

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

Last updated: April 2019

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**
Eligible organizations may apply for look-alike designation at any time. For more information and application instructions, see [Health Center Program Look-Alikes](#).
- **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. Reviewing 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.
- The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) is responsible for effective and efficient oversight of the Health Center Program. The Compliance Manual is the principal resource to assist health centers in understanding and demonstrating compliance with Health Center Program requirements. View [Health Center Program Compliance Manual](#) (Last Updated August 2018).

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: <https://www.cpc.org/CPCA/CPCA/About/Membership/CPCA/About/Membership.aspx?hkey=830aaa23-84dc-42fe-8ac1-ad8a90b017bd>