Request for Qualifications
Health Equity Policy Landscape Assessment Project Consultant

I. Summary
The California Health Care Foundation (CHCF) is an independent philanthropy dedicated to advancing meaningful, measurable improvements in the way the health care delivery system provides care for the people of California.

At CHCF, we know that health care is a basic necessity. We work hard to improve California’s health care system so all Californians can get the care they need. We recognize the historical and continued oppression experienced by Black, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Indigenous people and those of other racial and ethnic groups. That is why we also work to create a health care system designed to redress, and not perpetuate, the inequities that too many of our fellow Californians face.

This Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is intended to identify consultant(s) to partner with CHCF in developing a Health Equity Policy Landscape Assessment to understand state health equity policies and projects, as well as internal diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) trainings and efforts in the California legislature; the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS) and its departments focused on health — California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC), Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH); California Public Employees’ Retirement System (CalPERS); Covered California; the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal-ICH); and health profession licensing boards. We welcome submissions from small firms and individuals. Consultants not selected for this particular project could be selected for future projects.

II. Health Equity Policy Landscape Assessment Project: Background
Conversations about equity, racial injustice, and social determinants of health have been pushed to the forefront of policymaking and programs throughout California. Too many Californians, especially people of color, face structural barriers that prevent them from getting the care they need. As the most culturally diverse state in the country, California can’t prosper without removing these barriers.

CHCF seeks to understand the landscape of state health equity policy and partnership opportunities within CalHHS and its departments focused on health (DHCS, DMHC, HCAI, and CDPH), CalPERS, Covered California, Cal-ICH, and health profession licensing boards. CHCF’s State Health Policy Office is commissioning this work to explore what is happening in health policy to address health inequities. The results of this work will be used by CHCF as it explores future work in this space.
III. **Project Scope and Purpose**

Through the Health Equity Policy Landscape Project, CHCF aims to explore the California legislature and administration’s internal and external approach regarding equity. The internal approach refers to how the legislature and administration are addressing equity within their internal policies and operations. The external approach refers to how the legislature and administration are prioritizing health equity through data collection, programs, policies, and other activities. At large, CHCF is interested in learning what is happening in health equity in the policy space, how state policy stakeholders think about health equity, how agencies are working together on DEI, the connections to CHCF’s work, and potential areas for CHCF to partner in the advancement of health equity in the Sacramento policy space.

IV. **Core Tasks (final deliverables to be agreed upon by CHCF and consultant) and Anticipated Timeline**

Core tasks:

- Prepare a summary of health equity projects and programs at identified departments within CalHHS and its departments focused on health (DHCS, DMHC, HCAI, and CDPH), CalPERS, Covered California, Cal-ICH, and health profession licensing boards. The list should include the project title, a brief summary, and lead staff.
- Compile a list of legislation introduced in the 2021 and 2022 legislative sessions that seeks to advance health equity and their status.
- Prepare an overview of health equity programs proposed and included in the 2022–23 state budget.
- Compile a summary of statements made by elected and other public officials regarding health equity in 2020 and 2021 and any actions taken to promote health equity. Include Governor Newsom, Secretary Ghaly, CalHHS health department heads, and members of the California legislature.
- Compile a summary of stakeholders outside state government active in state policymaking and focused on promoting health equity.
- Connect CHCF staff with key stakeholders, including introductory phone calls and other conversations, as requested.

Anticipated timeline:

1. Release of RFQ (February 23, 2022)
2. RFQ submission due (March 23, 2022)
3. Follow-up Interviews (March/April 2022)
4. Notification of targeted list to be asked to submit formal proposal (April/May 2022)

V. **Qualifications**

- A background or knowledge of health equity in California programs or policy
- Existing relationships with or knowledge of California policymakers and agencies who work on health
- The capacity to analyze and synthesize quantitative and qualitative data
VI. Response Packet
Please provide responses to the following prompts in your submission:

General Information (please limit your responses to two pages):
- Organization or name
- Contact information
- Name and biography of proposed lead consultant

Prompts (please limit your responses to three pages):
- Describe your knowledge of and background in health equity.
- What experience do you have with state departments or the legislature?
- Describe one or two similar project(s) you have completed in the past and provide a link or reference materials if it exists publicly.
- Are there other agencies or entities you would suggest including?
- Why do you think your organization is uniquely positioned to do this project well?
- Is there any other relevant information you think is important to share (briefly) about your organization, capabilities, or team as relates to the project?

VII. Response Submission
Please submit your response online no later than 5 PM (PT) on March 23, 2022.

VIII. Next Steps
All responses will be reviewed, and a small number of candidates will be invited to an interview. Following the interview, one or more candidates will be invited to develop a full proposal to conduct the landscape.

Information about all entities who responded to this RFQ will be retained in the CHCF database for future policy or equity-based projects.

IX. For More Information
For technical questions about the proposal submission process, contact Kenna Chic.