

All Children Thrive–California PLANNING GRANT: 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 five 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

Please see the [Appendix](#) for a Glossary of Terms.

PURPOSE OF RFA. The purpose of this Request for Applications (RFA) is to support planning activities of existing or new ACT Design Teams and prepare for new interventions that will be available through new funding as of January 1, 2022 to further policy change that reduces and prevents childhood adversity in California.

KEY DATES. Applications will be accepted through September 1, 2021.

FUNDING AVAILABILITY. Up to twenty cities will receive no more than \$20,000 each to support eligible activities and allowable expenditures. (See Allowable Activities, Budget, and Use of Funds below.) These funds are a one-time allocation to support ACT activities through December 31, 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. Before applying, an applicant must work with an ACT Coach 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.

ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES

The following is a list of allowable activities permissible under the Planning Grant RFA:

- Asset Mapping
- Needs Assessments
- Review of General Plans, Jurisdiction’s Budget, or Existing Policies
- Public Opinion Polls
- Completion of Midwest Academy Strategy Chart
- Coalition Structure Activities
- Factsheet/Education Materials
- Branding (e.g., logo, website)
- ACT RFA Reapplication (Project start date is anticipated to be January 1, 2021)

Eligibility Criteria	Documentation Required
Nonprofit status: 501(c)3 organizations, other nongovernmental entity, tribal sovereignties	Employer Identification Number or other documentation**
Affiliation: Affiliated with an ACT City Design Team	Identify ACT city and ACT Coach
Organization has a non-discrimination policy	YES / NO
Financial audit: Audit with no substantive findings within the last 3 years	YES / NO
Fiscal experience: Administrative and fiscal experience with grant funding	YES / NO
Fast start: Ability to initiate grant funded activities within 30 days of receiving funds	YES / NO
Evaluation: Commitment to participate in ACT Evaluation as requested by ACT project staff and/or the ACT project Evaluator.	YES / NO

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

Review Criteria	Status
<p>Demonstrated commitment: 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.</p>	<p>YES / NO</p>
<p>Prior Experience: 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>Additional Criteria: 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>Geographic diversity. 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"> a. Cities within the Superior Counties Mental Health Region b. Cities that increase the geographic diversity of counties represented from their Mental Health Region c. Cities collaborating within a county or Mental Health Region
<p>Neighborhood risk. 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>

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NARRATIVE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Section	Instructions
NEW Projects: Organization mission statement and how it is relevant to ACT	Maximum 200 words
NEW Projects: Experience addressing child well-being in your community	Maximum 200 words
NEW Projects: Experience with program monitoring, including data collection and reporting	Maximum 300 words
NEW and Existing Projects: ACT Planning Grant description and scope of work, including a chart that describes a timeline of key milestones	Maximum 500 words
NEW and Existing Projects: Budget	Funding request that aligns with the proposed Scope of Work

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

- [Fundable allowable activities](#) (from among above)
- Personnel (including FTE) and associated costs (e.g., fringe and indirect)
- Supplies
- Travel (Note: Safety considerations for COVID-19 required, cannot exceed CalHR limits and regulations)
- Meeting Costs (e.g. Zoom, Venue, Translation)
- Incentives (Note: not to exceed \$50 per person, per year)
 - Non-consumable (e.g, gift cards- commensurate to the activity)
 - Consumable (e.g., healthy food and beverages)
- Stipends (Note: allowable only for community members to offset the cost of volunteerism)
- Trainings

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

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EVALUATION AND REPORTING: During the grant period, it is mandatory at the request of ACT staff and evaluator, the awardee will participate in ACT project evaluation that could include activities such as the completion of surveys, participate in interviews, and/or completing program monitoring documentation. A reporting template will be provided to awardees.

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.

APPENDIX: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.

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