

Starting a Federally Qualified Health Center or "Look-Alike" in California

The California Primary Care Association (CPCA) has compiled a list of resources available to assist in the development of a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or Look- Alike. The complete process can take several months to a year or more and is contingent on the availability of federal funding.

The Health Center Program: How to Apply

Visit the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) [website](#) for information on the application package and detailed instructions on program requirements.

A community, medical practice or other entity may be able to pursue FQHC status in the following manners:

Apply to the Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) for 330 grant funding as funding becomes available

For the link to information, visit the HRSA website at Open Funding/Grant Opportunities: [Here](#)

Apply to be a FQHC Look Alike and then later apply for 330 funding

HRSA Policy Information Notice (PIN) 2009-06 FQHC Look Alike Guidelines and Application provides information on the application process: [Here](#)

Collaborate with an existing FQHC to apply as an expansion site

The HRSA website provides specific data on other California FQHC locations: [Here](#)

Please remember that having the support and involvement of your community is crucial to a successful application.

CPCA has identified several documents to assist in the process of starting a Federally Qualified Health Center or Look-Alike. The review of these documents will give you an understanding of the process of how to become a funded grantee.

The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) has developed a [Manual](#) to assist in the process of starting a Federally Qualified Health Center.

NACHC also offers training on the development of proposals and funding opportunities: [Here](#)

FQHCs are funded by the Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) which identifies and requires compliance with specific program expectations. This document [PIN 98-23](#) outlines the BPHC program requirements.

FQHCs are required to establish and maintain a governing board which must be made up of at least 51% of consumers of the health centers services. These documents outline the requirements of the governing board:

- [Implementation of the Section 330 Governance Requirements](#)
- [Governing Board Handbook](#)

To qualify for funding, applicants must be located in an area designated as a Medically Underserved Area or Population (MUA/P). To check and see your area's designation, check the HRSA website: [Here](#) **Please note that communities must seek MUA/P designation.*

If you are interested in becoming a member of CPCA, please visit our membership page here: <http://cpca.org/index.cfm/about-us/membership/membership-application/>