

## Rural Strategic Engagement Clinic Host Frequently Asked Questions

### Financial

**1. Are applicants supposed to submit a budget and justification when they apply for the RFA on CORD?**

**Answer:** A budget template will be included in the grant agreement for submission after the organization is awarded.

**2. Can RSE funds be used for deportation defense for cases arising out of labor issues?**

Answer: No. CWOP and RSE are funded through the LWDA Fund, which is funded through the PAGA statute (CA Labor Code secs. 2698-2699.8). That statute restricts use of funds to support enforcement of labor laws and education about rights and responsibilities under the Labor Code.

### Eligible Expenses

**3. For eligible expenses, does staff salaries include students, graduate student researchers, or student interns?**

Answer: Yes.

### Applying for Role

**4. Can CBOs apply to multiple roles, not just one?**

Answer: No, applicants can only apply for one role.

## Rural Strategic Engagement Clinic Host Frequently Asked Questions

**5. Is it possible for two organizations to apply for the grant jointly if they plan to collaborate on a program? If so, could both co-applicants apply at the Activator Plus level?**

Answer: No, one organization should apply as the lead, and the other organization can be listed as a consultant. Please note that payments cannot be made by the state under both organization's names.

**6. If two organizations did apply jointly, would it be possible to provide grantee references/funders for one of the organizations but include the accomplishments/experience of the co-applicant in the application?**

Answer: Yes, this is permissible.

### **Funding**

**7. Can funds for the RSE host be used for funding a position as opposed to contracting with a legal service provider?**

Answer: No. The BCP explicitly requested funds for the provision of legal services. We are allowing the grantee and the legal service provider discretion on how to allocate the funds. It does not have to be a 50/50 split, however, there has to be some aspect of legal services.

**8. How much actual outreach will an applicant actually have to do?**

Answer: All Activators and Activators Plus are expected to conduct outreach. The funding level will be commensurate to the activities detailed.

### **Legal Services**

**9. Can there be clarification provided on the role of legal service providers? Can you please provide clarification on the definition of 'legal service provider'?**

Answer: **On page 8**, the RFA states that the "Application **should** include a letter of commitment from a legal service provider. Applicant **should** develop a plan to provide legal services to farmworkers that may include providing technical assistance to applicant staff on preparing workers to attend a legal clinic, training for applicant staff to support workers on administrative claims, providing in-person or remote consultation to workers at the clinic on options to resolve a legal issue, or providing representation to workers that opt to proceed with a claim or complaint with the state agency. **Applicants must be prepared to identify the legal service provider's full name, point of contact, and EIN.**

## **Rural Strategic Engagement Clinic Host Frequently Asked Questions**

### **10. Is legal service provided by the agencies or the legal service providers?**

Answer: The applicant should provide legal services in collaboration with a legal service provider. The applicant should develop a plan with the legal service provider to provide legal services.

### **11. Can a Union be considered a Legal Service Provider?**

Answer: Yes, if the union provides free legal services, then it should qualify.

### **12. Is there an option to apply without a legal service provider? It sounds like the agency will be plugging in to the RSE clinics directly. If that is correct, what role is envisioned for the legal service provider?**

Answer: No. The state agencies participating will be available to take claims or complaints, provide information on already filed claims or complaints, and provide broad general information on workers' rights and employer obligations. The legal service provider and the grantee will work together to provide support to the worker in evaluating the various options available to the worker, and some ongoing support to the worker who files a claim or complaint.

### **13. Can a legal service provider apply to RSE themselves?**

Answer: Yes.

### **14. Within the RSE, and the resources available to the Grantee, would DIR provide professional OSHA experts and also legal professionals to support the Grantee's Legal Clinic? And if yes, would the expenses of using the OSHA expert or expert legal professional be deducted from the Grant awarded?**

Answer: Subject matter experts (SMEs) from our agencies are different from the legal provider. SMEs do not provide counsel to workers on evaluating various options to address a claim, or counsel on strategic choices a worker may have to make during the process of resolving a claim. The Grantee should have a legal service provider to provide legal services. The Budget submitted must list legal service expenses.

## **Rural Strategic Engagement Clinic Host Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Claims**

**15. Can you provide examples of alternative options to resolving these cases? How will DIR track these services?**

Answer: Alternative options to resolve cases could include direct negotiations with an employer, other venues or enforcement agencies available to address the claim, or collective engagement with other workers to address the conditions that give rise to the worker claim or complaint. DIR will develop a reporting mechanism to track, for example, the number of workers served, the type of services provided, and outcomes of the services.

### **Number of Grant opportunities awarded**

**16. How many grants are you considering issuing for Clinic Hosts? Several per region, one per region?**

Answer: The RFA states that six grants will be provided to clinic hosts. Our goal is to provide one grant per region but will take into consideration the strength of applications.

**17. Is the request for monthly clinics in EACH county or based on EACH applicant?**

**Answer:** 6 clinics/6 grantees - We have listed priority counties in California. We are open to hearing from CBOs where they feel there is a need and organizational capacity. The goals are that we want to create spaces for workers to know we are addressing their needs directly.

**18. Can the monthly clinics be in different locations, in different parts of the state or do we have to do the same location every month?**

Answer: The intent is to create clinics in fixed locations on a regular basis but we will consider applications that propose locations in different parts of the state.

### **CORD**

**19. Does CORD allow for applying for multiple roles by preference?**

Answer: No, currently you can only apply for one role on CORD. The application was not set up to capture that information because you can only apply for one role.

## **Rural Strategic Engagement Clinic Host Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Interaction with other CWOP Roles**

**20. Will RSE grantees be integrated into the other training/collaboration that is being done as part of the CWOP program? For example, participating in the regional meetings and getting technical assistance from Activator Plus grantee**

Answer: Yes, RSE grantees will be part of the broader CWOP programming.

### **RSE Clinic Hosts Deliverables**

**21. Is there an expectation as to the number of worker participants in each clinic session?**

Answer: No. While the Budget Change Proposal has projected outcomes for the number of claims/complaints processed, as well as number of workers referred to legal service providers, these are not fixed numbers. We want to invest in the development of spaces that will lead to workers repeatedly returning for assistance and information.

### **RSE Protocols**

**22. Can you provide examples of what you mean by protocols?**

Answer: Protocols include setting the agenda for a clinic, identifying topics and speakers for each clinic, identifying staffing and resource needs for the clinic, promoting the clinics, and setting outreach strategies for the clinic.

### **DIR and Agencies Support or Approval**

**23. Will the agencies provide legal aid services as appears to be written here?**

Answer: No, the applicant is expected to work with a legal service provider to provide legal services to workers.

## **Rural Strategic Engagement Clinic Host Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Material development**

**24. Page 4 of the RFP names distributing existing or pre-approved DIR materials. Does this mean that grantees are only providing information from DIR, not their own guides and training?**

Answer: DIR is open to collaborating with awardees to develop materials. As customary, any materials with DIR or sister agencies logos on them will be subject to approval by each agency that has a logo on the material.

### **Direct Support to Workers for RSE Clinics**

**25. Can you please advise if it is possible or is included already in the RSE deliverables for clinic hosts to provide direct support to workers to resolve violations, conduct intakes to understand worker needs, help workers identify and document violations, support filing complaints outside of clinics, and follow-up after complaints have been filed?**

Answer: Yes, these are eligible services for RSE clinic hosts.