



Request for Applications: The LEAP Award -- Leveraging Effectiveness, Advancing Practice

Applications Due: Wednesday, March 12, 2008

I. About the California HealthCare Foundation

The California HealthCare Foundation (CHCF), based in Oakland, is an independent and non-partisan 501c(4) philanthropy committed to improving California's health care delivery and financing systems. Formed in 1996, its goal is to ensure that all Californians have access to affordable, quality health care. For more information, visit www.chcf.org.

II. Summary

The CHCF LEAP Award will create a broad, community-based competition to promote the spread of model practices in the delivery system and to recognize the variety of innovative ways that safety-net clinics have developed to address the growing needs of the underserved in California. The LEAP Award will recognize one or more innovative projects with \$25,000 awards and public recognition events during the fall and winter of 2008.

III. Award Description

CHCF seeks to identify and publicly recognize safety-net clinics in California that have demonstrated practice innovations that advance one or more aspects of quality as defined by the Institute of Medicine (safe, timely, efficient, effective, equitable, and patient centered) to stimulate replication of these programs across the safety net. There is an increased awareness that advances in practice are occurring but few opportunities to share information or better understand innovations across safety-net clinics. The LEAP Award is intended to encourage dissemination and replication of model practices.

Award applicants will submit a brief description (up to five pages double spaced) of a project or initiative that achieved major, scalable improvements in practice that advance the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) quality aims. Then CHCF will convene a panel of health care experts with acknowledged experience in innovative practices in health care to review the applications using the following criteria: significantly advances one or more of the IOM's characteristics of high-quality care; successful implementation in a clinic setting; potential for replication; and financially sustainable. Finally, site visits will be conducted to explore promising programs in depth prior to the final award decisions.

The LEAP Award will be announced in the fall and follow-up recognition opportunities, such as ceremonies at the annual meetings of safety-net providers (for example, the California Primary Care Association, California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems, and/or California State Rural Health Association), will highlight the successful programs.

To facilitate dissemination of the new ideas and programs, a case study anthology will also be created to highlight the organizations and their achievements. As a condition of the award, organizations chosen will be required to host site visits from interested clinics and providers to help in spreading the practices.

The projects or initiatives might include ways that you have increased access to primary and specialty care, efforts to promote lower cost models of care, increases in operational efficiencies, deployment of information technology to improve services, or improvements in the quality of care, including disease prevention and management.

The review panel of health care experts will meet and you will be notified of a possible site visit before the end of April. The site visits will occur between May 15 and July 1, 2008. The review panelists will base their evaluation of the projects on these criteria:

- Innovative, bold, new idea
- Tested for one year or more
- Generally advances the IOM quality definitions (safe, timely, efficient, effective, equitable, and patient centered)
- Demonstrates impact through measurable indicators
- Improves access to primary and/or specialty care
- Financially sustainable
- Potential for replication in other settings.

IV. Timeline

Applications due	March 12, 2008 by 5:00 p.m. PST
Candidates selected for site visits	April 30, 2008
Site visits performed	May 15 – July 1, 2008
Award(s) announced	September 15, 2008
Public recognition events	Fall – Winter 2008

V. Project Eligibility

All community clinics and health centers, clinic consortia, rural clinics, county affiliated clinics, public hospital clinics, tribal clinics, and free clinics are encouraged to apply. The program is

limited to non-profit, 501(c)3 organizations and government entities that are dedicated to providing health care services to underserved populations in California.

VI. To Apply

Applications must be submitted both electronically and on paper by March 12, 2008. Include the following materials in your application:

- a. **Project cover sheet.** (Download the form at <http://www.chcf.org/grantinfo/solicited.>)
- b. **Tax ID information.** Nonprofits should submit a copy of their current Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status determination letter. Government entities without 501(c)3 status should submit a copy of verification of status as a governmental entity.
- c. **Project narrative.** Describe your project in five pages or fewer with double-spaced lines, one-inch margins, and a 12-point font. Specific points to address are:
 1. Briefly describe your organization and its work.
 2. Describe the innovative project, its purpose, the target population, when it was implemented, how many people it has benefited, and its measurable impact on your service delivery system and your underserved population.
 3. Discuss how this project supports and advances one or more of the IOM quality definitions.
 4. How did you evaluate the program and costs? Did the evaluation produce any changes in your program?
 5. How could this program be replicated in other safety-net institutions?
 6. How will you institutionalize and sustain this program going forward?
 7. What additional expenses and/or revenues did this program create?

To apply, send all attachments in a single email to Melissa Schoen, Senior Program Officer, at mschoen@chcf.org to arrive no later than **5:00 p.m. Pacific on Wednesday, March 12, 2008**. Attachments should be clearly labeled with the organization in the filename.

In addition, mail ten sets of the complete application packet to Melissa Schoen, Senior Program Officer, California HealthCare Foundation, 1438 Webster Street #400, Oakland CA 94612, to arrive no later than **5:00 p.m. Pacific on Wednesday, March 12, 2008**.

VII. For More Information

Questions may be directed to Bobbie Wunsch of the Pacific Health Consulting Group at bwunsch@pachealth.org or 415.459.7813 before Monday, March 10 at 5:00 p.m. Questions received after this time cannot be guaranteed a response.

Please share this RFA with others who might be interested.