Eligibility

Who is eligible to apply for the grant opportunity?

This grant opportunity is open to 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations in California that meet the following criteria:

1) 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations providing social services to improve the physical, mental, social, environmental, or economic well-being of historically underinvested communities.
2) Safety net healthcare organizations that provide primary care services, regional clinic consortia or public health commission may also apply in partnership with up to two 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations, and the team must include representatives from the applying organizations.

Team Composition

How many people are allowed to participate in one Catalyst Team?

We are requiring that all Catalyst teams have at least three individuals. If you’re a safety net healthcare organization that provides primary care services, regional clinic consortia, or public health commission you must also apply in partnership with up to two 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, and the team must include representatives from the applying organizations. Teams that wish to send more than three team members must pay $750 per additional participant to cover their program expenses.

Team Sponsor

Who serves as a team sponsor?

You must have direct support from your manager to apply what you learn in this program within your organization. The team sponsor should be fully on board and excited by the prospect of trying a new approach. The sponsor must also confirm that the team has protected
work time over six months to dedicate to the project and program activities. If you’re a safety net healthcare organization that provides primary care services, regional clinic consortia, or public health commission that is applying in partnership with up to two 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, there should be a team sponsor from each participating organization. Lastly, your team sponsor must attend the Team Sponsor Orientation and Final Presentation.

**Can a Board Member be a Team Sponsor?**

Yes! Team sponsors are often organization management and leadership, but it is okay to have a board member and even community member be a team sponsor if they work closely with your organization. If you do select a community member or board member to be your team sponsor you must also make sure that you have direct support from your manager.

**Budget**

**What are the different ways we can use the grant funds?**

Eligible organizations receive a grant to offset team members’ time, project expenses, and compensation for people sharing their lived experiences throughout your project. Each team will receive a $6,000 grant. If your team has other budget needs that relate to the Catalyst program, we ask that you clarify how you would use the grant funds.

**Project Topic**

**What makes a compelling project topic?**

Your teams applied project must focus on the recovery & renewal of your community. The design thinking process requires that you spend time deeply understanding the problem before developing a solution. Do not pick a problem that you will need to solve before June 2022. Pick a project topic in which you can spend a few months observing and talking to your community members, reflecting, and synthesizing what you are learning to refine and reframe your focus. Your project topic must also align with your community and organizations priorities. In past Catalyst cycles, some project challenges that have addressed recovery and renewal have included:

How might we...

... increase substance use recovery access within our community?

... design new processes of food redistribution to support food-insecure households in our community?

... support our staff in implementing trauma-informed practices while addressing their own trauma?