

Flexible Housing Subsidy Pools ("Flex Pools") Request for Applications Webinar

May 12th, 2025

Today's Agenda

- » Welcome & Introductions
- » Core Functions of a Flex Pool
- » Overview of the Request for Applications (RFA)
- » Submission Instructions
- » Q&A

Introducing Flex Pools Academy Faculty



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Core Functions of a Flex Pool

With the launches of Transitional Rent and BHSA Housing Interventions, DHCS is committed to supporting the formation and sustainability of Flex Pools.

Flex Pools help house people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness by:



Coordinating and **braiding funding streams**, facilitating compliance and required reporting.



Acting as a **fiscal intermediary** between funders and landlords, on behalf of participants



Identifying, securing, and supporting **a portfolio of units** for participants



Coordinating with providers of housing supportive services to support participants

Overview of RFA

RFA Part I: Flex Pools Academy

Each TA Recipient Team will receive support from Flex Pool faculty and DHCS to engage in a mix of local and all-team activities through the Academy.

TA Focus Areas

Visioning to develop a new Flex Pool or strengthen existing Flex Pool

Identification of **potential funding sources**

Funder and partner relationship development and/or **procurement** of a Flex Pool Operator

Development and implementation of **operational processes** to launch services

- » Applicants should **be prepared to participate fully** in all Flex Pool Academy activities, including:
 - Kick-off with Flex Pool faculty
 - Monthly coaching calls
 - In person All-Team Meetings (~3)
- » Competitive applicants will meet all eligibility criteria and demonstrate commitment to Flex Pools, **with an emphasis on operationalizing BHSA Housing Interventions and Transitional Rent.**

RFA Part II: Flex Pools Planning Grants

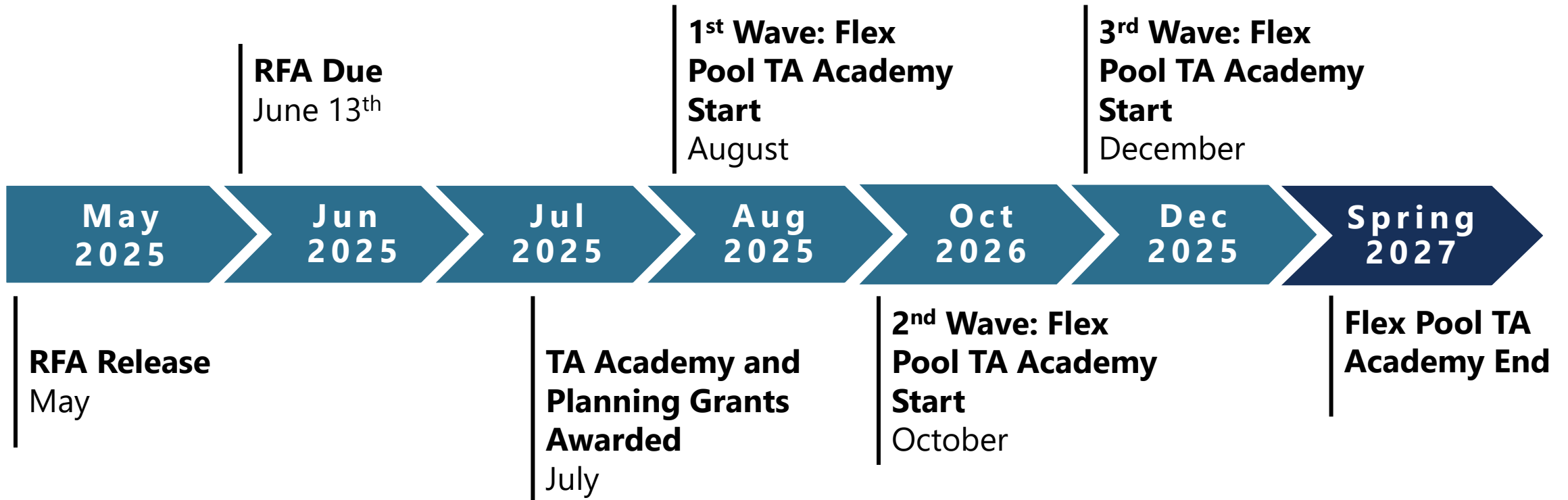
Planning grants support the efforts of the Flex Pool TA Recipient Team, including both the applicant and other participating organizations.

Eligible Costs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Costs for staff and/or consultants✓ Supplies and materials✓ Meeting costs to support Flex Pool development or improvement✓ Community and provider engagement via onsite and virtual meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Travel or other costs to support stakeholder participation✓ Technology to support launch or operations of a Flex Pool✓ One-time startup funds

- » Awardees will be expected to participate in all activities and reporting of their Flex Pool Academy team, as appropriate.
- » Grants will be distributed in **two payments**:
 - upon initial award (70%) in 2025;
 - and upon submission of a final progress report (30%) in 2027.

Flex Pools Academy Timeline

The RFA is now open and is due on June 13th, 2025.
DHCS will notify selected applicants of awards in July, and the Academy will run through spring 2027.



RFA Applicants

DHCS will select up to ten TA Recipient Teams to participate in the Flex Pools Academy and award up to ten Flex Pools Planning Grants.

Who can apply for the Flex Pools Academy?

- » Applicants should be organizations acting as, or intending to act as, **Flex Pool Lead Entities**
- » Lead Entities partner to create a TA Recipient Team, which must include:
 - Actual or intended Flex Pool Lead Entity;
 - Actual or intended Flex Pool Operator, if applicable;
 - **At least one** team member from an MCP or county behavioral health agency (*may be fulfilled by Lead Entity*); **both are preferred**
 - **At least one** team member from a current or intended funder (*If the Lead Entity is a county behavioral health agency or MCP, this requirement is fulfilled. If not, the funder must be a different organization from the Lead Entity*).

Who can apply for funding from a Flex Pools Planning Grant?

- » Funding applicants **must be behavioral health agencies or tribal entities** who have indicated their **intent to participate in the Flex Pools Academy** by:
 - Submitting an application for the Flex Pools Academy (if serving as the Lead Entity); **or**
 - Submitting a statement of support as part of the TA Recipient Team (if not serving as the Lead Entity).
- » Flex Pool TA Recipient Teams do **not** have to apply for the Planning Grant in order to receive TA.

Flex Pools Academy Lead Entity Applicant Eligibility Criteria

- » Lead Entity applicants must meet all of the following requirements to be selected for the Flex Pools Academy:
 - ✓ Intend to launch a new Flex Pool or to expand an existing Flex Pool in their locality **within the next 18 months.**
 - ✓ **Demonstrate leadership support** within their own organization.
 - ✓ Have **an established role in the local homeless services, housing, or rehousing system**, including a history of serving Medi-Cal members and/or individuals with serious behavioral health conditions.
 - ✓ Demonstrate **support from all intended members of the TA Recipient Team** via statements of support
 - ✓ Demonstrate **commitment to championing the Flex Pool** to others in the community beyond the team.

DHCS will review **only one application per actual or intended regional Flex Pool.** Potential applicants must coordinate with other local partners to form a TA Recipient Team.

Flex Pools Academy Application Questions (Attachment A)

Flex Pools Academy: Application Questions

Narrative and Application Questions (20 points)

Technical Assistance Needs (Required, not scored)

Statements of Support (Required, not scored)

- » In the narrative questions section, the Lead Entity applicant should **demonstrate its own and its partners' ability to operate a Flex Pool.**
- » Successful applications will demonstrate:
 - ✓ **Capacity and commitment to serving Medi-Cal members** and/or individuals with **serious behavioral health conditions**
 - ✓ **Strong vision of a Flex Pool** that aligns with local landscape and incorporates plans for incorporating Transitional Rent, BHSA housing interventions, and/or any local funding sources
 - ✓ Clear analysis of **key challenges to be addressed through TA**
 - ✓ **Evidence of existing partnerships or intent to partner** with county behavioral health agencies, MCPs, and other leading organizations, such as CoC and Public Housing Authorities

Flex Pools Academy: TA Needs

Narrative and
Application Questions
(20 points)

Technical Assistance
Needs (Required, not scored)

Statements of Support
(Required, not scored)

- » TA recipients will join the Flex Pools Academy **in either summer, fall, or winter 2025-2026, based on the level of readiness** indicated in their application.
- » In assessing needs, Lead Entity applicants should identify the top 2 – 3 areas in which they would like to receive TA

Flex Pools Academy: Statements of Support

Narrative and
Application Questions
(20 points)

Technical Assistance
Needs (Required, not scored)

Statements of Support
(Required, not scored)

- » A statement of support is **required from the leadership of each organization who will participate in the TA Recipient Team.**
- » Statements of support can be **simple** and do not need to be a full letter.

Flex Pools Planning Grant Application Questions (Attachment B)

Flex Pools Planning Grant Application Questions

Planning and Goals (5 points)

» Planning grant applicants should briefly describe **how they intend to use the planning grant** to achieve desired outcomes.

Priorities and Activities (5 points)

- » Applicants should clearly demonstrate:
- Use of planning grants to overcome barriers to creating or strengthening a Flex Pool in their community
 - Clarity about near-term priorities and planned activities
 - How planning grants may support activities of Flex Pool Academy

Budget (10 points)

Planning Grant Application Budget

Planning and Goals
(5 points)

Priorities and Activities
(5 points)

Budget (10 points)

- » Applicants are expected to submit a high-level budget and brief narrative. This budget is non-binding.

	Brief Narrative	July 2025 – June 2027 Budget (approx. \$)
Staff Costs		
Consultant Costs		
Supplies and Materials		
Meeting Costs		
Community and provider engagement		
Travel or other costs to support stakeholder participation		
Technology		
One-time startup funds		
Other		
Indirect Costs		Maximum = 15% of grant, \$22,500
Total Planning Dollars		\$150,000

Application Instructions

- » The application and attachments, along with submission instructions, can be found on the [DHCS Housing for Health website](#).
- » Applications will be **accepted electronically only**. Applications may not be hand delivered or mailed.
- » **Submit applications by email** to FlexPools@dhcs.ca.gov with the following:
 - Subject Line: RFA Submission [Part I or Part II] by [Name of Applicant Organization]
 - See RFA Attachment A and Attachment B for required application content
- » The deadline for applications will be **June 13, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. PT**.



For individuals with disabilities, DHCS will provide assistive services such as reading or writing assistance and conversion of the RFA in braille, large print, audiocassette, or computer disk. To request copies of written materials in an alternate format, please send an email to FlexPools@dhcs.ca.gov.

Questions?



Reminder: Release of the Updated Community Supports Policy Guide and Upcoming Webinar

On April 30, 2025, DHCS released the updated Community Supports Policy Guide, which is reorganized into separate volumes:

- **[Volume 1](#)** contains the service definitions for eight of the Community Supports that address Members' health-related social needs.
- **[Volume 2](#)** contains the service definitions for the remaining seven Community Supports, including the **new Transitional Rent service**, that pertain to housing or have a room and board component and is specifically designed to support Members experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

DHCS will be hosting two webinars, one for each volume:

- Volume 1 Webinar: Friday, May 16, 2025 | 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM PT ([advanced registration required](#))
- Volume 2 (Housing-specific) Webinar: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 | 12:00 PM – 01:30 PM PT ([advanced registration required](#))

Contact & Additional Resources



Please send questions
about this RFA to
FlexPools@dhcs.ca.gov.



- » Explore the [Flexible Housing Subsidy Pools: Technical Assistance Resource](#) to learn more about Flex Pools, their key functions, and the roles and responsibilities of partner organizations.
- » Visit the DHCS Housing for Health [website](#) for additional resources and webinar recordings.