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2025-2026 COMMUNITY GRANTS RFP

SUBMITTED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS (AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2025)

This document contains all Questions and Answers submitted about DCYF’s 2025-2026 Community Grants RFP between October 22nd – 31st, 2025. The questions are being provided as they were submitted including any spelling errors or grammatical mistakes.

Use the following links to navigate through the document by question topic:

ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS 2

GENERAL QUESTIONS..... 6

INTENT TO APPLY QUESTIONS..... 7

STRATEGY QUESTIONS..... 8

ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS

SUBMITTED QUESTION	DCYF ANSWER
<p>If our organization meets the minimum qualifications, we would love to apply for one of the upcoming DCYF Community Grants. To help determine our eligibility, I've outlined some key details below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded: August 2024 • Operations began: August 2025 • Service location: Commodore Sloat Elementary School (District 7) • Programming offered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Before-school: Early drop-off childcare ○ During-school: PE instruction and structured recess/lunch support ○ After-school: A licensed comprehensive after-school program offering enrichment courses, recreation, and academic support ○ Youth Leading Youth: A volunteer program providing middle and high school students with real-world leadership and mentoring experience <p>We believe our work supports DCYF's goals by helping ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and youth are ready to learn and succeed in school • Youth are prepared for college, work, and adulthood <p>Children and youth are physically and emotionally healthy</p> <p>Based on this information, could you please confirm whether Start2Finish meets the minimum eligibility requirements to apply for any of the upcoming grants?</p>	<p>As stated in the RFP document on page 9, applying agencies must meet the Past Experience Minimum Qualification to be eligible to apply to this RFP. This MQ states that proposers must "have at least 5 years of experience providing the services they are applying for during the period from 2015-2025." Based on your organization being founded in 2024, it would appear you do not meet that requirement and thus would not be eligible to apply.</p>

SUBMITTED QUESTION	DCYF ANSWER
<p>How long an organization must have been operating to qualify for this grant, and If organizations with less than three years of nonprofit status are eligible to apply using a fiscal sponsor.</p>	<p>As stated in the RFP document on page 9, applying agencies must meet the Past Experience Minimum Qualification (MQ) to be eligible to apply to this RFP. This MQ states that proposers must "have at least 5 years of experience providing the services they are applying for during the period from 2015-2025." Therefore, in order to meet this requirement an organization would need to both be operating and providing services that align with the strategies in this RFP for at least 5 years. Organizations that meet this requirement are eligible to apply using a fiscal sponsor.</p>
<p>Can I apply on behalf of a non - profit organization?</p>	<p>Nonprofit organizations that meet the Minimum Qualifications (MQs) detailed on page 9 of the RFP document are eligible to apply. Proposals must be submitted by someone authorized to do so on the behalf of the organization, typically an Executive Director or Program Director.</p>
<p>What districts are allowed to apply?</p>	<p>The RFP does not set a requirement about what districts can apply, instead it indicates which districts the services must take place in. Organizations that meet the Minimum Qualifications detailed on page 9 of the RFP document are eligible to apply.</p>

SUBMITTED QUESTION	DCYF ANSWER
<p>We at Aim High (current grantee) received the following funding announcement today. We just want to double check to see if Aim High is eligible to apply for any of these opportunities, or not.</p>	<p>Being a current DCYF grantee does not automatically make an organization eligible to apply for this RFP. Eligibility is determined by whether the applicant meets the Minimum Qualifications (MQs) listed on page 9 of the RFP. One of these MQs requires proposers to have at least five years of experience, between 2015–2025, providing the type of services they are applying to deliver. If your current DCYF funded program is not aligned with the specific program or service area you intend to apply for, your organization may not meet the Past Experience MQ. Please note that DCYF cannot issue Verification of Experience Letters for this RFP. All DCYF grantees must remain in compliance with the California Office of the Attorney General's registration and reporting requirements, therefore, current grantees in good standing meet that particular MQ. DCYF encourages all potential applicants to carefully review the RFP to confirm their eligibility before applying.</p>
<p>Hello again, we have reviewed these opportunities and believe our program is aligned with some of the guidelines. Can you please let us know if we are eligible for this new funding as a current grantee?</p>	<p>Being a current DCYF grantee does not automatically make an organization eligible to apply for this RFP. Eligibility is determined by whether the applicant meets the Minimum Qualifications (MQs) listed on page 9 of the RFP. One of these MQs requires proposers to have at least five years of experience, between 2015–2025, providing the type of services they are applying to deliver. If your current DCYF funded program is not aligned with the specific program or service area you intend to apply for, your organization may not meet the Past Experience MQ. Please note that DCYF cannot issue Verification of Experience Letters for this RFP. All DCYF grantees must remain in compliance with the California Office of the Attorney General's registration and reporting requirements, therefore, current grantees in good standing meet that particular MQ. DCYF encourages all potential applicants to carefully review the RFP to confirm their eligibility before applying.</p>

SUBMITTED QUESTION	DCYF ANSWER
<p>We are a current grantee under the Services Allocation (2024-2029) RFP. Are we eligible to also apply for this grant?</p>	<p>Being a current DCYF grantee does not automatically make an organization eligible to apply for this RFP. Eligibility is determined by whether the applicant meets the Minimum Qualifications (MQs) listed on page 9 of the RFP. One of these MQs requires proposers to have at least five years of experience, between 2015–2025, providing the type of services they are applying to deliver. If your current DCYF funded program is not aligned with the specific program or service area you intend to apply for, your organization may not meet the Past Experience MQ. Please note that DCYF cannot issue Verification of Experience Letters for this RFP. All DCYF grantees must remain in compliance with the California Office of the Attorney General's registration and reporting requirements, therefore, current grantees in good standing meet that particular MQ. DCYF encourages all potential applicants to carefully review the RFP to confirm their eligibility before applying.</p>
<p>Would Spark SF Public Schools be eligible to apply on behalf of an SFUSD program?</p>	<p>No, Spark SF Public schools would not be eligible to apply on the behalf of an SFUSD program. As stated on page 6 of the RFP "DCYF will not spend its limited resources funding services that should be provided by other entities such as other City Departments or the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD)."</p>

GENERAL QUESTIONS

SUBMITTED QUESTION	DCYF ANSWER
Can you define "Under-Housed?"	Under-housed generally refers to people or households whose housing situation is inadequate, unstable, or insecure, even if they have a place to live.
<p>Result Area: Physically and Emotionally Healthy Service Area: Emotional Well-Being Strategy: Family Wellness Annual Allocation: up to \$2.5 million Number of Grants: Up to 5 District: Citywide</p> <p>Q: Are any of the funds for this opportunity sourced from federal resources and, if so, from which programs specifically?</p>	No, this RFP does not include any federal funds.
<p>I would like to know how can I submit the application for community grant? Looking forward to hearing from you.</p>	<p>To apply to this RFP you will need to register or login to DCYF's online RFP system at https://contracts.dcyf.org/rfp. Once logged in you will be able to access the Community Grants RFP document. The 2025-2026 Community Grants RFP uses a two-step process that requires proposers to separately submit information confirming their Intent to Apply before receiving access to submit a Proposal and Budget. Please review the instructions for this process on page 8 of the RFP document as well as directions for using the online RFP system on page 18.</p>
<p>I am reaching out on behalf of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bay Area. We are interested in applying for the current Community Grant. Our offices are located in Oakland, but we serve a large number of youth through Community-Based Mentoring in San Francisco. Given that we do not have a physical address and ours is a city-wide program in San Francisco, how should we determine which Supervisor District to select on our Agency Profile?</p>	<p>Agencies that are based outside of San Francisco but provide services within the City should enter the supervisorial district where the services are being implemented in their Agency Profile.</p>
<p>May the Verification of Experience letter be completed by a city partner/funder, such as DEC, MOHCD, etc?</p>	<p>Yes, Verification of Experience letters can be completed by a City partner. Please note that DCYF cannot provide Verification of Experience letters for this RFP.</p>

INTENT TO APPLY QUESTIONS

SUBMITTED QUESTION	DCYF ANSWER
<p>We received the email below and we would like to submit an Intent to Apply. I do not see this on the portal. We have an account on the site and have submitted the profile.</p> <p>Please advise if you need further information. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.</p>	<p>The Intent to Apply is a form on the RFP system that you will find in your Agency Home page. On that page you will see the option to download the RFP, Complete the Agency Profile (which I saw you did) and Add and Manage Intent to Apply Forms. You will submit one for each proposal you intend to submit. One thing to note is that, as stated in the RFP, you need to submit a Proof of Experience letter with each Intent to Apply that would need to be gathered from a partner or funder (other than DCYF).</p>
<p>While the RFP system allows proposers to upload more than one Verification of Experience Letter, only one is required for the Intent to Apply. Verification of Experience Letters are intended to confirm that the proposer meets the Past Experience Minimum Qualification, they are not letters of support. Therefore, submitting multiple letters does not provide any additional benefit.</p>	<p>While the RFP system allows proposers to submit more than one Verification of Experience letter only one is required for the Intent to Apply. Verification of Experience letters are not letters of support meaning that there is no additional benefit for proposers if they submit more than one.</p>

STRATEGY QUESTIONS

SUBMITTED QUESTION	DCYF ANSWER
<p>The target population indicates K-8 students. However, the RFP states that "Programs must provide support to help participants navigate the transition from 8th to 9th grade and from 12th grade to postsecondary." Is the grant actually intended for students in grades 6-12?</p>	<p>No, this text, listed as Academic Supports Strategy Requirement #3 on page 22 of the RFP, is an error. The target population for this strategy is correctly listed as San Francisco Elementary School youth in grades K-8 who are homeless or under-housed.</p> <p>This Strategy Requirement will be updated in a revised RFP document to:</p> <p>3. <u>Transition Support and Post-Secondary Planning</u>: Programs must provide support to help participants prepare to navigate the transition from 8th to 9th grade. This support should include a combination of the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Training on topics including, but not limited to, life skills, social and emotional learning, study skills, note taking, and test preparation. b. Informational Workshops on relevant topics. c. Transition Planning Activities using age-appropriate approaches to help participants think about their future educational and career interests and create goals and realistic plans for achieving them; and d. Support to help participants achieve the plans they have created for themselves.
<p>The RFP states "Programs must provide tutoring for participants in core subjects including math, science, literacy, and writing." Does that mean it is required to provide tutoring for all of the core subjects, or can one subject be chosen?</p>	<p>Programs should be equipped to provide support in all the core subjects based on the needs of the students they are serving. Programs must assess the needs of the students individually to figure out what supports they need. These supports should be listed in participants' Individual Learning Plans. The assessment establishes the need, which should be used to help students earn a C or better in any core subject where they need support.</p>
<p>Can you further define, give examples of, or elaborate on the strategy "Family Wellness"? Is there an additional document that further explains the strategies?</p>	<p>There are no additional documents to provide about the Family Wellness strategy other than what is written in the RFP. DCYF encourages agencies to review the requirements carefully.</p>

SUBMITTED QUESTION	DCYF ANSWER
Do any of the Community Grant program areas allow for TK/transitional kindergarten ages?	No, the youngest grade level included as a target population for this RFP is kindergarten, as outlined in the Academic Supports, Beacon Community Schools, and Family Wellness strategies.
Do caregivers count in the target population area or can they also be served by the family programs?	Yes, caregivers can be included in the target population for the Family Wellness strategy. This strategy is designed to support the holistic health and well-being of families, whether they include biological parents, guardians, or other caregivers.
To meet the Family Wellness strategy eligibility requirement that "programs must offer mental health services and supports, provided by clinicians with linguistic competency and knowledge, respect and appreciation for the unique cultural contexts and needs of the families or TAY/A being served," will indirect clinical support services that are implemented through our paid, professional mentors via ongoing consultation with contracted mental health clinicians meet this requirement, or must services be delivered directly by the contracted clinicians to youth and families?	DCYF expects that programs will "offer mental health services and supports provided by clinicians." Therefore having mentors provide these services, even if there is ongoing consultation with clinicians, would not meet this requirement.
Does the linguistic competency requirement apply to the currently assigned clinician at the time of application, or can compliance be demonstrated through the capacity of the contracted agency to assign a clinician whose languages align with the populations served once the grant is awarded?	The linguistic competency requirement would apply once the programming begins as opposed to at the time of application. Therefore compliance can be demonstrated through the capacity of the contracted agency to assign a clinician whose languages align with the populations served once the grant is awarded.
Childcare (K-12): How does DCYF define "childcare services" within this RFP? Our program includes an on-site playroom that provides childcare and therapeutic support while caregivers are in the building receiving services. However, we do not offer childcare while parents/caregivers are off-site. Would this qualify under the childcare category?	Childcare (K-12): As stated in the Family Wellness Requirements on page 43 "Programs must have the ability to provide childcare services that ensures that parents and children can be fully engaged while onsite." Therefore agencies do not need to offer childcare to parents and caregivers while they are offsite. The intention of this strategy is that both children and parents/caregivers can be fully engaged onsite.

SUBMITTED QUESTION	DCYF ANSWER
<p>· Target Population: Can proposed programming focus exclusively on San Francisco youth in grades K–12 and their families, or must programs serve both target populations?</p> <p>· TAY/A Engagement: If serving both children/families and TAY/A is required, can we meet this requirement through partnerships with other agencies that provide TAY/A services, or must all services be delivered directly by the applicant organization? Our programs primarily serve younger children and their families.</p>	<p>Target Population & TAY/A Engagement: The Family Wellness strategy requires applicants to select one target population for each application, meaning that programs cannot serve both populations under a single grant. DCYF will revise the Target Population section on page 42 under the Family Wellness strategy to say:</p> <p>The Family Wellness Strategy has 2 target populations and proposers will select one target population for each proposal. The strategy is open to all children regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation, who otherwise meet the eligibility criteria with outreach efforts to two target populations. Proposers must identify outreach efforts for target populations for each program they are applying for. Proposers must answer specific questions in their proposals, including how proposer plans to meet the unique cultural needs of the students from a variety of backgrounds, including those who identify as African American, Hispanic/Latinx, and/ or Pacific Islander.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. San Francisco youth in grades K-12 and their families. 2. San Francisco Transitional Age Young Adults (TAY/A)
<p>Can an existing Justice Services Care Coordinator apply for this RFP under the Justice Services Care Coordinator strategy?</p>	<p>No, existing grantees under the Justice Services Care Coordinator strategy are not eligible to apply. Additional text will be added on page 34 to an updated version of the RFP document that states:</p> <p><u>NOTE:</u> agencies currently funded under the Justice Services Care Coordinator strategy are not eligible to apply.</p>
<p>For the Family Wellness Strategy requirements, do we have to internally provide the Wellness and Recreation Activities or can we link clients to these services?</p>	<p>DCYF understands that agencies may not have the internal capacity to provide all wellness and recreation activities directly. However, the Family Wellness Strategy is intended to offer these activities onsite, rather than through referral to outside providers.</p>

SUBMITTED QUESTION	DCYF ANSWER
Are applicants to the Family Wellness Strategy required to have experience providing mental health services to this population?	DCYF recognizes that some agencies may not have staff capacity to provide mental health services directly. Applicants may meet this requirement by partnering or contracting with qualified outside providers to deliver these services.
For the Family Wellness Strategy, can you please detail what the expected hours are for the required drop-in location?	DCYF has not specified expected hours for drop-in locations under the Family Wellness strategy. Applicants should propose hours that align with the needs of their target population, whether serving K-12 youth and their families or TAY/A.
Under the Family Wellness Strategy, how many families do you expect applicants to work with annually?	DCYF has not specified the number of families expected to be engaged by Family Wellness grantees. Proposers will complete a Services and Projection form as a part of their proposal where they will indicate the number of youth and families or TAY/A they will serve.
Under Family Wellness Strategy Goals, can we apply solely to serve a subpopulation of families citywide, namely, homeless justice-impacted mothers and their children?	Yes, applicants may propose to serve a specific subpopulation within the broader Family Wellness target population of K-12 youth and their families. Proposers should clearly describe their approach for serving their intended subpopulation in their proposal.
The Family Wellness strategy states "citywide" for district, with up to five grants being awarded. Is it possible to submit an application with a primary site location in one area (e.g. Bayview, Chinatown, Fillmore/Western Addition) but open to families citywide?	Yes, proposers can submit a proposal with a primary location in one neighborhood that is open to families citywide.
Do applicants need to directly serve San Francisco Elementary School youth in grades K- 8 who are homeless or under-housed, since this is the outlined target population?	Yes, the target population listed for the Academic Supports strategy on page 22 requires programs to serve San Francisco Elementary School youth in grades K-8 who are homeless or under-housed.
The RFP says: "Proposers must serve all participants who meet the eligibility criteria regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation..." Does this mean organizations that primarily focus on a single racial group (i.e. African American males) are discouraged from applying?	No, this RFP does not discourage any organization that meets the minimum qualifications from applying regardless of the primary population that the agency serves. This statement means that funded programs are expected to provide services to youth in the target population(s) specified by the RFP and may not refuse services to a potential participant on the basis of their race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation.

SUBMITTED QUESTION	DCYF ANSWER
Can you define what "having relationships with the school district" means for Service Area 1?	Assuming that Service Area 1 refers to the Educational Supports Service Area, "having relationships with the school district" refers to how programs collaborate with schools and district staff while delivering their services. For this RFP, the Educational Supports Service Area includes the Academic Supports strategy, which focuses on helping youth get back on track academically. To achieve this goal, programs are expected to understand school policies, practices, and curricula, and to maintain active relationships with the schools that participants attend.
By "documented partnerships" for Service Area 3, do you mean MOUs? Can you provide more information?	The term "documented partnerships" does not appear in the RFP. Assuming the question refers to established partnerships under the Justice Services Service Area, this means that agencies have a formalized working relationship that enables coordinated service delivery across organizations. While it is considered best practice to document these partnerships through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or similar agreement, an MOU is not required to submit a proposal to this RFP.
Are there requirements about the hours that drop-in services are available in the Family Wellness priority area?	DCYF has not specified expected hours for drop-in locations under the Family Wellness strategy. Applicants should propose hours that align with the needs of their target population, whether serving K-12 youth and their families or TAY/A.
The Family Wellness Target Populations section says that one of the target populations is "San Francisco elementary school youth in grades K-12 and their families." Is it correct to assume that since elementary school youth are specified that the actual target is K-5 students and their families?	<p>No, this is an error that will be corrected in an updated version of the RFP. The Target Populations listed under the Family Wellness strategy on page 42 will be corrected to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. San Francisco youth in grades K-12 and their families. 2. San Francisco Transitional Age Young Adults (TAY/A)

SUBMITTED QUESTION	DCYF ANSWER
<p>Can you further define what is meant by "Wellness and Recreation Activities?"</p>	<p>In the context of the Family Wellness Strategy, "Wellness and Recreation Activities" refer to fun, engaging, and culturally relevant activities that promote the physical, emotional, and social well-being of families or Transitional Age Youth and Adults (TAY/A). These activities are intended to strengthen connection and community, build healthy habits, and provide opportunities for stress relief, creativity, and shared enjoyment. Examples include but are not limited to group fitness, yoga, dance or movement classes, family game or recreation nights, arts and music workshops, mindfulness or self-care sessions, outdoor or nature-based activities and culturally grounded gatherings that celebrate identity and belonging.</p>
<p>Are wellness and recreation activities intended to be for whole families or are they intended to be youth specific?</p>	<p>DCYF has not specified whether recreation activities need to be for the whole family or youth specific. Applicants should consider designing a range of recreation activities that align with the overall goals of the Family Wellness strategy.</p>
<p>If applying to serve youth and their families under the Family Wellness opportunity, can we specifically focus on homeless and housing insecure families or does the program have to serve a broader audience?</p>	<p>Applicants can focus on a more specific group of youth and families including but not limited to homeless and housing insecure families.</p>
<p>For the Family Wellness Strategy with Target population for SF youth grades K-12, Is the expectation to be a multi-service hub or center with minimum requirements for drop-in hours? Are there required hours? (ex. weekends, evenings etc..)</p>	<p>The expectation is that Family Wellness sites will be able to provide a range of supports and activities to participants. DCYF has not specified expected hours for drop-in locations under the Family Wellness strategy. Applicants should propose hours that align with the needs of their target population, whether serving K-12 youth and their families or TAY/A.</p>
<p>For the Family Wellness Strategy with Target population for SF youth grades K-12 Are there specific Childcare requirements or models required? (ex. licensing and space requirements etc...)</p>	<p>DCYF has not established specific childcare requirements for this RFP. The intent of this component within the Family Wellness Strategy is to ensure that children and youth can be safely and meaningfully engaged onsite, either alongside their parents or caregivers, or while their parents or caregivers are participating in activities.</p>

SUBMITTED QUESTION	DCYF ANSWER
<p>For the Family Wellness Strategy with Target population for SF youth grades K-12, will we be able to leverage financial resources under strategy for Resource Navigation and Access similar to Basic Needs and Support and Barrier Removal?</p>	<p>Agencies funded under the Family Wellness Strategy may use their grant funds to support basic needs assistance, barrier removal, and resource navigation activities. DCYF does not regularly maintain a separate or centralized pool of funds for these purposes outside of individual grant awards.</p>