Community Health Investments 2026-2027
Pathways to Wellness Community Grant Program
Request for Applications (RFA)

I. Purpose

Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) is pleased to release its Pathways to Wellness (PTW) Community Grant Program Request for Applications (RFA) through its Community Health Investments grantmaking program. The PTW Community Grant Program builds upon the work achieved through prior community grants that provided funding to external organizations addressing the social determinants impacting the health and well-being of GCHP members.[1]

The goal of the PTW Community Grant Program is to improve members' experience with their health care journeys by addressing the social, cultural, structural, and environmental barriers that prevent them from accessing the care and services they need. The PTW Community Grant Program will release an RFA every year for three years (2025-2027) and support selected organizations for 12-month projects.

The RFA invites proposals from organizations dedicated to removing barriers and improving access to health care and health outcomes among vulnerable populations. This year's program objectives address the navigation of new Medi-Cal requirements and food insecurity in our community.

Priority areas include:

1. **Coordinating the navigation of health care and benefits**: addressing the complexities of enrollment and eligibility, and connections between health and social services.

2. **Expanding workforce, volunteer and educational opportunities:** assisting adult members 19-64 years of age with satisfying new Medi-Cal work requirements starting in 2027 (80 hours per month or $580 per month) to ensure they continue to receive timely care and health coverage. Certain adult members are excluded from this new requirement and listed in the Appendix of this document.

[1] World Health Organization. "Social Determinants of Health: Key Concepts." 2023. http://www.who.int/social_determinants/thecommission/finalreport/key_concepts/en/

3. **Supporting the provision of food and basic needs:** stabilizing access to food, basic needs, and essential services for vulnerable populations residing in Ventura County.

The PTW program advances initiatives that support GCHP members in navigating their renewal requirements, which includes submitting timely renewal applications and ensuring members meet their work, volunteer and education requirements. In addition, supporting the provision of food and basic needs for our members and community.

Qualified organizations who apply need to develop a strategic workplan for their targeted populations of focus that will leverage relationships within their communities for eligible Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

II. Gold Coast Health Plan

GCHP is an independent public entity created by a Ventura County ordinance and authorized through Federal Legislation. GCHP is not a county agency. The Ventura County Board of Supervisors approved implementation of a County Organized Health System (COHS) model, transitioning from fee-for-service Medi-Cal to managed care on June 2, 2009. The purpose of GCHP is to serve Medi-Cal beneficiaries, enhance the quality of health care, provide greater access, improve service, and provide choice. GCHP provides health benefits to more than 220,000 beneficiaries in the county.

III. Eligibility

To be eligible for a Community Health Investments grant, applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Be a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization with a 509(a)-designation indicating that the organization is not a private foundation, or
- Be a public or government entity, and
- Support access to high-quality health care and/or health-enhancing supportive services primarily to Medi-Cal recipients.

IV. Qualified Populations of Focus

Under this RFA, GCHP will consider funding applications that address one or more of the following populations of focus. Applications may address more than one population of focus, and the target population may overlap under more than one population of focus category. Please indicate ALL populations of focus that the application addresses, even if the population overlaps in several categories.

1. Persons with mental health disorder needs.*

2. Persons with substance use disorder needs.*
3. Persons with other disabilities.
4. Older Adults.*
5. Low income women .*
6. Persons who are homeless.
7. Young people from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds.
8. Immigrants and families of mixed immigration status.
9. Persons with limited English proficiency.
10. Low-wage workers and their families or dependents.
11. Uninsured children and youth formerly enrolled in Medi-Cal.

** Priority population identified by the Ventura County Community Health Improvement Collaborative Community Health Needs Assessment 2025.*

Applicant organizations must:

- Select at least one of the populations of focus (more than one can be listed) listed above and clearly articulate the experience of working with the selected population(s) of focus.
- Identify the population(s) and the geographic area targeted by the proposed project.
- Identify the specific strategies that will be implemented to address the population(s)of focus.
- Demonstrate how a majority of the individuals that will benefit from the proposed project will be GCHP members.
- Explain how the proposed strategies will be implemented over the course of 12 months.
- Identify the expected outcomes aimed at attaining through the proposed project.
- Provide specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time-based goals and objectives.
- Outline the duties and responsibilities of key staff who will be implementing the proposed project.
- Describe how assessment of progress towards attainment of the grant goals and objectives will be measured.

The maximum total award is $150,000 per organization, with a total amount of funding of $625,000 for the first year, lasting up to 12 months with a no-cost extension option. The application includes a proposal application narrative, a detailed work plan, a budget and budget narrative, the most recent financial statements for the applicant organization, and a list of the members of the board of directors. All applicants must demonstrate competency, experience with the targeted population, financial stability, business integrity and the ability to successfully implement the proposed project. Applications must include all required components and be complete at the time of submission to be considered. All application

components must be completed using the GCHP provided templates and guidance materials.

For detailed information and instructions on how to complete and submit a funding application under GCHP's PTW Community Grant Program RFA, please refer to section VII.

V. Use of Funds

GCHP funds may be used for staff salaries and benefits, operating expenses and equipment directly related to the proposed activities. The maximum allowable indirect cost rate is 10% of salaries and wages only.

The following types of grants are eligible for funding:

- Project Support (Funding to support a specific, connected set of activities, with a beginning and an end, with explicit objectives and predetermined cost; ongoing projects will be considered.)
- Direct Services (Funding for the provision of services directly to clients, as long as the services are not existing billable services with GCHP.)
- Systemic Change (Funding designed to change the way in which a system or systems operate to improve its functioning.)
- Seed Funding (Funding that supports the start-up costs of a new program.)
- Equipment (Funding to be used for laptops, cell phones and / or any other equipment needed to support workforce, volunteer, and education attainment for members to satisfy upcoming work requirements.)

Grant funds cannot be used for:

- Providing direct medical care.
- Paying for medical services billable to other payers.
- Services under a different contract or grant program with GCHP.
- Research.
- Endowments and annual fund drives.
- Deficit or debt retirement.
- "Miscellaneous" line items.

VI. Selection Process

All applications will be reviewed by a Review Committee made up of GCHP staff. The Review Committee members may consider a variety of criteria including, but not limited to:

- Organizational background and capacity to address target population(s) of focus and program goals.
- Clear articulation of how selected populations demonstrated need, and alignment with GCHP selected priorities.
- Proposal request is sound and feasible and clearly articulates the roles of collaborative partners and staff.
- Proposal identifies measurable and attainable benchmarks.
- Appropriate budget development, justification and indirect costs.
- Demonstrated capacity to evaluate the project.
- Evidence that a significant number of those benefiting from the proposed project will be GCHP beneficiaries.

All applicants selected for funding will be required to enter into the Grant Agreement provided by GCHP.

VII. Monitoring and Evaluation

During the grant award contract, GCHP will monitor the organizations selected for funding to ensure that they are performing according to the terms of their grant award agreement. Grantees will be required to submit monthly progress reports that provide complete and accurate documentation of program activities using forms provided by GCHP. Such documentation must include specific information about the goals and expenditures to date.

VIII. Application Completion and Submission

Follow the steps below to complete and submit your application. **Incomplete applications may not be reviewed.**

Step 1: Complete application forms

Complete the following four application forms, which can be found on the GCHP website. Also, include documents numbered 5-9 as part of your application submission.

1. Application Narrative.
2. Workplan Attachment A. To complete the Workplan, please refer to the Workplan Guidance Sample Document.
3. Budget Attachment B, which includes the budget – Tab 1 of spreadsheet; a budget narrative – Tab 2 of spread- sheet; and a worksheet identifying other sources of support for the project – Tab 3 of the spreadsheet.
4. Acknowledgement Attachment C
5. Signed Form W-9.
6. 501(c)(3) IRS notification letter.
7. Most recent audited financial statements and Tax Form 990.

8. Lists of Board of Directors or Board of Governors and senior management staff. Include names, titles, and connections to GCHP. If no connection to GCHP, please write “no connection” next to each name.
9. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for organizations applying through a fiscal agent.

Step 2: Submit completed application forms and supplemental documents (via email)
You may email your completed PDF application forms and application documents to Grants@goldchp.org.

The subject line of your email should read: **Organization’s Name, Pathways to Wellness 2026-27 Program Application**.

- **Attach completed PDF application forms to your email. Attachments must be titled as follows:**
- Organization’s Name, PTW, Application Narrative 2026-27
- Organization’s Name, PTW, Workplan Attachment A 2026-27
- Organization’s Name, PTW, Budget Attachment B 2026-27
- Organization’s Name, PTW, Acknowledgement Attachment C 2026-27
- Organization’s Name, Signed Form W-9.
- Organizations Name, 501(c)(3) IRS notification letter.
- Organization’ Name, audited financial statements and Tax Form 990.
- Organization’s Name, Board of Directors and Senior Staff
- Organization’s Name, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Step 3: Application Checklist
Please use the Application Checklist Form available on the GCHP website to ensure that you have provided all required documents. Missing documents or pages may be considered as an incomplete application and may not be reviewed.

Applications are due by 5 p.m. PST on Nov. 16, 2026.

Questions about the application can be sent to Grants@goldchp.org.

Decisions will be made and announced around the first week of December 2026.

Checks will be disbursed at the end of December 2026.

All decisions are final, and there will be no appeal process.

Appendix

Adult members excluded from work requirements include those who:

- Are American Indian.
- Are the parent, guardian or caregiver for a child 13 years of age or younger, or for someone with a disability.
- Are a veteran with a total disability rating.
- Have serious health conditions including medical frailty.
- Have a substance use disorder or a disabling mental health condition.
- Have a physical, intellectual, or developmental disability that limits their ability to perform daily tasks.
- Are dealing with a serious or complex medical condition.
- Are in a drug or alcohol treatment program.
- Are currently incarcerated.
- Are pregnant or who are within 12 months after giving birth.

Work requirements include the following:

- Work at least 80 hours per month in a paid job.
- Complete at least 80 hours per month of community service.
- Participate in a work program for at least 80 hours per month.
- Be enrolled part-time or full-time in an education or training program.
- For seasonal or fluctuating work, show average monthly income meets or exceeds the federal minimum wage threshold ($580 per month).