

Delta Center California Learning Lab Frequently Asked Questions

Last Updated 3/4/2021

FAQ OVERVIEW

Please email us at deltacenterca@jsi.com to submit a question.

A running list of questions and responses will be posted to deltacentercalifornia.jsi.com/cfa during the Q&A period. A final list of questions and responses will be posted and emailed upon the close of the Q&A period. The deadline for submitting questions is March 12, 2021.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

- Will projects serving children and their parents be considered? Are projects serving teenagers with substance use and mental health disorders eligible for this initiative?
 - **Answer:** The Delta Center California Learning Lab is designed for teams that are advancing a project focused on improving access, care experience, and/or outcomes for adults who have specialty mental health and/or substance use disorder needs. This focus will facilitate peer learning within the Learning Lab cohort, and enhance the work of the [State Roundtable](#) (another component of Delta Center California, which is focused on policy). An organization that focuses on children and families or works with young adults is eligible to be part of a team application for the Learning Lab, as long as the project and partnerships are focused on payment, financing, and/or care systems for adults.

- The application requests that projects focus on improving access, care experience, and/or outcomes for adults who have specialty mental health needs/"severe" mental illness (SMI) and/or substance use disorder (SUD). How are you defining SMI and SUD?
 - **Answer:** In California, financing, payment, and care systems are different for individuals with "mild to moderate" mental health needs and those with "severe" mental health needs and/or substance use disorder. To facilitate peer learning around shared barriers to integrated care and payment, we are looking for projects that operate in or interact with the systems of care that serve adults who have specialty mental health and/or substance use disorder needs.

- Do applicants have to have an SMI/SUD contract with their local county?
 - **Answer:** No, applicants do not need to have a contract with their local county. Please reach out to deltacenterca@jsi.com if you have a specific project or team example you would like to inquire about.

- Can you provide an example of a project description that would "advance integration" and go beyond "referrals and linkages between organizations"?
 - **Answer:** One example of a project that would advance integration is a Federally-Qualified Health Center (FQHC) recently designated as a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) working with their local County Mental Health Plan (MHP) to improve the delivery of specialty mental health services and identify ways to sustain services following the end of CCBHC funding. This example and two others are included in more detail in the Call for Applications on our website (deltacentercalifornia.jsi.com/cfa).

WHO IS ON THE TEAM

- We would like to apply in partnership with a "Faith-based organization", e.g. a church, as we recognize the deep connections churches hold in our community. Is a Faith-based organization an eligible partner?
 - **Answer:** Yes, faith-based organizations are an eligible partner in this work.
- We would like to expand our team beyond the 3-5 core team members requested in the application, can we include more than five members on the core project team?
 - **Answer:** We value having a diverse set of voices and staff working on this project. Our experience has also been that having too many people at the table can reduce the effectiveness of the interactivity and collaboration that is a central component of the Learning Lab. We believe that a core team of 3-5 people will best allow us to facilitate peer to peer sharing and collaboration during convenings, but will consider participation of additional project team members in other Learning Lab activities.
- Our providers are currently stretched very thin. The application asks that there is a provider that is part of the core team; does the provider need to participate in all program activities? Can they take on a different role such as a "consultant role"?
 - **Answer:** We recognize that, especially given the current environment, providers have many competing priorities. We have broadly defined "provider" for the purposes of this initiative (see [application](#) for more detail), and we are willing to consider alternate forms of participation for providers as long as the provider perspective is still present and involved in the project outside of the convenings. We do ask that each team has a provider as a member of the core team.
- Our collaboration involves multiple partners, is there a preference on which entity serves as the "lead" applicant for this project?
 - **Answer:** We do not have a preference for who serves as the lead entity on the project. The lead applicant should have the capacity to manage the Learning Lab grant administratively. This includes signing the contract, receiving and disbursing funds to

partners, and leading communication with the Delta Center California Program Office.

- The application requests that we involve a consumer - can you clarify who would be a consumer? Does this strictly mean patients or is it the end-user of your program design?
 - **Answer:** By consumer, we are referring to those who use the systems and receive the care your project aims to improve. Other words to describe this role might be end users, patients, members, or clients. We recognize that in many cases this also includes family members of those receiving care, and would consider teams that include family members as consumer representatives. As we strive to support projects that ultimately meet the goals and needs of individuals and families, we want to ensure that this perspective is meaningfully included as your project is being designed and implemented.
- Would you be able to provide some examples of teams that might participate?
 - **Answer:** Please see pages 3-4 of the [Learning Lab application](#) for some example teams and projects. These examples are not an exhaustive list of the types of teams that can apply. Please feel free to reach out directly to deltacenterca@jsi.com if you have a specific question about your team or project.

PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS

- What are the expectations regarding deliverables for the project itself?
 - **Answer:** The Delta Center California Program Office will strive to reduce any unnecessary burden on participants. The primary deliverables will be active participation in all Learning Lab activities, and work done outside of these activities to advance your projects. This includes proactive sharing of strategies, challenges, and best practices with one another and the field. Alongside your project work, specific deliverables for the project include five brief narrative reports to update us on your progress; and responses to convening, webinar, and coaching feedback requests to support evaluation of the initiative. The Delta Center California Program Office will work with grantees prior to and during the first convening to identify a strategy for measuring and tracking progress of grantee activities through the course of the Learning Lab.
- What are the parameters for use of the funding? Could you please provide a bit more direction around what types of activities might be included besides travel costs to participate in the convenings?
 - **Answer:** We recognize that the limited amount of funding is not enough to hire new staff, and that it may be supporting work that your team was already doing. The funding is meant to cover: travel costs; participation in the convenings, coaching calls, and project meetings; staff time to support logistics of participation; and fair compensation of consumer participants.

- Do all members of the core team have to attend the 3 events?
 - **Answer:** The core project team is expected to participate in all activities, including in-person participation as health and safety allow. We recognize that provider schedules may not allow for participation, and are willing to collaborate on how to ensure meaningful provider participation. These three convenings are the core elements of the program, and we ask that participants make the time to attend.