



# Peer Workforce Initiative (PWI) & Expanding Peer Organization Capacity (EPOC), Round 2 Request for Applications Informational Webinar

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

12 p.m. – 1 p.m. PT



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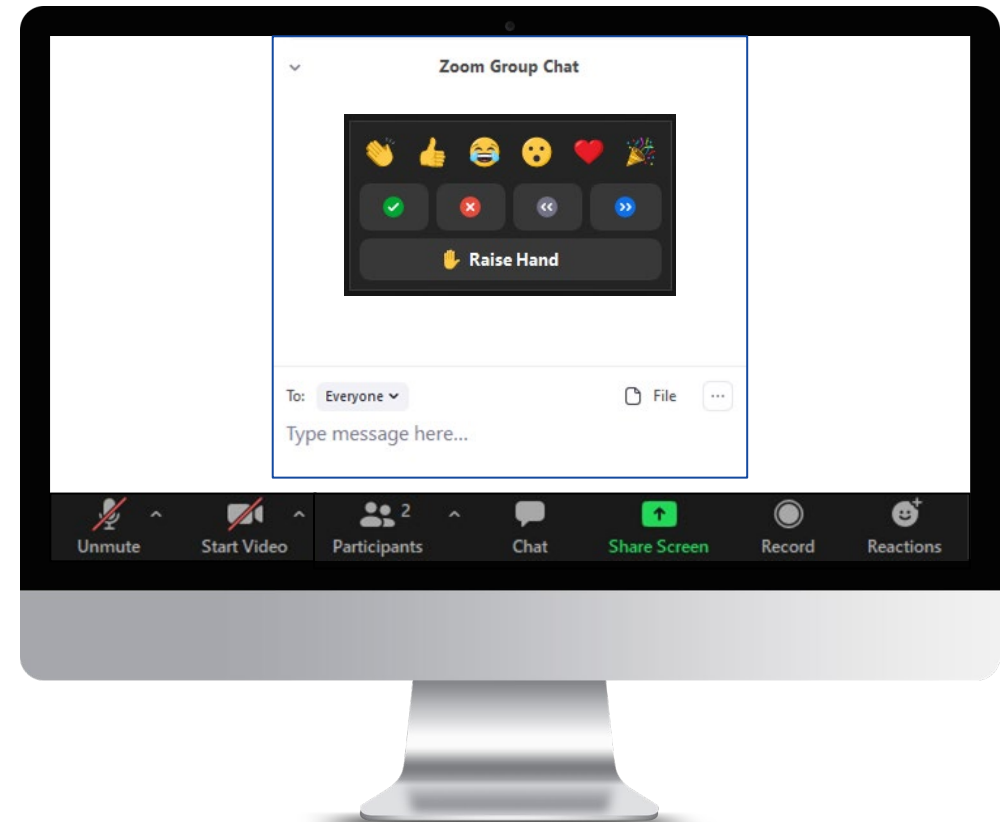
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# Peer Workforce Initiative (PWI), Round 2 Expanding Peer Organization Capacity (EPOC), Round 2

## Request for Applications Informational Webinar

*Wednesday, March 8, 2023*

*12 p.m. – 1 p.m. PT*





## **Request for Application (RFA) Information Session**

### **Presenters:**

**Jennifer Peters, Staff Services Manager I  
Prevention and Youth Branch | Community Services Division  
California DHCS**

**Kathleen West, Project Director  
Behavioral Health Workforce Development  
Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. (AHP)**



# Agenda

1. DHCS Welcome
2. Funding Source, Grant Projects, & Partners
3. Funding Opportunity Overview
4. PWI/EPOC, Round 1 Overview
5. PWI/EPOC, Round 2 Purpose
6. Eligibility & Grantee Requirements
7. Use of Funds
8. Online Application Process
9. Submitting Questions
10. Round 2 RFA Timeline



# DHCS Welcome

The PWI, Round 2 and EPOC, Round 2 grant programs are components of the California DHCS Behavioral Health Workforce Development (BHWD) initiative and are funded by the American Recovery Plan Act of 2021.

PWI and EPOC are part of DHCS' broader efforts to expand California's behavioral health (BH) workforce through the BHWD initiative, which seeks to improve access to, and productive participation in, behavioral health services across the state.

PWI and EPOC are part of DHCS' charge to implement Senate Bill 803 to help ensure that BH peer providers are prepared to become state-certified Peer Support Specialists <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Pages/Medi-Cal-Peer-Support-Services-Specialist-Program-Frequently-Asked-Questions.aspx>

Priority scoring will be given to PWI and EPOC, Round 2 applicants that are working with underserved communities and proposing to expand referral networks with high need individuals and marginalized groups.





**Peer Workforce Investment (PWI)**



**Expanding Peer Organization Capacity (EPOC)**

# Behavioral Health Workforce Development



The PWI and EPOC, Round 2 grant programs are part of the California DHCS overarching Behavioral Health Workforce Development (BHWD) project.

The BHWD is administered by AHP and funded by the California DHCS Community Services Division.



California Department of Health  
Care Services (DHCS)



Advocates for  
Human Potential, Inc.

Advocates for Human Potential,  
Inc. (AHP)

# Funding Opportunity Overview

- The California DHCS BHWD program released the RFA for Round 2 funding for the PWI and EPOC grant programs on February 28, 2023.
- Applications are due April 11, 2023, for both EPOC and PWI programs.
- Emerging peer-run organizations can apply for EPOC funding for up to \$200,000.
- Established peer-run organizations with **fewer than 50 employees** can apply for PWI funding up to \$375,000.
- Established peer-run organizations with **more than 50 employees** can apply for PWI funding up to \$500,000.
- Funds can be used to cover staffing and business-related costs to help peer-run organizations build capacity and prepare to bill Medi-Cal for peer services.
- **All awarded funds must be expended no later than December 31, 2024.**





# Funding Information and Project Timeline

- Contracts will cover activities for the following period: June 1, 2023, through December 31, 2024. Due to federal restrictions, carry-over of funds is not allowable. Any funds not used by December 31, 2024, will be forfeited.
- Funding may be used for staff working directly on the project, supplies, limited capital improvements, workforce development, and other start-up and specified costs.
- Applicants are required to adhere to the budget guidelines included in this RFA and must submit a proposed budget using the budget template included in the online application. Applications that do not conform to this template will not be considered. All items budgeted must be inclusive of all costs, including taxes and fees in U.S. dollars.



# Background: PWI and EPOC, Round 1 Overview

- **PWI, Round 1** launched in July 2022, funding 44 sites and continuing with a no-cost extension through December 2023. Current grantees in good standing are eligible to continue with Round 2 through December 2024 and may NOT apply via this Round 2 application process.
- **EPOC, Round 1** began in September 2022, funding 14 agencies and continuing with a no-cost extension through December 2023. Current grantees in good standing are eligible to continue with Round 2 through December 2024 and may NOT apply via this Round 2 application process.
- Because of the positive response to **PWI and EPOC, Round 1** and its current successes, DHCS is offering more agencies the opportunity to participate via **PWI and EPOC, Round 2**.
- **AHP** serves as the Administrative Entity on behalf of DHCS to administer, supervise, and provide training and technical assistance (TTA) to BH organizations selected as grantees in **PWI and EPOC, Round 1** and **PWI and EPOC, Round 2**.

# PWI & EPOC, Round 2: Funding Purpose

- The PWI & EPOC grants provide funding to BH peer-run programs to increase capacity, support peers to become State-certified Peer Support Specialists via the new certification through CalMHSA, and set the table for the peers and peer-run programs to bill for services through the new Medi-Cal peer support services benefit.
- Grants will be awarded in order to:
  - Expand peer-run organizational capacity to provide peer services for mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) recovery supports and BH services.
  - Build the preparedness of established and emerging peer service providers so they are ready to deliver services under the Medi-Cal Peer Services benefit in every California community.
  - Empower peer-run programs to realize their full potential, including through strategic planning and management support.
  - Elevate the recognition of BH peer-run organizations as critical extenders of care and essential components of California's BH workforce to expand peer services and impact throughout the state.
- Round 2 will have an additional training and technical assistance provided by AHP that will focus on enhancing BH peer-run organizations' knowledge of substance misuse and capacity to support SUD prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

# PWI, Round 2 Applicant Eligibility

Any BH peer-run organization that meets all the following criteria is encouraged to apply:

1. Is located and provides services in the state of California;
2. Has valid nonprofit status (501(c)(3)) as of 2021;
3. Is peer-run, defined as a program or organization that employs at least 51 percent of staff as peers with full-time equivalent status, including management and board members;
4. Has provided BH services, including either direct or indirect peer services, for an uninterrupted period of no less than two years prior to June 1, 2023. If the COVID pandemic and shutdowns caused delays in service, providers must have two years of service prior to the March 2020 public health emergency.

An applicant entity may submit more than one application if applying for more than one distinct location where services are delivered. Each peer-run program location must have its own application.

**FOR-PROFIT ENTITIES ARE INELIGIBLE TO APPLY**



# EPOC, Round 2 Applicant Eligibility

Any BH peer-run organization that meets all the following criteria is encouraged to apply:

1. Is located and provide services in the state of California;
2. Meets the definition of an Emerging Peer Organization: either is a newly formed non-profit *established after June 1, 2020*, or is operating under the auspices of a *non-profit fiscal agent* authorized to operate in California (Information from the fiscal agent is required);
3. Is peer-run. For purposes of this RFA, “peer-run” is defined as an organization where at least 51 percent full-time equivalent (FTE) of staff are peers, at least 51 percent FTE of management are peers, and, if a 501(c)(3), at least 51 percent of board members are peers. If operating under a fiscal agent, the board requirement is waived.

FOR-PROFIT ENTITIES ARE INELIGIBLE TO APPLY



# PWI, Round 2 & EPOC, Round 2 Grant Requirements

Successful applicants for PWI, Round 2 or EPOC, Round 2 will be required to have a Program Coordinator (1.0 FTE for PWI and at least 0.5 FTE for EPOC).

## Program Coordinator Responsibilities:

1. Serve as the main point of contact for all grant contract requirements and ensure timely communication with the Grantee Coach (formerly “Grantee Liaison”).
2. Coordinate and ensure peer-run program staff’s live (real time) attendance at mandatory AHP administrative and TTA events including monthly administrative calls, webinars, and learning collaboratives.
3. Coordinate data tracking and collection of mandatory data metrics and timely submission of quarterly data reports.
4. Ensure on-time submission of quarterly invoices to AHP accounting.
5. Participate in monthly grantee coach check-in calls.
6. Ensure continual progress on TTA Plan and submission of at least quarterly updates to TTA Plan goals and objectives.
7. Ensure use of the Grantee Request Form for TTA and other requests.
8. Manage all grantee website login and project updates.

# PWI, Round 2 & EPOC, Round 2 Additional Grant Requirements

1. **Develop subcontracts with AHP upon Notice of Award.**
2. **Submit an Implementation Plan using SMART goal format by the end of the first quarter.**
3. **Implement projects as specified in subcontract, referencing original application, and submit quarterly reports on deliverables progress.**
4. **Participate in mandatory administrative calls, 1:1 coaching calls, and training events.**
5. **Participate in quarterly data collection, grantee process and outcome monitoring, and evaluation activities related to objectives of PWI, Round 2 or EPOC, Round 2.**
6. **Meet state and federal program financial and reporting requirements, including 42 CFR Part 2.**

# DHCS Funding Restrictions

## DHCS will not fund the following:

- Debt retirement
- Operational deficits
- Partisan activities
- Religious organizations for explicit religious activities
- Activities that exclusively benefit the members of sectarian or religious organizations
- Purchase or lease of vehicles
- Purchase or improvement of land
- Purchase, construction, or permanent improvement (other than minor remodeling) of any building or other facility or purchase of major medical equipment
- Out of state travel





# Online Grant Applications

- All organizations must create a free online SurveyMonkey Apply account before beginning their application process.
- Application instructions are included in the RFA and the online application.
- Applicants may begin the application, save work, and return to complete later. However, *once submitted, no changes can be made.*
- Late applications will not be accepted.

Apply today:

PWI: [NEW FUNDING NOW AVAILABLE FOR PEER WORKFORCE INVESTMENT Program | CABHWD \(buildingcalhhs.com\)](#)

EPOC: [NEW FUNDING NOW AVAILABLE FOR Expanding Peer Organization Capacity Program | CABHWD \(buildingcalhhs.com\)](#)



# Round 2 Application Components and Scoring

- **Applicant Information (no points)**
- **Who is the applicant organization? (30 points)**
- **Proposed capacity-building activities (30 points)**
- **What is the current management and staffing situation? (20 pts)**
- **How reasonable and realistic is the proposed budget? (20 pts)**

# PWI & EPOC Application Priority Scoring

## EPOC, Round 2

- BH emerging peer organizations operating in regions with high rates of overdose, SUD, suicide, and attempted suicide, and/or underserved communities.
- Culturally specific and culturally responsive organizations that address the needs of underserved populations.

## PWI, Round 2

- Peer-run organizations operating in regions with high rates of SUD, overdose, suicide, and attempted suicide, and/or in underrepresented, vulnerable, and/or underserved communities, as evidenced by the project description in section one of the application and planning to concentrate outreach to people with high need.
- Organizations with underdeveloped referral pathways or no developed referring patterns from sites with high need (i.e., homeless shelters, treatment programs, hospitals, jails, Emergency Departments, treatment courts) and project plans to focus on improved community collaboration and mutual referral development.



# Itemized Project Budget Instructions



A budget template is provided in the online application and a worksheet and must be completed for each quarter.



Applications are NOT required to request funds under each budget category.



The budget request must be consistent with and support the project description.



A separate page must be completed for each quarterly budget, with the final page summarizing the total requested funds for all six (6) quarters.

## Quarter 1: Personnel Budget Table

Line Item	Personnel Role	FTE	Cost
Role 1			
Role 2			
Role 3			

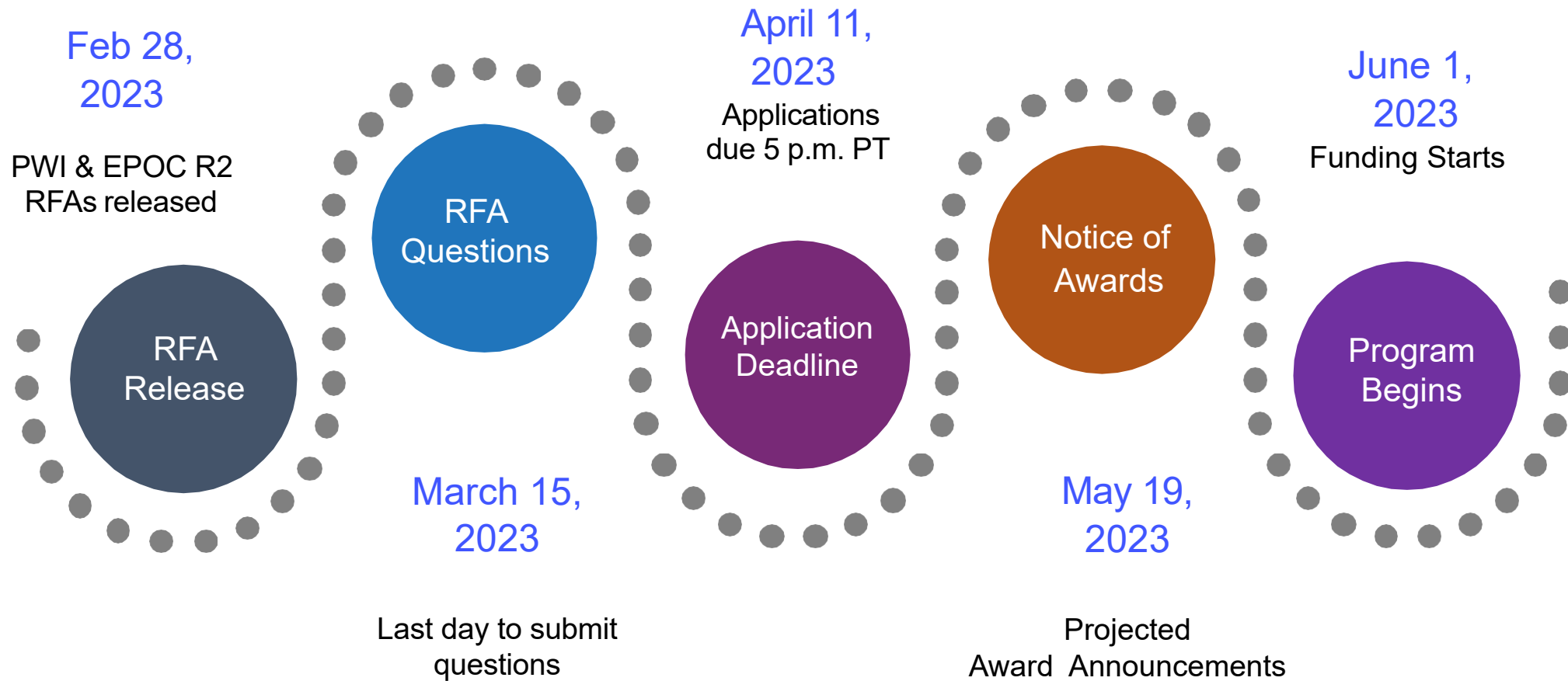
## Quarter 1: Additional Items Budget Table

Line Item	Cost
Payroll and taxes, etc.	
Employee benefits	
Total	0

## Quarter 2: Direct Expenses Budget Table

Line Item	Cost
Outreach Materials	
Program Supplies	
Staff Training	
Travel (local travel and, learning collaboratives, etc.)	
Rent	
Equipment	
Infrastructure Support	
Total	0

# PWI/EPOC Round 2 RFA Timeline



# Questions?



- Please submit questions in writing to [CABHWD@ahpnet.com](mailto:CABHWD@ahpnet.com) by March 15, 2023, with subject line: PWI/EPOC RFA Question.
- All who registered for this webinar, submit questions, or create a SurveyMonkey Apply account to begin the application process will receive answers to all questions that are submitted. The Q&A will also be posted at [www.workforce.buildingcalhhs.com/apply](http://www.workforce.buildingcalhhs.com/apply) in the APPLY PWI Round 2 and APPLY EPOC Round 2 grant sections.
- Please also submit questions in the Q&A box now!

## Next Steps?

Complete and submit your application by 5 p.m. PT on April 11, 2023.

