2027/28 TRC NOFA Questions & Answers

1. **Is a 'for profit' business genuinely an eligible applicant type?**

   Any organization that can meet the requirements listed in California Government Code Sections 13963.1 and 13963.2 can apply for a TRC grant.

2. **Is an organization eligible if its Trauma Recovery Center site is not yet operating at the time of application but will launch with the grant performance period beginning July 1, 2027, with the full team and the UCSF Integrated Trauma Recovery Services model documented in the application?**

   Yes. An organization is eligible to apply if its Trauma Recovery Center site is not yet operating at the time the application is submitted. To be eligible to receive a higher score, applicants must clearly state in the application that services will begin within 30 days of receiving an award. (Notice of Funds Available (NOFA), page 8.)

3. **Our organization serves youth ages 12–25, with the majority of Clinical Program participants age 18+. If someone over 25 seeks services, we refer them to a more appropriate provider. Our Clinical team also operates a Pregnant and Parenting Program that may provide services to participants' children. Would this service-model remain eligible?**

   Working with clients of all ages is not a grant requirement. Grantees should have a referral process in place for clients they cannot serve.

4. **We serve youth between the ages of 18 and 24 who are experiencing homelessness. Can we submit an application that proposes to serve only that population? Or is the expectation that a grantee will serve ALL AGES and that a population-specific provider such as us need to partner with other providers to be competitive?**

   Working with clients of all ages is not a grant requirement. Grantees should have a referral process in place for clients they cannot serve.

5. **Services under this grant are available to victims regardless of immigration status. Please confirm that serving immigrant victims regardless of status does not impose any requirement to report a victim to law enforcement as a condition of receiving services.**

There is no requirement to report a victim to any law enforcement entity as a condition of receiving TRC grant funds or services.

6. **Does the funding opportunity intend to award a single organization to provide services statewide, or are multiple organizations expected to receive awards to service different regions throughout the state?**

   The number of grants awarded by CalVCB will be determined by a variety of factors, including the number of qualified applicants, the amount of funds requested, and the amount of funds available. (NOFA, page 5.) In past years, multiple organizations received awards to serve specific geographic areas.

7. **How are individual award amounts determined when the $2,000,000 Restitution Fund pool (plus variable Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act funding) is shared among passing applicants? Is there a minimum or typical award size that applicants should use for budget planning?**

   The number of grants awarded by CalVCB will be determined by a variety of factors, including the number of qualified applicants, the amount of funds requested, and the amount of funds available. In recent years, the Board has capped individual grant awards at a maximum of $2.2 million. While there is no minimum, the amount requested should be enough to operate the TRC for two years. Applicants must submit a budget worksheet and budget narrative detailing the requested amount for the full two-year grant period. (NOFA, page 8-9 and 10-11.)

8. **Will the approximately $2.2 million per-award benchmark apply in FY 2027/28, and what is the estimated total funding available?**

   The $2.2 million award benchmark is subject to Board approval. CalVCB does not know the total budget amount for this cycle of TRC grants. While $2 million is guaranteed from the Restitution Fund, the amount from the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Fund is not confirmed until later in the state budget process. The state budget is forecasted in January and confirmed in May. Following the budget update in May, CalVCB will calculate final awards.

9. **The July 16, 2026, Board item presented options for additional points in counties or regions without a TRC. Please confirm whether any additional points or funding priority will apply in FY 2027/28 for a TRC in an unserved county or region such as Kern County, and whether geography is considered beyond Narrative Qualification 6.**

   All available points related to geography are captured in Narrative Qualification 6.

10. **Is it possible to get information on other grant seekers for potential collaborations?**

    CalVCB does not have a complete list of applicants until the NOFA period closes. A list of existing TRCs can be found on CalVCB's website. A list of victim resources by county, including TRCs, is also available on CalVCB's website.

11. **The NOFA says applicants must provide all direct services from their main office, with virtual services allowed if the client needs them. If a TRC runs in-person services from its main office and offers telehealth to clients who ask for it, does that meet the requirement?**

    The Integrated Trauma Recovery Services (ITRS) model requires flexibility where clients are seen, including in the home, community, or other safe locations (NOFA, page 3; ITRS, page 29.) It also recommends that TRC clinicians, including the psychiatrist, work at the same location so they can participate as active members of the multidisciplinary team (NOFA, page 3; ITRS, page 173,)

    For this reason, TRCs must have the ability to provide the core services listed in state law in-person at a physical location to meet client and community needs. (NOFA, pages 2-3.) It is also acceptable to provide these services at satellite locations or virtually if those options best serve victims.

12. **May the main office, where the multidisciplinary team is co-located, be in one city with in-person core services provided on scheduled days at the applicant's existing rural clinic sites?**

    Yes. TRC services can be provided at satellite offices.

13. **Is telepsychiatry acceptable if the psychiatrist takes part in team case conferences?**

    While telepsychiatry is allowed to provide services to victims, the ITRS model does state psychiatrists to be on site to participate as an active member of the multidisciplinary team. (NOFA, page 3; ITRS, page 173.)

14. **Our intention is to integrate TRC services across a primary site, and a satellite site to increase the geographic reach of services. Are specific services and staffing required to be physically present at a satellite location?**

    No. There are no requirements regarding staffing or services offered at satellite locations. Services should be delivered in locations that meet client needs.

15. **On question 4 of the Title Page regarding location, we have a primary location and rent an office (shared working space) by the hour, as needed, in the central part of our county to be close to clients in the north. Should we include this location as a satellite location?**

    Applications should include any and all locations where you propose conducting work pursuant to the Grant, or offer client services.

16. **Is there a standard and/or expectation for new clients served?**

    Applicants must project the number of clients they will serve during the grant cycle. This number should correlate to the funding requested and number of clinicians and other administrative staff proposed for the 2-year grant cycle. The expectation is that TRCs can meet the goals for new clients served included in their application. If an applicant is recommended for funding, goals are reviewed in light of final funding amounts. Those goals are included in the final grant and TRCs must provide data showing progress made toward meeting those goals.

17. **Additionally, while our organization does not employ a psychiatrist directly, a psychiatrist regularly provides on-site services through our partnership with Venice Family Clinic. Would this satisfy the psychiatry requirement?**

State law requires TRCs to have a multidisciplinary team including a psychiatrist, psychologist, and social worker. (NOFA, page 3.) TRCs may engage in a formal contract to staff any position to meet these requirements.

18. **May clinical roles be filled through an organization-level contract, such as a county hospital psychiatry department billing an hourly rate for a named psychiatrist?**

    State law requires TRCs to have a multidisciplinary team including a psychiatrist, psychologist, and social worker. (NOFA, page 3.) TRCs may engage in a formal contract to staff any position to meet these requirements.

19. **The NOFA requires a multidisciplinary team including a Psychologist and a Psychiatrist (employee or contracted). May the Psychologist and the Psychiatrist be provided by a formal partner organization under a subcontract or memorandum of understanding, rather than employed directly by the applicant? If so, what documentation of the partnership (for example, an MOU or letter of intent) must be included with the application?**

    Yes. TRCs may contract staff in any position to provide services. The application should describe how the organization plans to meet the TRC multi-disciplinary team requirement of having a psychiatrist, psychologist, and social worker. (NOFA, page 3.)

    Upon execution of the grant agreement, grantees must submit a written agreement, contract, or MOU to CalVCB for each proposed contractor for preapproval. The agreement must include the contractor's hourly rate, dates and times of service, and all budget items and terms.

20. **May two partner organizations jointly supply the required multidisciplinary team — for example, one partner providing the Psychologist and LCSW/LMFT and another providing the Psychiatrist and medication management — under a single applicant?**

While organizations may partner to meet the requirements of the NOFA, one organization would need to apply as the applicant and could then contract with the partner organization.

21. If contracted positions are less than 1 FTE (e.g., .50 FTE), do we need to include what other funding source or work makes up the 1 FTE?

No. There is no FTE required for the clinicians under the grant. The number of hours each clinician works must align with the caseload of the TRC and the needs for an effective multidisciplinary team. The grantee shall provide a description of how they will meet the workload requirements of the TRC. Applicants must clearly indicate the portion of an expense that is being charged to the TRC grant.

22. Can Case Managers be counted towards the 60% of personnel services budget requirement for clinical staffing?

No. Only licensed clinicians or a supervised clinician working to complete their license may be counted toward the 60% clinical staffing threshold.

23. (a) The NOFA's maximum-points band appears to require declaring that services will begin within 30 days of award, while the grant performance period begins July 1, 2027 — how should applicants reconcile these two dates in the application?

The date of the grant performance period aligns with the date of the grant award. Both are anticipated to start July 1, 2027.

24. (b) May required clinical roles be filled by clinicians who are supervised, part-time, or providing services virtually, and may those roles be divided across partner organizations?

Clinicians do not have to work full time at the TRC. Clinicians can provide services virtually. A clinician can be either:

- A licensed clinician, or
- A supervised clinician working to complete their license. (NOFA, page 4.)

TRCs may use clinical staff from partner organizations if there is a formal contract between the TRC and the partner organization. Upon execution of the grant

agreement, grantees must submit the proposed written agreement to CalVCB for each contractor for preapproval. (NOFA, page 11.)

25. **(c) The application requires three letters of support, including one from a law-enforcement agency and one from a community-based organization — may those letters come from prospective partners (organizations that have committed to collaborate if the grant is awarded) rather than only from organizations with an existing working relationship with the applicant?**

    The three letters of recommendation can be from organizations the applicant is currently working with or plans to work with. (NOFA, page 10.)

26. **Should we include agreements with contractors in the application?**

    While your application should include how your organization may use contractors to fulfill grant requirements, copies of agreements do not need to be submitted with the application.

    Upon execution of the grant agreement, grantees must submit the proposed written agreement to CalVCB for each contractor for preapproval. (NOFA, page 11.)

27. **For the application, should we include agreements with contractors identified on the budget?**

    While your application should include how your organization may use contractors to fulfill grant requirements, copies of agreements do not need to be submitted with the application.

    Upon execution of the grant agreement, grantees must submit the proposed written agreement to CalVCB for each contractor for preapproval. (NOFA, page 11.)

28. **For contracted personnel, do we need to include agreements with our application to meet the "pre-approval" requirements discussed in the webinar?**

    While your application should include how your organization may use contractors to fulfill grant requirements, copies of agreements do not need to be submitted with the application.

Upon execution of the grant agreement, grantees must submit the proposed written agreement to CalVCB for each contractor for preapproval. (NOFA, page 11.)

29. **Must contracts be in place at application or only after award?**

    Contracts do not need to be in place at the time of application. If you are using contracts to meet grant requirements, they should be established upon award to ensure compliance with requirements. However, grantees must submit the proposed written agreement to CalVCB for each contractor for preapproval. (NOFA, page 11.)

30. **San Joaquin County Counsel has determined that County Agency can not provide letters of support to CBO applying for grants. Can we provide a chart of agencies we contracted with and years of services and contact information with the county agencies? Any other suggestions?**

    No. A chart of agencies will not take the place of letters of recommendation. (NOFA, page 10.)

31. **Can you please share what a definition of 'law enforcement' is for our letter of recommendation? For example, would a letter from the County Public Defender's Office also suffice for this requirement?**

    Law enforcement may include a county district attorney's office, city police, county sheriffs, and state and federal agencies that enforce the law. (Govt. Code § 13951 (d).)

32. **Does a District Attorney's Office of Victim Services unit satisfy "law enforcement agency," or must the letter come from a sheriff's office or police department?**

    Law enforcement may include a county district attorney's office, city police, county sheriffs, and state and federal agencies that enforce the law. (Govt. Code § 13951 (d).)

33. **Does a faith-based 501(c)(3), such as Catholic Charities, satisfy "community-based organization"?**

Yes. Any community-based 501(c)(3) can be considered.

34. Is any letter of recommendation dated on or after October 14, 2026, acceptable?

Yes. A letter of recommendation dated on or after October 14, 2026, that meets the requirements outlined in the NOFA is acceptable. (NOFA, page 10.)

35. Will letters of recommendation beyond three be considered or penalized?

Applicants should only submit three letters of recommendation. CalVCB will not consider more than three letters of recommendation.

36. Should letters of recommendation be addressed to CalVCB or to the applicant?

To receive maximum points, letter of recommendation cannot be generic. (NOFA, page 10.) There are no requirements on whom the letter is addressed to in the NOFA.

37. Can this Grant be used to inform victims of their options in the form of TV/Digital Advertising?

CalVCB will reimburse for outreach costs including advertising fees. Outreach costs are part of operational costs and cannot exceed 25% of the total grant award. They also must be justified as reasonable and necessary for accomplishing the objectives of the TRC as outlined in the grant application.

38. Do trainings for clergy and promoters count as trainings to community-based agencies?

If the clergy and promoters are members of a community-based organization, then such trainings would count.

39. May grant funds pay for interpretation (Spanish and Indigenous languages), light refreshments at community outreach events, and modest venue costs?

TRC grant funds can be utilized for interpretation services and outreach expenses, which may include venue costs. Costs for food and beverages for community outreach events are ineligible costs under this grant.

Outreach costs are part of operational costs and cannot exceed 25% of the grant award. They also must be justified as reasonable and necessary for accomplishing the objectives of the TRC.

40. Is a non-clinical contracted outreach coordinator allowable within the non-clinical share of personnel?

Yes. A non-clinical, contracted, outreach coordinator is allowable within the non-clinical share of personnel.

41. In the supplied budget workbook, G7 is a literal zero while comparable rows contain formulas. I60 is manually entered and I61/I64 contain ceiling-related calculations. Are these intentional? Please provide the required entry instructions or a corrected workbook. We will retain the original unchanged.

An updated *Budget Worksheet (Microsoft Excel)*, to remedy the missing formula in cell G7, was posted on CalVCB's website on October 30, 2026. The remaining cells within the Budget Worksheet are correct. Please use the updated *Budget Worksheet*.

42. The NOFA limits indirect costs to 5 percent of the total award within the 25 percent operating cap, while the budget worksheet calculates 5 percent of direct costs and adds it on top. Which method governs, and on which line should indirect costs be entered?

The budget worksheet does not include a calculation for direct costs as described in the question. Indirect costs, if allowed, are part of the 25% operating costs. Indirect costs can amount to no more than 5% of the total award. The applicant is responsible for ensuring the percentages meet required thresholds.

On the Master Budget Worksheet the Indirect Cost amount shall be placed on line I60.

43. Narrative question 1 cites section 13693.2, while other materials cite section 13963.2. Which provision should an applicant address in that answer?

Responses to Narrative question 1 should address the requirements of California Government Code section 13963.2. This typographical error has been corrected on the Narrative Qualifications posted and available on CalVCB's website.

44. Narrative Qualification 1 cites Government Code section 13693.2. Should this read 13963.2?

Responses to Narrative question 1 should address the requirements of California Government Code section 13963.2. This typographical error has been corrected on the Narrative Qualifications posted and available on CalVCB's website.

45. Do tables or charts within a narrative response count toward the two-page limit, and may tables be single-spaced?

Tables or charts within a narrative response will count toward the two-page limit. Table spacing should follow the formatting requirements found on page 6 of the NOFA.

46. Can the Flow Chart be multiple pages?

Yes. The flow chart can be multiple pages.

47. In the Organizational Chart, do I need to include all staff in the agency if we are part of a bigger organization with multiple programs? For example, we have a CAC and an FJC. Do I need to include staff from those programs as well? Or only our TRC?

The Organizational Chart should explain how the TRC fits within a larger organization, if applicable. (NOFA, page 9.)

48. Could you share the current TRC Grant Recipient Handbook and sample grant agreement, including insurance requirements?

All application requirements are included in the NOFA. The current TRC Grant Recipient Handbook and sample grant agreement may be requested by sending an e-mail to **Grants@victims.ca.gov**.

While reimbursement of insurance is an eligible expense, grant applicants are responsible for carrying the insurance required by their organization, which is not determined by CalVCB.

49. Does the expectation of a fully operational program within 30 days begin at notification of award or after contract signing, etc.?

The expectation is services will begin within 30 days of the grant start date which is anticipated to be July 1, 2027.

50. Does "services will begin within 30 days of receiving an award" mean within 30 days of the July 1, 2027, start date or of contract execution?

The expectation is services will begin within 30 days of the grant start date which is anticipated to be July 1, 2027.

51. The grant index states Tuesday, December 15, 2026, at 2:00 PM Pacific, while the NOFA contains an inconsistent weekday. Is the index's date/time controlling, and will a corrected NOFA or written clarification be published?

Grant applications must be sent via email to Grants@victims.ca.gov no later than 2:00 p.m. PST on **Tuesday**, December 15, 2026. This error has been corrected in the NOFA posted on CalVCB's website.

52. Please confirm the deadline is Tuesday, December 15, 2026, at 2:00 PM PT. Section III.A says Monday.

Grant applications must be sent via email to Grants@victims.ca.gov no later than 2:00 p.m. PST on **Tuesday**, December 15, 2026. This error has been corrected in the NOFA posted on CalVCB's website.

53. Is the 15 December 2026 application deadline correct?

Grant applications must be sent via email to Grants@victims.ca.gov no later than 2:00 p.m. PST on **Tuesday**, December 15, 2026. This error has been corrected in the NOFA posted on CalVCB's website.