

California Funders for Boys and Men of Color – Education Blueprint for Boys and Men of Color in Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley Counties

Request for Applications
September 2024



This funding opportunity is provided by The Center at Sierra Health Foundation. The Center at Sierra Health Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization bringing people, ideas and infrastructure together to create a collective impact that reduces health disparities and improves community health for the underserved living in California. For information about The Center, visit www.shfcenter.org.

Read All Instructions and Criteria Carefully

ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAM

Sierra Health Foundation: Center for Health Program Management (The Center) was founded by Sierra Health Foundation in 2012 as an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. With offices in Sacramento and Fresno, The Center pursues the promise of health and racial equity in communities across California. Leveraging leadership, operational and funding support from Sierra Health Foundation and its partners, The Center establishes investment partnerships with public and private funders; community members; community organizations; national, state and local government agencies; nonprofits; and businesses to advance health equity.

The California Funders for Boys and Men of Color (CFBMoC), co-founded by Sierra Health Foundation and managed by The Center brings together CEOs from the state's leading philanthropic institutions to shape a better future for boys and men of color—and for California. CFBMoC aligns the resources, networks and voices of California's private, family and community foundations with the goal of improving opportunities for multi-generational boys and men of color.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY AND BACKGROUND

CFBMoC will award a total of \$300,000 in grants. Each grant is up to \$25,000 over 12 months for a qualifying nonprofit organization that serves people living in CFBMoC's 10-county Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley funding region (see map on page 3). These grants will support the development of a five-year regional education system blueprint to increase the number of boys and men of color pursuing and completing a post-secondary degree or career technical certificate program by 2030. The CFBMoC Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Regional Action Committee (SSJV RAC) is made up of member foundations Sierra Health Foundation, Sacramento Region Community Foundation, The California Wellness Foundation, Stuart Foundation, NextGen Policy, ECMC Foundation, Sobrato Philanthropies and The California Endowment.



To improve educational outcomes of boys and men of color in Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Mariposa, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Kern counties, CFBMoC will invest in key grassroots and advocacy organizations to support deeper engagement and policy, and systems change that will improve access to and completion of post-secondary degrees and certificate programs. CFBMoC will also invest in comprehensive training and technical assistance for the cohort of funded organizations, which will inform how to strengthen emerging solutions to address some of California’s most pressing educational barriers for boys and men of color.

Improving Education-to-Economic Opportunity Pathways for Boys and Men of Color

California’s leading global economy is fueled by multi-billion-dollar industry sectors that generate a variety of career, education and training pathways. CFBMoC is tracking K-12th grade indicators that prepare students across California to access and complete post-secondary education opportunities that lead to family-sustaining income at 300% of the federal poverty level.

In 2020, eight-in-ten (80%) high school boys in California graduated. However, Black and Indigenous boys are most often failed by school systems and have lower graduation rates than

white and Asian students. Students of color are five times more likely than white students to attend a high-poverty school in California, due to underinvestment in public schools serving students of color—including early education. Statewide, less than half (47%) of high school boys of color graduate high school meeting the entry requirements for the University of California and California State University systems¹. Racism and economic disadvantages, along with punitive school cultures, have rendered boys and men of color far less likely to complete post-secondary education programs than their white peers.

This funding opportunity reinforces the urgency to improve educational outcomes for boys and men of color while aligning strategies to reduce and prevent involvement with the justice system, including youth incarceration. Juvenile incarceration threatens school completion and increases the likelihood of going to prison from one in ten to one in three. In counties like Fresno, San Joaquin, Kern, Merced and Kings, youth incarceration rates can range from 15% to 100% above the state average.

Place-based Strategy and Program Grants

The CFBMoC launched a place-based strategy in 2016 designed to 1) align, amplify and accelerate existing successful models for system and policy change rooted in community; and 2) influence the allocation of public resources and attention in ways that would have the most meaningful impact. Together with policymakers, business and community leaders, we are working to build momentum, public will and policy attention so that California's boys and men of color:

- Are prepared for and thrive in school
- Reach math and reading milestones at the appropriate grade levels
- Earn their high school diplomas
- Graduate from college with quality degrees, credentials and certifications
- Face fewer arrests, convictions and recidivism as youth and adults
- Are healthy, safe and free from violence
- Secure meaningful and stable careers with sufficient pay to support their families

The strategy is based on a shared understanding that existing local and statewide efforts—community, public and philanthropic—must have a sharper analysis of the issues facing boys and young men of color to achieve population-level impacts. Guided by the CFBMoC North Star

¹ 2022-2023 Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate. Retrieved from: <https://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/dqcensus/CohRate.aspx?cds=00&aggllevel=state&year=2022-23&initrow=&ro=y>

Goal² and the Life Course Framework³, CFBMoC seeks to support and partner with regional leaders to transform policies, systems and institutions through its place-based strategy, via a combination of four priorities:

- **Priority 1:** Address school climate, communications, mental well-being and accountability.
- **Priority 2:** Strengthen pipelines from K-12 school districts and county office of education-run schools to community college and/or four-year university for justice-involved and/or system impacted boys and men of color.
- **Priority 3:** Organize power-building efforts and awareness of the fiscal and policy landscape at the city, county, state and/or federal level to identify opportunities to leverage governmental resources that could improve outcomes for BMoC.
- **Priority 4:** Align County Offices of Education programs and schools inside and outside juvenile detention facilities, community colleges and four-year universities that offer justice-involved students' opportunities and services in detention facilities and on campus.

To support these priorities and the blueprint development process, a cohort of funded partners will participate in strategy sessions throughout Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley and engage with the designated training and technical assistance provider. The training and technical assistance provider will take the collective feedback and develop a summarized blueprint outlining evidence-based practices to leverage and areas CFBMoC should consider funding. The CFBMoC Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Regional Action Committee will make technical assistance available in the following areas:

- Data support
- Participatory action research
- Facilitation to complete the local and regional blueprints

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

This funding opportunity is open to nonprofit organizations that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and working in the CFBMoC Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley funding region. Fiscal sponsors for entities not qualifying 501(c) (3) nonprofits are eligible to apply if the project meets the criteria.

The most competitive applications will:

²To increase the number boys and men of color achieving employment that pays enough to support a family in California (300% federal poverty level)

³ Arnold Chandler, A Life Course Framework for Improving the Lives of Boys and Men of Color, Forward Change Consulting

- Capitalize on existing, strong community leadership and infrastructure focused on building alliances and coalitions that help advance policy and system change campaigns aimed at improving the educational climates of local K-12 and Higher Education institutions where boys and men of color attend in Sacramento and/or San Joaquin counties.
- Leverage existing boys and men of color-related investments made by CFBMoC members—particularly those focused on dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline, addressing school climate and uplifting opportunities for English Learners.
- Leverage public and private leadership to focus attention on boys and men of color policy issues, such as the Alliance for Boys and Men of Color, California Alliance for Youth and Community Justice, Assembly Select Committee on the Status of Boys and Men of Color, My Brother’s Keeper cities, etc.
- Demonstrate work that explicitly supports health and racial equity and operates across intersecting issues to improve educational outcomes for boys and men of color.

Scope of Work

Funds from this grant will be used by a cohort of partners to develop a collaborative blueprint and workplan that facilitates preparation, access to, and completion of post-secondary associates-to-transfer degree programs, high value career-technical certificate programs or bachelor’s degree programs. Grantees are expected to fully participate and collaborate in-person in four to-be-determined counties throughout the funded region. Cohort meetings will convene fellow grantees, systems leaders and youth across the region to develop a collective education regional blueprint for boys and men of color.

Grant activities will include:

- CFBMoC Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Regional Action Committee Education Blueprint Grantee Kick-Off Regular grantee blueprint planning convenings January – August 2025
- CFBMoC Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Regional Action Committee Funder Briefings

Funding TIMELINE

September 18, 2024	RFP Release
September 25, 2024	Proposers Webinar
October 17, 2024	Applications Due
November 20, 2024	Award Notifications
December 11, 2024	Funds Available & Award Announcements

TOTAL AWARD AMOUNTS

Up to \$25,000 for 1 year for 501(c)(3) community-based organizations, Tribal organizations and coalitions/collaboratives.

*Up to 20% of direct costs may be requested as indirect costs.

What We Will Not Fund Through This Funding Opportunity

- Debt retirement
- Operational deficits
- Partisan activities
- Religious organizations for explicit religious activities
- Activities that exclusively benefit the members of sectarian or religious organizations
- Purchase of properties

Project Timeline

Grants will cover activities for the following time period: January 1 – December 31, 2025

Application Timeline

At The Center's discretion, the timeline below is subject to change to best meet programmatic needs and funder requirements.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

October 17, 2024 at 2pm (Pacific Time)

REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS:

October 2024

APPROXIMATE AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT:

November 2024

APPROXIMATE DATE GRANTS ISSUED:

December 2024

To be considered, organizations must submit applications online on the deadline date of **October 17, 2024, at 2 pm (Pacific Time)**. Proposals received after the due date/time will not be reviewed. Submission before the deadline date is highly advised in case you experience technical difficulties with submitting your application through the portal. We may not be able to respond to your requests for help on the deadline date.

Proposers' Webinars

We have scheduled a proposers' webinar to review this funding opportunity and the application process and to answer questions. Participation in a webinar is strongly recommended. Please review the application materials prior to registering for a webinar.

September 25, 2024 at 11 am.

Note: A confirmation e-mail with the link to join the webinar will be sent immediately after registration. If you do not receive it, please check your spam/junk folder.

Important Application Guidelines

To help us process your application, please follow these submission guidelines:

- We encourage you to submit your application before the deadline date in case you need help with any of the RFA components.
- Applications are due no later than 2 p.m. (Pacific Time) on September, 18, 2024.
- Submit the application via our online portal through [this application link](#). You will use the link that you will receive via e-mail to continue working on your saved application.
- When working on your application in the portal, use Microsoft Edge, formerly known as Internet Explorer, as the browser when working on a PC, and Safari as the browser when working on a Mac.
- Respond to all required fields (marked with an *).
- Upload all attachments listed under “Application Checklist” below.
- On the portal, you may click “Save & Finish Later.” You will receive an e-mail with a link to return to your in-progress application.
- Click “Save & Finish Later” any time you will not be working in your application for a few minutes.
- You may submit your application only once. Be sure your application is complete and accurate, including required documents, before submitting it. Revised applications will not be accepted.
- If you are unable to submit your application online or need help, please contact us at healthyyouth@shfcenter.org with the subject line: 2024 CFBMoC Education Blueprint RFA

Send questions related to this funding opportunity
to healthyyouth@shfcenter.org with the subject line: 2024 CFBMoC Education Blueprint
RFA

Application Checklist

- Initiate the funding application using [The Center's online portal](#).
- Required Application Attachments
 - Proposed budget completed with The Center's Proposed Budget Template (template available in the online portal)
 - Proposed budget justification
 - Applicant organization's W-9
 - Work plan completed in The Center's required template (template available in the online portal)
 - Support letter signed by the applicant organization's administrator/executive

Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Applications received after the above deadline will not be considered.

- If you are unable to submit your application online or need help, please contact us at healthyyouth@shfcenter.org the subject line: **2024 CFBMoC Education Blueprint RFA**

APPLICATION FOR REFERENCE ONLY

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION USING THE ONLINE PORTAL

- If you are unable to submit your application online or need help, please contact us at healthyyouth@shfcenter.org with the subject line **2024 CFBMoC Education Blueprint RFA**

APPLICANT ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Organization name:

Is this organization a fiscal sponsor?

Name of fiscally sponsored project, if applicable:

Address:

County:

Phone:

Website/URL (optional):

Director/CEO Contact Name:

Director/CEO Contact Title:

Director E-mail address:

Director phone:

Application Contact:

Application Contact E-mail Address:

Application Contact Phone:

Applicant Organization Tax ID #:

Organization Status – Organization has 501(c)(3) nonprofit status with the IRS.

Circle One: Yes No Unsure

What is the applicant organization's annual budget amount?

Does the applicant organization have an annual financial audit? Circle One: Yes No

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name (20 words maximum):

Brief Summary and Purpose of Project (100 words maximum) beginning with “To...”:

Amount Requested: \$25,000

Start Date: January 1, 2025

End Date: December 31, 2025

Project Geography

For the county or counties that the organization benefits from, indicate your best estimate of the percentage of the project work that would take place there (best estimate). (Total must add up to 100.)

Fresno
Kern
Kings
Madera
Mariposa
Merced
Sacramento
San Joaquin
Stanislaus
Tulare

Urban/Rural

Indicate whether the proposed project benefits people living in an urban or rural area, or both. Region where services will be implemented (see definition in RFA):

- Urban
- Rural
- Both Urban and Rural

Race and Ethnicity

For the racial and ethnic populations that will be affected, provide your best estimate of the percentage of the total people of each population [able to choose multiple; Total must add up to 100]

- African-American/Black [Provide specific population(s)]
- Asian-American [Provide specific population(s)]
- Asian Pacific Islander [Provide specific population(s)]
- Middle Eastern or North African [Provide specific population(s)]
- Latino/Hispanic [Provide specific population(s)]

- American Indian/Native American [Provide specific population(s) _____]
- White [Provide specific population(s) _____]
- Mixed race:
- Other (Please identify) [Provide specific population(s) _____]

Age Group

All selected activities must be related to youth 12-26 years old. For the age groups that will be affected, provide your best estimate of the percentage in each age group. (Total must add up to 100.)

- Under 5 _____ % 5-9 _____ % 10-14 _____ % 15-19 _____ %
- 20-24 _____ % 25-26 _____ % 27-54 _____ % 55+ _____ %

NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

Organization Description. Briefly describe the applicant organization (or lead organization, if the applicant is serving as a fiscal sponsor only) including (a) its mission, (b) how long it has served the community, (c) the youth it serves, including age, gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic situation, where they live and any special circumstances, and (d) history of supporting a collaborative with a common agenda. (300 words maximum)

Education Outcomes. Describe your organization’s work with improving opportunities for boys and men of color to graduate high school, access post-secondary education opportunities, complete a post-secondary degree or certificate program, and/or re-enter the education system as a system impacted individual. (300 words maximum)

Education Systems. Describe your organization’s experience working with K-12, Community College, and/or four-year university system leaders to advance policy and systems changes that improve access to and completion of post-secondary degree and/or certificate programs. What K-12 districts and/or higher education systems are you working with? What is the nature of that work? (300 words maximum)

Community Partner Engagement. How are you engaging with other community partners improve education outcomes for boys and men of color in your county. What community partners are you working with? What is the nature of that work? (300 words maximum)

Technical Assistance. What technical assistance would your organization benefit from in implementing this project? This technical assistance can be focused on organizational capacity building or community capacity building. This information will help us plan our learning convenings. (150 words maximum)

ATTACHMENTS

- Proposed Project Budget (required) – Download The Center’s budget form in the Attachments tab of the online application form, fill it in and upload it. Be sure to complete a budget for each year. Each budget will roll up to the total budget spreadsheet.
- Proposed Project Budget Justification (required) – Please describe expense line items and what they will support. You may download a template in the Attachments tab of the online application form for use.
- Applicant organization’s W-9 (required).
- Support letter signed by the applicant organization’s executive, or if you are applying as a coalition, support letter signed by each coalition member stating their role in the project and signed by that organization’s executive (required).