Region</a></li> <li>b. Cities that increase the geographic diversity of counties represented from their Mental Health Region</li> <li>c. Cities collaborating within a county or Mental Health Region</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Neighborhood risk.</b> The Neighborhood Risk Index will be used to identify the proportion of neighbors residing in census tracts classified as at high risk using social determinants associated with health and development among 482 California cities. Priority will be given to cities with higher risk rankings. Applicants may submit for consideration other data collected within the last three years relevant to their selected priority area(s).</p>	

**NARRATIVE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Section	Instructions
Organization mission statement and how it is relevant to ACT	Maximum 200 words
Experience addressing child well-being in your community	Maximum 200 words
Experience with program monitoring, including data collection and reporting	Maximum 300 words
ACT Design Team project description and scope of work, including a timeline of key milestones	Maximum 1000 words
Budget	Funding request, up to maximum listed below for activity
Key Staff	Provide a bio, CV, or resume for staff responsible for project oversight.

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If these positions are new or vacant, include position qualifications

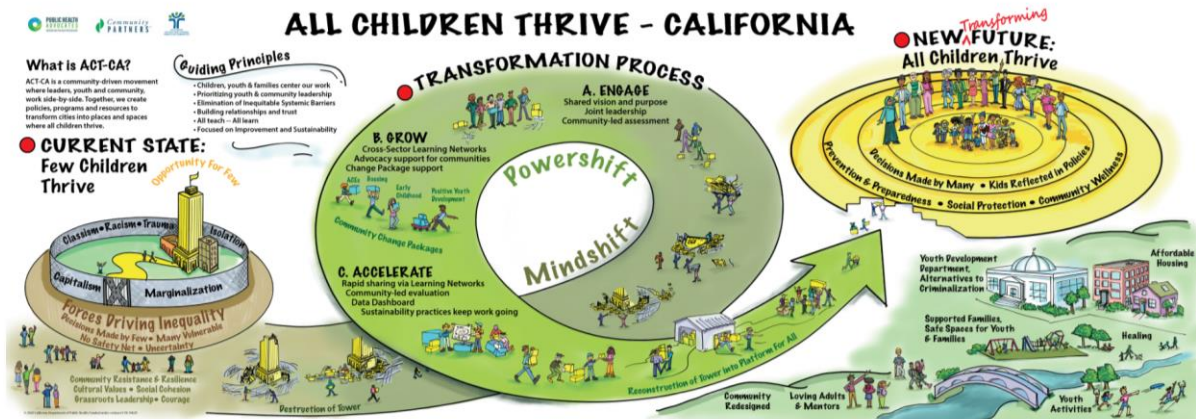


Figure 1: ACT Big Picture Map

### FUNDED ACTIVITIES

Funding will support the work of ACT Design Teams. Funded activities must support the *Transformation Process* in the *Engage*, *Grow* or *Accelerate* levels pictured above. Examples of activities are listed below, along with funding available for each. Cities may apply for up to three categories. Other activities may be funded if approved by an ACT Coach.

<b>ENGAGE ACTIVITIES</b>
Coordinate strategic planning sessions
Provide youth and community design team member incentives. For more information discuss with you ACT coach.
Facilitate development of an <i>Asset Map</i> describing the city’s assets, who are they connected to, and how will they contribute to desired change
Trainings for community mapping (youth and residents)
<b>GROW ACTIVITIES</b>
Make sense of collective experiences using <i>Census Tracking Data</i>

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Conduct community mapping to support decision making
Collect data and conduct data analysis

<b>ACCELERATE ACTIVITIES</b>
Conduct continuous quality improvement activities
Develop data storytelling and community narratives

**BUDGET:** Provide budget as an Excel document including the following:

- Funding activities (from among above)
- Personnel (up to 1.0 FTE)
- Supplies/ Personal
- Travel (Note: Safety considerations for COVID-19 required)
- Meeting Costs (e.g. Zoom, Venue)
- Incentives (e.g. food, gift cards- commensurate to the activity)
- Stipends
- Trainings
- Occupancy

**INELIGIBLE USE OF FUNDS:** Funds may not be used for the following:

- Supplanting or duplicating existing programs
- Fundraising activities
- Lobbying or electioneering
- Reimbursement for costs currently covered by another contract
- Maintaining professional licensure or malpractice insurance
- Religious activities
- Delivery of health care services

**EVALUATION AND REPORTING:** During the grant period, the ACT staff and evaluator will help awardees to complete surveys, participate in interviews, and complete program monitoring documentation. A reporting template will be provided to awardees. At the close of the funding period, awardees must submit a two-page summary report detailing:

- Activities and work completed
- Successes
- Challenges
- Key Findings

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**APPEALS PROCESS:** If your application is denied you may file an appeal by sending an email within 30 calendar days of the date of the denial notice to [info@ACT.org](mailto:info@ACT.org).

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