



Elevating *The Safety Net*

*An L.A. Care Health Plan Initiative to
Strengthen the Provider Safety Net in L.A. County*

Elevating the Safety Net Provider Recruitment Program

Request for Applications (RFA) - Cycle X
Community Benefits FY 2020-21



**ELEVATING
HEALTHCARE**
IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SINCE 1997



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Strengthen the Provider Safety Net in L.A. County

The tenth cycle of applications are due no later than **Thursday, June 17, 2021** on or before 2:00 p.m. Award announcements for the tenth cycle will be made by mid-August 2021.

Cycle X represents the third and final grant application cycle of FY 2020-21. Please send an email to CommunityBenefits@lacare.org to inquire about the grant application deadlines for the upcoming fiscal year 2021-22.

I. PURPOSE

L.A. Care Health Plan (L.A. Care) is pleased to release a Request for Applications (RFA) under the *Elevating the Safety Net Provider Recruitment Program (PRP)*. The program provides grant funds to attract new providers to L.A. Care's Medi-Cal network, and to increase healthcare access to low-income populations in Los Angeles County. The program is designed to recruit five (5) types of disciplines practicing in primary care settings, including: (1) pediatricians, (2) OB/GYNs, (3) family and (4) internal medicine physicians, and (5) psychiatrists¹.

A 2017 study by the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Healthforce Center found that California will need almost 9,000 additional primary care clinicians by 2030 to meet demand, and about 40% of those needed are in Los Angeles, Orange, and Inland Empire regions. During that same period, it's projected the number of psychiatrists in the state will decline by approximately 40%. For medical providers that serve a growing Medi-Cal population, this gap could be even more acute because safety net providers have fewer resources to recruit physicians or psychiatrists.

This RFA is only open to entities that contract with L.A. Care. Applicants may request up to \$125,000 per provider. Funds can be used for salary and benefits subsidies, sign-on bonuses, and/or relocation costs. At least 50% of the funds must be used for salary and benefits subsidies.

Applicants may request funds for up to two (2) providers per funding cycle but no more than three (3) providers across the three (3) funding cycles for L.A. Care's FY 2020-21, which starts October 1, 2020 and ends September 30, 2021.

For questions about PRP grants, we **strongly** recommend interested applicants review the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet that accompanies this RFA and attend one of the two scheduled Informational Calls for this cycle.

¹ Eligible providers must be an employee of the contracted entity in L.A. Care's Medi-Cal network and must be practicing in a primary care setting.

II. ABOUT L. A. CARE HEALTH PLAN

L.A. Care Health Plan (Local Initiative Health Authority of Los Angeles County) is a public entity and community-accountable health plan serving residents of Los Angeles County through a variety of programs including L.A. Care Covered™, Medi-Cal, and L.A. Care Cal MediConnect Plan. L.A. Care is a leader in developing new programs and innovative partnerships designed to provide health coverage to vulnerable populations and to support the safety net. With more than two million members, L.A. Care is the nation's largest publicly operated health plan.

For more information, please visit <http://www.lacare.org/about-us/about-la-care/grantmaking>

III. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The applicant (contracted entity) and the recruited physician or psychiatrist (provider) must meet the following minimum requirements:

Applicant/Contracted Entity Criteria

- a. Must be a contracted entity in L.A. Care's Medi-Cal network.
- b. Must demonstrate need and capacity for growth, based on current provider to patient ratio and written statement of need in the application.
- c. Must be a contracted entity in good standing with L.A. Care as evidenced by most recent Pay 4 Performance (P4P) rating, HEDIS scores, etc.
- d. Qualified providers hired four (4) months before the cycle deadline are eligible for this program.
- e. The hired provider must start employment no earlier than February 17, 2021 and no later than December 31, 2021. If applicant does not plan on hiring a provider that will start by such date, please apply in a subsequent cycle. **INDEPENDENTLY CONTRACTED PHYSICIANS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO BE COVERED BY PRP FUNDING.**
- f. Awardees from previous funding cycles that have not yet hired a provider related to those awards are NOT be eligible for another PRP grant.

Provider Criteria *(A provider hire does not need to be identified prior to grant approval).*

- a. The provider must be new to L.A. Care's Medi-Cal network, but does not have to be new to Los Angeles County.
- b. Must commit to practice for at least 36 months of service with the hired contracted entity. If provider leaves before 36 months, the contracted entity is required to hire a replacement to complete the 36-month services obligation and will not be eligible to apply for PRP funding in subsequent cycles until the entity has replaced the provider.
- c. Provide at least 16 hours of direct patient care per week. The grant amount will be prorated with 32 hours of service used as a baseline for a 100% award.
- d. Priority for funding will be given to hired providers that are filling a new position with the applicant. Hired providers that are replacing physicians will be given secondary consideration to other applicants that are filling new positions.

IV. COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS

Competitive proposals will demonstrate the following features:

- a. Meets the contracted entity and provider criteria outlined in **Section III, Eligibility Criteria** above.
- b. Must primarily serve the Medi-Cal and/or the uninsured population.
- c. Contracted entity demonstrates the need for expansion.
- d. The contracted entity's service site is in a designated Medically Underserved Area (MUA) or a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA).

V. USE OF FUNDS

Applicants may request up to \$125,000 per provider. Applicants cannot apply for more than two (2) providers per cycle, and no more than three (3) providers across all three (3) funding cycles for FY 2020-21. Funds can be used for salary and benefits subsidies, sign-on bonuses, and/or relocation costs only. At least 50% of award must be used for salary and benefits subsidies.

VI. PROVIDER LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

Contracted entities are also highly encouraged to refer *new* providers to L.A. Care's Medi-Cal network to *Elevating the Safety Net* **Provider Loan Repayment Program (PLRP)**. The **PLRP** will provide loan repayments of up to \$5,000 per month for 36 months, with an opportunity to extend for an additional two (2) years. For more information about this loan repayment program, please visit: www.lacare.org/elevateproviders. Although the two (2) programs (PRP and PLRP) are complementary, they have separate application processes. Acceptance to one (1) program does not automatically qualify applicant for the other.

VII. INFORMATIONAL CONFERENCE CALLS

To assist prospective applicants, L.A. Care Community Benefits staff will hold two (2) informational conference calls. There is no maximum number of staff per applicant who can participate, and applicants may attend either or both calls. During these informational calls, L.A. Care staff will provide an overview of the RFA, grant application content, deadlines, timelines, and answer any questions related to both the Provider Recruitment Program (PRP) and the Physician Loan Repayment Program (PLRP).

To benefit the most from the informational conference calls, please request the grant application materials from Community Benefits staff and review the RFA and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) documents (housed on the L.A. Care website) **BEFORE** the calls. Directions for requesting the grant application materials can be found by visiting: www.lacare.org/elevateproviders.

Prospective applicants should participate in at least one (1) informational call.

To RSVP for either or both of the following informational calls, please send an email to: CommunityBenefits@lacare.org.

In the subject line of the email, please indicate the following: **'RSVP for (INSERT DATE) PRP/PLRP Informational Call (INSERT #1 or #2).**

In the body of the email, please provide the following information:

1. First and Last Name
2. Name of Your Organization
3. Job Title
4. Phone Number
5. Preferred Email Address

- **Tuesday, June 1, 2021, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85734542552>

Meeting ID: 857 3454 2552

or

By Phone: 1-669-900-9128

- **Thursday, June 3, 2021, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87397853810>

Meeting ID: 873 9785 3810

or

By Phone: 1-669-900-9128

If you have any questions about registering for a call, email the Community Benefits department team at CommunityBenefits@lacare.org.

VIII. APPLICATION SUBMISSION

All application documents are due no later than **Thursday, June 17, 2021 before 2:00 p.m.**

There is a one-step application submission process:



- The email subject line should read: Contracted entity's Name, Provider Recruitment Program Cycle X.
- Title and attach the following documents to email as follows:
 - i. Contracted entity's Name, Application, PRP Cycle X, 2019-20 (**fillable Word**)
 - ii. Contracted entity's Name, Budget, PRP Cycle X, 2019-20 (**Excel spreadsheet**)
 - iii. Contracted entity's Name, PRP Cycle X, Signed W-9 (**PDF**)
 - iv. Contracted entity's Name, PRP Cycle X, 501 (c) (3) IRS notification letter if a non-profit (PDF)

- Documents should be mailed directly to the Community Benefits department team at CommunityBenefits@lacare.org.
- d. Electronically submitted documents must be in the formats provided or as indicated. **No other formats will be accepted other than what is specified in the RFA.**
No handwritten applications will be accepted.

SUBMISSION REMINDERS

To qualify for the tenth cycle of funding, all electronic documents must arrive on or before 2:00 pm on June 17, 2021.

Electronic documents must be in the formats provided or as indicated. No other formats will be accepted other than what is specified in the RFA.

Funding announcements will be made by mid August 2021.

All decisions are final and there is no appeal process.



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