

CFCI Care Grant (Care First Community Investment) Funding Opportunity

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

United Way of Greater Los Angeles (UWGLA) serves as a Third-Party Administrator (TPA) for LA County's Justice, Care and Opportunities Department (JCOD), administering Care First, Community Investment (CFCI) Year 5 Spending Plan funds to eligible community-based Service Providers. The following is a supplemental Frequently Asked Questions document. Full application materials are available on the UWGLA Grantseekers website <https://unitedwayla.org/jcod/>

If you have additional questions, email JCODinfo@unitedwayla.org or join a planned informational session.

ABOUT JCOD & CARE FIRST, COMMUNITY INVESTMENT (CFCI)

1. What is JCOD's Care First, Community Investment (CFCI) initiative?

JCOD CFCI represents an investment of approximately \$300 million annually to support local initiatives that advance community-based alternatives to incarceration in LA County. It is guided by a 25-member Advisory Committee that includes individuals with lived experience, labor representatives, and County stakeholders. CFCI funds are distributed to eligible community-based organizations through grants awarded via Third-Party Administrators (TPAs), as well as to County Department programs that contract with local organizations.

2. What is UWGLA's role in CFCI?

UWGLA serves as a County Third-Party Administrator (TPA) a fiscal intermediary that administers CFCI funds through grants and/or contracts with eligible Service Providers. The goal is to equitably increase access to funding for organizations that may otherwise face barriers to traditional County funding, and to help those organizations strengthen their long-term capacity.

3. What funding strategies does UWGLA administer under this TPA contract?

UWGLA runs competitive solicitations for the CFCIs Strategy 2 (**Economic Opportunity and Sustainability**), including (among others): the Economic Resilience Fund, Immigrant Legal Service, Financial Literacy, several General Training / workforce programs, Transitional and pre-apprenticeship programs, and Entrepreneurship support. Awarded Service Provider agreements carry a 3-year term that begins upon execution of contracts with Service Providers, and no subaward agreement may exceed the term of UWGLA's underlying contract with the County.

4. How are Service Providers selected, and what size awards are typical?

UWGLA conducts a competitive solicitation process for each funding strategy, which includes application intake, review, scoring, and award recommendations, all following standards set or approved by LA County. Anticipated Service Provider awards generally range from \$150,000 to \$300,000 for three years, with some programs able to exceed \$1,200,000 depending on funding amounts and program type. Where possible, UWGLA prioritizes organizations whose annual operating budget does not exceed \$1.5 million, though larger organizations may still be eligible depending on the program.

5. Where can I find out about upcoming CFCI solicitations?

New CFCI funding opportunities are publicized through stakeholder convenings, JCOD listservs, blogs, newsletters, press releases, and social media as each solicitation is finalized. If you'd like to be notified about future CFCI solicitations administered by UWGLA, email JCODinfo@unitedwayla.org.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. When is the deadline to submit an application?

All applications must be submitted into UWGLA's Grants Portal system by **11:59 p.m. PDT on Monday, August 24, 2026.**

2. Are applicants required to attend the applicant webinars? Will they be recorded and shared if I can't make it?

While they are not mandatory, we encourage all applicants to register and attend the applicant's webinar. The applicant webinar will be recorded and posted on the <https://unitedwayla.org/jcod/> website afterwards.

3. We have so many needs right now as a service organization facing cuts. This funding opportunity addresses some of them, but there are so many others. Will UWGLA be providing other types of funding in the future?

Just as we have for the past 15 years, UWGLA is working to come alongside the sector at this moment to support where we can through leadership and investment. This RFP represents one important piece of response that aligns to what we are hearing and learning both from data analysis and on-the-ground leaders. At the same time, UWGLA and the Funders Collaborative are working to frame out a series of targeted investments to support providers and reimagine specific system components that are being impacted by the budget. More information on these other areas of effort will be shared when finalized in the coming months.

ELIGIBILITY

1. What type of organization can be a CFCI Service Provider?

You must be a Community-Based Organization (CBO) defined in the contract as an organization that provides direct services to individuals and families in Los Angeles County that are relevant to an approved CFCI Program Area. You must also be a justice-focused organization with at least 2 years of direct service experience to individuals and families. Eligible entities include nonprofit organizations, business entities, faith-based organizations, and fiscally sponsored organizations.

2. Is there a limit on how long a Service Provider agreement can run?

Yes. Any subaward agreement with a Service Provider cannot exceed the term of UWGLA's own TPA contract with the County (a 3-year term for Year 5 funds).

3. Does my organization need 501(c)(3) nonprofit status to apply?

No. Eligible organizations are nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status; organizations applying through an approved fiscal sponsor and business entities (e.g., LLCs, Professional Corporations).

4. Does my organization need to be in good standing to apply?

Yes. All applicants – or their fiscal sponsor, where applicable – must be in good standing with the California Secretary of State.

5. What are the requirements if I'm applying through a fiscal sponsor?

If you are applying through a fiscal sponsor, the sponsor must be registered with the California Secretary of State and must have been in existence for at least 1 year.

6. What size of organizations does UWGLA prioritize for CFCI awards?

To the extent possible, UWGLA prioritizes solicitations to Service Providers whose annual operating budget does not exceed \$1.5 million. Depending on funding amounts and program type, and after consultation with the County, UWGLA may also target organizations with a larger current annual operating budget. This is a prioritization factor in how solicitations are designed, not necessarily a strict pass/fail cutoff.

7. How does UWGLA ensure equitable geographic access to funding?

UWGLA uses the [Justice Equity Needs Index \(JENI\)](#) or other appropriate data/indices to ensure service locations align with underserved communities and catchment areas identified by the County, the CFCI Advisory Committee, and community stakeholders. UWGLA also conducts outreach to organizations that reflect the geographic and demographic diversity of each catchment area, including organizations serving other historically underserved and low-income populations.

8. Does my organization need to be located in Los Angeles County?

Yes. Applicants must be located within Los Angeles County and must serve in Los Angeles County zip codes.

9. Do selected Service Providers need specific experience or cultural competency?

Yes. UWGLA aims to select Service Providers that are culturally competent and have experience providing services to historically underserved communities within the relevant grant/contract catchment area.

10. What operational capacity is expected of a Service Provider?

Service Providers are expected to have sufficient staff capable of performing the tasks associated with the funded services. UWGLA may also connect applicants with capacity-building resources and Technical Assistance where needs are identified.

11. Are background checks required for staff or volunteers?

Service Providers are responsible for conducting their own background checks, security investigations, and hiring due diligence. For staff or volunteers who will have regular or direct contact with youth, the elderly, or other vulnerable populations, UWGLA must verify they have not been included in any state or federal sexual offender registry before they can be used in programs serving these populations.

12. What legal and compliance requirements apply to Service Providers?

Service Providers must comply with all applicable legal requirements, including confidentiality, data protection, HIPAA rules, along with any other applicable laws and regulations set forth in their grant/contract.

13. If we have a public contract (e.g., Medi-Cal, CalAIM, LACOE), are we eligible to apply?

Yes. Organizations/agencies that are currently receiving and providing publicly funded homeless services are eligible to apply. Per JCOD, we will prioritize organizations and agencies who are new in the sector and do not have a contract with the county.

REVIEW & SELECTION

1. How large are typical CFCI awards?

Anticipated Service Provider awards generally range from \$150,000 to \$300,000 for a three-year contract. Certain programs may offer higher award amounts, subject to consultation with the County. Multiple awards may be made from a single solicitation.

2. How are Service Providers selected?

UWGLA runs an end-to-end process for each solicitation: planning and County alignment, competitive solicitation design and launch, application support and intake, review/scoring/award recommendations, subaward agreement development, onboarding, and ongoing monitoring. This process follows a standardized model established or approved by LA County.

3. Can I submit my application electronically?

Yes. UWGLA maintains a process for Service Providers to submit solicitation responses electronically or via email; email submissions are acceptable.

4. Can solicitation timelines change?

Yes. Timelines for solicitation, review, and award activities may be adjusted based on County direction, program design requirements, or additional steps needed to support equitable selection – such as reviewer recruitment, reviewer training, or updated eligibility criteria

AWARDS & CONTRACTING

1. When will I know if I am selected for funding?

Award announcements are anticipated by late October 2026.

2. What is the contracting process like?

All awarded organizations will contract directly with UWGLA. Depending on the nature and size of the commitment, a contract will be developed and signed electronically by UWGLA leadership and your organization's authorized signatories. Additional organizational paperwork including IRS letter, insurance, and W-9 Form and ACH banking information will be collected if your organization isn't a recent contractor of UWGLA. After contract execution, organizations will be paid according to the contract outlined payment schedule.

3. How quickly are awarded organizations paid once a CFCI grant is active?

UWGLA is required to issue payments to Service Providers within 30 calendar days of an approved, complete, and accurate invoice, and must meet a minimum threshold of 95 percent on-time payments under its contract with the County.

4. What reporting will be required of awarded Service Providers?

Service Providers will have performance requirements measuring fidelity to services in alignment with standard measures for each Strategy, plus program-specific measures that will be reported to UWGLA on a monthly basis. UWGLA reports to the County on at least a quarterly basis, and the County provides a reporting template within 30 days of contract award.

GRANTS PORTAL & SUBMISSION PROCESS

1. Do I already have an account on Survey Monkey Apply? How can I check?

We encourage all partners to verify if they have an organizational account in UWGLA's Survey Monkey Apply system (<https://unitedwayla.smapply.io/>) before creating a new account. 1) Try to login or recover a password if you feel you already have an account; 2) Check internally with your staff and team members to see if anyone set up an account for a recent funding opportunity with UWGLA such as Shelter Improvement or Emergency Food and Shelter Program; and 3) Email JCODinfo@unitedwayla.org and our team can verify if an account exists.

2. Who should I contact if I have an issue using the online grant management system?

For RFP related questions, please contact JCODinfo@unitedwayla.org. If you run into a technical problem with the online system, please reach out to Survey Monkey Apply directly through the online portal.

3. Is there a preferred type of staff or team member to be the primary user for your grants management system?

If you are newly signing up for Survey Monkey Apply, we encourage you to make an account that will be accessible long-term. That may mean using the email of a key staff leader or grants manager, but we also encourage use of shared inboxes for grants management wherever possible.

4. Will the system save my work as I go?

There is the opportunity to save at the bottom of every application page. Please save your work as you go, particularly before you exit the system. Survey Monkey Apply will preserve all answers saved before moving pages and exiting for you to return to.

5. If I submit but need to fix something, can I reopen my application?

After submission, you will not be able to reopen your application on your own. If you need to reopen your application, please contact JCODinfo@unitedwayla.org