

California Services to Science Academy 2.0: Technical Support and Assistance for Promising and Innovative Prevention Programs

Request for Applications
Proposers' Webinar

Agenda

- » Welcome
- » Meet the Team
- » Program Background and Purpose
- » Funding Opportunity Overview
- » Application Guidelines
- » Questions

Welcome



Meet the Team



University of California, Los Angeles

Integrated Substance Use and Addiction Programs



Howard Padwa
Principal Investigator



Sherry Larkins
Co-Principal Investigator



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Project Director



Lincoln Bohn
Research Associate

Department of Health Care Services



Jessica Guerra

Section Chief

Community Services Division
Prevention and Youth Branch



Jovon Torres

Unit Chief

Community Services Division
Prevention and Youth Branch

California Services to Science Academy (CSSA) Funding Information

- » The **CSSA Cohort 2.0** is a program of the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), funded by the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant and the Proposition 64 California Cannabis Tax Fund, Allocation 3, Youth Education Prevention Early Intervention and Treatment Account.
- » The University of California, Los Angeles, Integrated Substance Use and Addiction Programs (UCLA-ISAP) is contracted to support the implementation of the CSSA. This statewide program provides funding and technical assistance for organizations that are implementing promising and innovative prevention practices.

Program Background and Purpose



Program Background

- » DHCS is leading two initiatives through a contract with UCLA:
 - The **California Services to Science Academy (CSSA)** is a cohort-based program that generates data to determine effective levels of evidence for locally promising and innovative SUD prevention practices to be considered for inclusion on the SUPER website, either as practices or case studies of intervention implementation or adaptation.
 - The **Substance Use Prevention Evidence-Based Resource (SUPER)** is a centralized resource designed to provide California counties, behavioral health providers, and tribal entities with clear and concise information about evidence-based, promising, and innovative substance use prevention efforts.

About the CSSA Cohort 2.0

- » The **CSSA Cohort 2.0** will support California organizations seeking to generate and demonstrate credible evidence of effectiveness for locally developed and innovative prevention activities, with the goal of increasing the number of effective interventions to be featured on the SUPER website, thus strengthening prevention providers' ability to address SUDs and behavioral health-related challenges across diverse communities.
- » This 15-month technical support grant will assist SUD prevention providers in building evidence for local prevention efforts and expanding culturally and linguistically relevant interventions statewide.

CSSA Pilot

- » The CSSA pilot encompassed ten (10) SUD prevention programs and was conducted from October 2024 through June 2025.
- » The evaluation period for the pilot was extended for six of the original pilot sites to allow for completion of evaluation research activities. The pilot is scheduled to concluded June 30, 2026.

Funded CSSA Pilot Evaluation Projects

» Innovative programs included a range of target population, styles and approaches, and lengths and methods of intervention delivery.

Examples of CSSA Pilot Evaluations included:

- Healing, advocacy, and leadership intervention supporting Hispanic/Latino, African American, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and 2S/LGBTQIA+ youth in rural communities.
 - Mindfulness-based substance use prevention education for system-impacted youth with goals of building decision-making skills, reducing stress and impulsivity, and enhancing emotional regulation and negative attitudes toward substance use.
- » Other examples of previous activities assessed during the CSSA Pilot can be found in the CSSA Cohort 2.0 Request for Applications (RFA).

Funding Opportunity Overview



The Application

- » Locate CSSA Cohort 2.0: Technical Support and Assistance for Promising and Innovative Prevention Programs RFA by visiting <https://super.ucla.edu/apply>
- » The link to the online application is in the "Application Guidelines" of the RFA.

California Services to Science Academy Cohort 2.0:
*Technical Support and Assistance for Promising and
Innovative Prevention Programs*

Request for Applications
April 2026



UCLA

Integrated Substance Use and Addiction Programs
Division of Addiction Psychiatry

Funding Opportunity Overview (1)

- » DHCS is seeking applications from non-profit youth-serving community-based and tribal organizations and counties directly implementing SUBG-funded prevention programs authorized to do business in California that provide SUD prevention services to adolescent, youth, and/or adult populations, including families.
- » **Project Period:** December 1, 2026, to March 1, 2028.

Funding Opportunity Overview (2)

- » Up to eight (8) grantees will be selected to each receive funding up to \$102,500 per organization to be used to plan and implement individualized evaluation activities.
- » UCLA-ISAP will work with grantees to craft individualized, site-specific evaluation plans to help generate evidence of intervention impact.
- » UCLA-ISAP staff will conduct optional pre-planning meetings with each grantee site to review general evaluation strategies and skills and develop plans for training and technical assistance.

Eligibility Criteria (1)

- » Non-profit youth-serving community-based, tribal organizations, and counties directly implementing SUBG-funded prevention programs, authorized to do business in California.
- » Must have an established prevention intervention that has been implemented for a minimum of two years with identified community and/or under-resourced marginalized communities.
- » Provides SUD prevention services to adolescent, youth, and/or adult populations, including families.

Eligibility Criteria (2)

- » Organization is physically located in and delivers SUD prevention services in California.
- » Organization staff have demonstrated experience delivering the novel prevention intervention being evaluated.
- » Organization has a willingness and ability to initiate evaluation project data collection and reporting activities over the course of the project.
- » Organization has the technical capacity to participate in virtual Zoom trainings, Learning Collaboratives, monthly meetings, and ongoing coaching over the course of the project.
- » Contractors are required to carry UC-compliant insurance (including general liability and any applicable coverage) and submit a Certificate of Insurance naming The Regents of the University of California as additional insured prior to contract execution.

Description of Services

- » Attend an optional pre-planning meeting.
- » Attend a one-hour Individual Planning Session to co-develop a site-specific evaluation plan.
- » Participate up to 12 monthly group Learning Collaboratives.
- » Participate up to 12 monthly individual, site-specific evaluation support coaching calls with UCLA-ISAP staff.
- » Attend a required one-hour post-project qualitative interview with UCLA-ISAP staff.

Use of Funds

- » Funds may be used to support local evaluation efforts for programming, that includes, but is not limited to the following strategies:
 - Place-based information dissemination campaigns
 - Education (skill building)
 - Community-based mobilization and coalition efforts
 - Problem identification and referral (e.g., student assistance programs)
 - Peer support and mentoring
 - Youth-led civic engagement and leadership
 - Policy, systems, and environmental change

Funding Restrictions

CSSA Cohort 2.0 project funds cannot be used for any of the following:

- Debt retirement
- Operational deficits
- Partisan activities
- Lobbying or lobbying activities
- Religious organizations for explicit religious activities
- Activities that exclusively benefit the members of sectarian or religious organizations
- Purchase or lease of vehicles; Purchase or lease of properties
- Purchase, construction, or permanent improvement (other than minor remodeling) of any building or other facility, or purchase of major medical equipment
- Directly or indirectly, purchase, prescribe, or provide cannabis or treatment using cannabis
- Clinical services such as therapy and substance abuse treatment

Funding Timeline and Schedule

- » Funds will be distributed to grantees in four (4) payments aligned with completion of:
 - Pre-Implementation Activities (\$50,000)
 - Implementation Activities (Two payments of \$20,000 each)
 - Post-Implementation Activities (\$12,500)
- » Grantees will submit invoices to UCLA-ISAP once deliverables have been completed.

Pre-Implementation (October 2026-December 2026)
Attend an optional Pre-Planning Meeting
Set up Service Contract with UCLA for payment
Attend Kick-off Learning Collaborative Session
Complete Individual Evaluation Planning Session with the UCLA-ISAP Team
Develop and Submit Initial Project Evaluation and Dissemination Plan to the UCLA-ISAP Team
Prepare and submit Invoice #1 (January 2027)

Implementation (January 2027–December 2027)
Attend monthly Individual training and technical assistance sessions with the UCLA-ISAP Team
Attend monthly Learning Collaborative Sessions with the UCLA-ISAP Team
Initiate and continue Project Evaluation activities, which may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logic model development • Identify site project team • Select and develop quantitative and qualitative data collection measures • Align measures with Logic Model • Data collection activities • Data analysis activities • Plan for sustainability, dissemination, and quality improvement
Prepare and submit Invoice #2 (May 2027)
Prepare and submit Invoice #3 (October 2027)

Post-Implementation (January 2028–March 2028)
Attend individual wrap-up sessions with the UCLA-ISAP Team
Participate in Post-Project Qualitative Interview and/or Focus Group to discuss lessons learned and CSSA Cohort 2.0 project improvement
Finalize project close-out evaluation and dissemination activities, which may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize data analysis • Develop and implement plans for sustainability, dissemination, quality improvement, and manuscript preparation
Prepare Final Report
Prepare and submit Invoice #4 (March 2028)

Project Timeline and Schedule

Requirements and Participation (1)

- » Grantees must participate in coaching and training opportunities that enhance the quality of the data collection, evaluation, and reporting activities and organizational capacity.
- » Required activities will include the following at a minimum*:
 - **Learning Collaborative (LC) and Coaching**
 - Monthly LC to promote evaluation, data collection, and reporting skills development and program capacity building.
 - LC will be held via Zoom; expected one-hour minimum session. At least one grantee staff member per site must attend.
 - **Individual Coaching Calls**
 - Individual Coaching to support Implementation Plans, ensure

Requirements and Participation (2)

» Data and Reporting Requirements:


- Grantees required to submit brief monthly progress reports responding to the Evaluation Plan activities from work plan.
- Monthly report template will be provided to all grantees during the optional pre-planning meetings in October 2026.
- Monthly reports due on the 4th Monday of each month throughout the grant period. Report will serve as a guide for monthly Coaching meetings, which will take place on the 4th Thursday and Friday of each month.
- Training and technical assistance will be available to selected organizations to support reporting requirements.

Application Guidelines



Application Process and Portal Memo

Request for Applications (RFA) Now Open: The Department of Health Care Services is accepting applications to participate in the California Services to Science Academy Cohort 2.0. [APPLY NOW](#)

HCS | Substance Use Prevention Evidence-Based Resource Home About SUPER ▾ Find Practices ▾ Resources ▾ 

California Services to Science Academy (CSSA) Cohort 2.0

Technical Support and Assistance for Promising and Innovative Prevention Programs

Request for Applications — Opens April 17, 2026

Application must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. PDT on Friday, May 29, 2026.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted. Please submit your application well in advance of the deadline to avoid last-minute technical difficulties.

[BEGIN APPLICATION](#)

Funding Opportunity at a Glance

What	To support prevention programs seeking to generate and demonstrate credible evidence of effectiveness for locally developed and innovative substance use disorder (SUD) prevention activities.
Who	Non-profit, youth-serving, community-based and tribal organizations and counties

Online Application

- » CSSA Cohort 2.0 RFA process is contained in an online fillable form that must be fully completed and submitted by 5:00 p.m. (PDT) on May 29, 2026, at: <https://super.ucla.edu/apply>
- » If you are unable to submit your application online or need help, please contact Carissa Loya at cssa@mednet.ucla.edu with the subject line: **CSSA Cohort 2.0 Application Online Help.**

Proposed Budget

- » Table 1: Personnel Costs
- » Table 2: Subcontractor Fees
- » Table 3: Other Expenses
- » Table 4: Totals
 - Indirect Costs calculated at 15% max.

Table 1: I. Personnel					
Number	Salaries	Pre-Implementation Project Period 1 (10/1/2025)	Period 2 (1/1/2027-12/31/2027)	Post-Implementation Project Period 3	Total Project Budget
1					\$0.00
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Budget Justification

- » For each line item listed in the Proposed Budget Template, list and explain how the funds will be used for the project.
- » Be specific on how you arrived at the budgeted amounts for each line item.
- » Include full-time equivalents (FTE) for staff.

Selection and Evaluation Criteria

- » Funds will be directed to four (4) applicants who are recipients of Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Block Grant funding, and four (4) Elevate Youth California applicants who are recipients of Youth Education, Prevention, Early Intervention and Treatment Account funding.
- » UCLA ISAP staff will review and identify the most complete and responsive applications and will conduct a technical review and score each application.
- » To ensure a balanced portfolio across organizational types, geographies, and priority populations, DHCS may also consider additional factors beyond application score and funding history. DHCS holds the final decision-making authority in selecting applicants for funding.
- » Funding awards are based on merit and readiness, with no guarantee that applicants will receive the full requested amount.

Sections and Scoring

Application scoring falls into 4 main sections:

- **Section 1:** Organizational and Project Description (**25 points**)
- **Section 2:** Implementation Experience, Priority Populations, Goals, and Evaluation Capacity (**40 points**)
- **Section 3:** Organizational Readiness, Staffing, Feasibility and Sustainability (**25 points**)
- **Section 4:** Budget Narrative (**10 points**)

Application Deadline

- » Organizations must submit applications online by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time by Friday, May 29, 2026.
- » Please submit your application well in advance of the deadline to avoid last-minute technical difficulties.
- » **Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.**

Webinars and Office Hours

» Upcoming RFA Proposers' Webinar

- Monday, May 4, 2026, from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 - [Register](#)

» Office Hours

- Thursday, April 30, 2026, from 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
 - [Register](#)
- Wednesday May 6, 2026, from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
 - [Register](#)

CSSA Cohort 2.0 Timeline

» **Application Deadline**

- Friday, May 29, 2026, by 5:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time

» **Review of Applications**

- June 2026-July 2026

» **Approximate Award Announcement**

- September 2026

» **Approximate Date Grants Issued**

- December 1, 2026

Questions?

Email: Carissa Loya at
cssa@mednet.ucla.edu

