

**California Health Facilities Financing Authority (“CHFFA”)
Specialty Dental Clinic Grant Program
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
(Revised February 2024)**

General Information

What is the Specialty Dental Clinic Grant Program (“Dental Program”)?

The Dental Program was chaptered into law on June 30, 2022, and is designed to increase access to oral health care for special health care needs populations through the development and expansion of specialty dental clinics. The Dental Program was appropriated a total of \$50 million (Section 47, Chapter 45, Budget Act of 2022 and Section 2.00, Chapter 12, Statutes of 2023) to support special health care needs populations by increasing timely access, reducing geographic shortages, increasing equity, and supporting quality of care, while also encouraging prevention services, early intervention, behavior support service and intervention, provider education, and community outreach activities that bring care to community sites.

What are considered eligible costs under the Dental Program?

Eligible costs include:

- 1) Construction of real property, including the following costs: project planning, project management, appraisals, inspections, or pre-construction costs such as permit fees, surveying, architectural, and engineering fees, as applicable.
- 2) Expansion, including the purchase of real property or mobile dental unit(s).
- 3) Modification of real property, such as renovation or remodeling.
- 4) Adaptation, such as the purchase of equipment and/or furnishings.

How much in grant funds can I apply for?

You should only apply for an amount up to equal or less than your total project cost, but no individual grantee will be awarded more than \$5 million. Funding allocations will also be subject to regional maximums during the first funding round, as described in Section 5 (Maximum Grant Amounts and Regional Distribution) of the [guidelines](#).

Can I use grant funds for dental implants or other personal dental procedures?

No, grant proceeds cannot be used to fund personal dental services; grants may only fund capital costs for the development or expansion of specialty dental clinics.

Where can I find the Dental Program application, guidelines, and statute?

The [application](#), [guidelines](#), and [statute](#) can be found on the [Dental Program webpage](#).

Eligibility

Who is eligible to apply?

Eligible applicants include, but are not limited to, primary care clinics, specialty clinics, community clinics, free clinics, surgical clinics, acute care hospitals, intermediate care facilities for the developmentally disabled, special hospitals, providers that are licensed with the medical or dental board of California, and dental colleges. Eligible applicants must be enrolled and certified as a provider with the Medi-Cal program (see Section 2, Eligibility, of the [guidelines](#)).

Are for-profit corporations eligible to receive grant funds?

For-profit service providers/corporations may be eligible to receive grant funds, as long as they are an eligible entity as described in Section 2 of the [guidelines](#).

Applying for a Grant/Deadlines

How do I apply for a grant?

A fillable version of the Dental Program's application is currently posted on CHFFA's website and can be found [here](#). Please submit your complete application via email to CHFFA's main inbox, at chffa@treasurer.ca.gov.

Will there be more than one funding round?

If grant funds remain after the first funding round, subsequent funding rounds will be held. Subsequent funding round deadlines will be posted on CHFFA's website.

How long will the money be available for disbursement?

All grant funds must be awarded by CHFFA by June 30, 2028 and disbursed to grantees by June 30, 2030.

How should the narrative, timeline, budgets, graphs, and charts in response to the evaluation criteria be provided?

Narrative, timelines, budgets, graphs, and charts must be provided as separate attachments and must be clearly labeled for the appropriate sections in the application.

When must I provide new or updated licensure and accreditation documents for expanded or new facilities funded through the grant?

Grantees must submit all required updated documentation at the time of project completion.

Are awarded projects required to commence or be completed within the timeframes set forth in Section 7(a)(5)(D) of the [guidelines](#)? Example: a construction project within 18 months of the final allocation.

Projects do not need to be completed within those timeframes, they must be ready, feasible, and sustainable. Please see the definitions for “ready”, “feasible”, and “sustainable” in Section 1(k)(w)(dd) of the [guidelines](#).

What is the entire process, from start to finish, to receive a grant?

CHFFA staff will review and score all the applications received by the deadline of the funding round. The highest scoring applicants will be recommended for an initial allocation, and CHFFA’s board will make decisions on final allocations at a public meeting. Grant award letters will be sent to applicants approved for a final allocation shortly after the board meeting. Grantees will be required to execute grant agreements and to submit all required documentation as required in the [guidelines](#) before grant funds can be disbursed.

Funding

What is the amount of grant funding available statewide?

A total of \$50 million was appropriated for grant awards, of which 5% was allocated for administrative costs incurred by CHFFA. Up to \$47.5 million is available to be awarded to grantees.

Can grant funds be applied retroactively to costs incurred before the grant is awarded?

No; Eligible costs include only those incurred during the grant period. The grant period starts from the date of final allocation (the day the CHFFA board approves the grant) until the date set by CHFFA for the grant to end (the grant end date in the CHFFA resolution).

Can I apply for funding if my project is partially dedicated to special health care needs populations patients, but not entirely dedicated?

Yes. If the project is partially dedicated to special health needs populations patients, CHFFA will work with the applicant to determine a proportionate share percentage prior to the final allocation. For example, if the project involves construction of a dental clinic where 20% of the space will serve special health care needs populations, then the proportionate share percentage would be 20%. Meaning, CHFFA will reimburse 20% of eligible costs for the project, and the applicant will need to finance the remainder of the project through other funding sources.

Do I need to comply with prevailing wage law if I use grant funds for construction? What is prevailing wage and where can I find more information?

Yes. Dental Program awardees must comply with California’s prevailing wage law under Labor Code section 1720, et seq. for public works projects. CHFFA recommends applicants and awardees consult with their legal counsel. For additional information, please refer to the [Department of Industrial Relations](#) website.

Can I use grant funds for construction on a property that I am leasing?

Yes. However, there are specific requirements that must be met for these types of projects. Please see Section 14 of the [guidelines](#) for more details.

Will funding only go to the area with the most population? How can we ensure that smaller regions receive funding?

CHFFA has developed a methodology to enable funding to be allocated across California, through a regional distribution method for the first funding round. In order to calculate the maximum funding allocations for each region, each region’s data was analyzed for both its total number of population with a disability and its proportionate share of population with a disability when compared to all of California. These two variables were used to calculate a weighted average, which was used in calculating the maximum amount of funding that each region may receive in the first funding round.

In the first funding round, the Authority may award funding utilizing the following maximum amounts per region:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Total Maximum</u>
1) San Joaquin Region	\$7,300,000
2) Superior Region	\$7,650,000
3) Bay Area/Central Coast Region.....	\$9,350,000
4) Southern Region	\$12,410,000
5) Los Angeles Region.....	\$10,790,000

Are funds disbursed on either a reimbursement or on an advance basis?

CHFFA can disburse funds on both a reimbursement and on an advance basis. However, certain documentation and requirements must be met prior to disbursement of funds; please see Section 13 of the [guidelines](#) for further information.

Are grant funds awarded to for-profit entities considered taxable?

Grant awards made to for-profit entities may be considered taxable by state and federal agencies; please check with your tax professional and/or your local tax authorities for tax advice and whether you need to incorporate that into your project budget estimates.

Ongoing Requirements (Compliance)

How long must the project(s) be sustainable after the project period ends?

The project(s) must be sustainable for at least ten years following the date of completion. “Sustainable” is defined in Section 1, subdivision (dd) of the guidelines as the project having “projected revenues that are sufficient to operate on a continuous basis for a minimum of ten years”.

What is the 50% caseload requirement?

Grantees must hold a caseload of 50% or more patients with special health care needs **for only the facilities financed with the Dental Program grant funds** for a minimum of ten years upon project completion. As an example, if only a single operatory room was constructed with grant funds, then only the operatory room is considered the facility for purposes of the Dental Program. Special health care needs populations patients must make up at least 50% of the operatory room's caseload, and not the entire clinic or hospital.

Are there any other ongoing requirements for grantees?

Each grantee is required to submit an **Annual Caseload Certification Form** on an annual basis for ten years to certify that it is meeting the statutory requirement of holding a caseload of at least 50% of patients with special health care needs for the facilities that were financed with Dental Program grant funds. For more information on this requirement, see Section 16, subdivision (c) of the [guidelines](#).

What happens if I cannot meet the caseload requirement?

Grantees who fail to meet the above requirement must repay the amount of the grant back to CHFFA within five years at an interest rate of one percent. See Section 15 of the [guidelines](#).