

Public University Partnership Program (PUPP)

Frequently Asked Questions

The questions and responses below represent important information to provide guidance on this opportunity. Potential applicants should contact LDH with any other questions not covered below at: PUPP@LA.gov.

1. What types of projects can be funded through this opportunity?

All projects funded through this opportunity must directly advance the proper and efficient administration of the Louisiana Medicaid program to promote delivery of evidence-based, high-quality, accessible, and cost-effective care. This opportunity is meant to support diverse research disciplines and methodologies. LDH has identified several priority areas listed in the description of the opportunity; however, projects addressing other important topics will be considered.

2. What cost sharing is involved in this opportunity?

Cost sharing is a requirement of this opportunity. For each awarded project, the public college/university submits its actual allowable costs and certifies its share of expenditures on the project. LDH then draws down the Medicaid match (i.e., federal financial participation) to reimburse the public college/university for project costs. Federal financial participation is drawn down at the Medicaid administrative match rate (50%). Therefore, the amount of federal financial participation is limited to the lesser of: 1) the public college/university's share of project expenditures from eligible sources, or 2) the difference between the public college/university's share and the total project costs.

Example 1:

Dr. Smith is conducting a project to improve the quality of care of Louisiana Medicaid members with high blood pressure. The total budget of the 1-year project is \$500,000 and the public college/university is providing \$250,000 from an eligible source for its share. Each quarter, the public college/university submits an invoice to LDH showing \$125,000 in total quarterly project costs and certifying that the public college/university spent \$62,500 on the project from an eligible source. LDH uses this invoice as the basis to draw down federal financial participation equal to the public college/university's share (\$62,500 per quarter) which is reimbursed to the public college/university. The total expenditures of the 1-year project will therefore consist of 50% public college/university funding (\$250,000) and 50% federal financial participation (\$250,000), corresponding to the Medicaid administrative match rate of 50%.

Example 2:

Dr. Silva is conducting a project to improve the quality of care for Louisiana Medicaid members with epilepsy. The total budget of the 1-year project is \$600,000, and the public college/university will fund \$400,000 through an eligible source. Each quarter, the public college/university submits an invoice to LDH showing \$150,000 in total quarterly project costs and certifying that the public college/university spent \$100,000 for its share from an eligible source. LDH uses this invoice as the basis to draw down \$50,000 in federal financial participation per quarter and reimburses the public college/university. The amount of federal financial participation is the difference between the public college/university's share and the total project costs which, in this case, results in a match rate less than 50%.

3. What are the eligible sources of the public college/university's share?

Requirements for the public college/university's share are specified in federal regulations (42 CFR, Part 433, Subpart B). Generally, federal funding (e.g., NIH or AHRQ grants) may not be used by the public college/university for its share. Potentially eligible sources may include, but are not limited to, general institutional funds (e.g., derived from state general funds), private foundation funding, and other sources

that meet the requirements in 42 CFR, Part 433, Subpart B. It is the public college/university's responsibility to certify that any reported expenditures comply with 42 CFR, Part 433, Subpart B and have not been utilized as match for any other program. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact LDH with any questions.

Example 1:

Dr. Chen received an NIH grant for a project on improving treatment of substance use disorders. Because this is federal funding not eligible for Medicaid match, it is not an eligible source for this opportunity.

Example 2:

Dr. Garcia is conducting a project examining utilization of diagnostic radiology among Louisiana Medicaid members. The total budget of the 1-year project is \$700,000 (direct and indirect) and she received a grant from AHRQ for \$500,000 (direct and indirect). Dr. Garcia also has \$100,000 in funding from an eligible source. This project would therefore be eligible for up to \$100,000 in federal financial participation from this opportunity.

4. Can this opportunity support projects on health topics outside of Medicaid?

No. Through this opportunity, LDH can only support projects that directly further the proper and efficient administration of the Louisiana Medicaid program. Any project that has non-Medicaid-related activities must be cost allocated so that the only project costs reported to LDH are those that directly contribute to the proper and efficient administration of the Louisiana Medicaid program.

5. Can this opportunity support the expansion of existing projects?

Yes; however, the public college/university must cost allocate the Medicaid and non-Medicaid portions of the project, if applicable, so that the only project costs reported to LDH are those that directly contribute to the proper and efficient administration of the Louisiana Medicaid program. In addition, only costs incurred during the project period and expenditures from an eligible source during the project period are eligible for federal financial participation (i.e., historical and future projected costs and expenditures are not allowable).

Example 1:

Dr. Williams is funded by an eligible source to conduct research on the experience of Louisiana Medicaid members receiving prenatal care. This funding is in the amount of \$400,000 and so the public college/university is eligible for up to \$400,000 in federal financial participation, resulting in a total project budget of \$800,000. In this instance, the project consists entirely of activities directed toward furthering the proper and efficient administration of the Louisiana Medicaid program.

Example 2:

Dr. Nguyen is funded by an eligible source to conduct research on cardiovascular outcomes among people with disabilities. This research does not have an exclusive focus on Medicaid and includes data from both Medicaid-enrolled and non-Medicaid-enrolled individuals. When considering the total project budget of \$500,000, 20% of costs are directly related to Medicaid (\$100,000). The public college/university is therefore eligible for up to \$50,000 in federal financial participation (50% of \$100,000). In this instance, cost allocating the project is required since it involves activities that do not directly advance the proper and efficient administration of the Louisiana Medicaid program.

6. Can this opportunity support indirect costs?

Yes. Public college/universities are limited to the federally negotiated indirect cost rate. Indirect costs must be included in the total project budget and are not considered separately. It is the responsibility of the public college/university to select the most appropriate federally negotiated indirect cost rate for the proposed project and provide documentation of the indirect cost rate to LDH, if awarded.

For example, Dr. Patel is conducting a project to examine complications of diabetes mellitus among Louisiana Medicaid members. The direct costs of the project are \$500,000 and the federally negotiated indirect cost rate requested by the public college/university is 40%, resulting in a total project budget of \$700,000. The public college/university supports 50% of the project (\$350,000) through an eligible source and is therefore eligible for \$350,000 in federal financial participation for the project.

7. How will public colleges/universities access Medicaid claims data, if applicable?

Public colleges/universities are encouraged to use data to which they already have access. If additional data are needed or requested, potential applicants should contact LDH well in advance of applying to ensure that the relevant data can be provided, and that the project budget supports such activities. Datasets requested must be comprehensively specified by the public college/university, including data source(s), elements, definitions of variables (including diagnosis codes, procedure codes, or both as applicable), and table structure. Disclosure of Medicaid claims data other than a Limited Data Set is not generally possible under this opportunity.

8. Will LDH assist with or conduct data analysis for projects?

No. While LDH can potentially provide datasets for projects and general guidance on the data, as described above, data cleaning and data analysis are the sole responsibility of the public college/university. Public colleges/universities are encouraged to use data to which they already have access and to conduct projects involving primary data collection with Medicaid members. Applications must comprehensively describe the source of any data described and specify how the public college/university will conduct any data analysis necessary. Any activities expected to be performed by LDH must be clearly described.

9. What data can LDH provide to public colleges/universities for the purpose of preparing an application?

Prior to the start of a project award, LDH cannot provide any data that is not already available to the public. Public colleges/universities are encouraged to use publicly available reports and data sources to estimate the relevant population sizes and other factors, as needed. Descriptive analyses such as identifying the population with a certain condition and the characteristics of that population can be included as part of the proposed project. Applications will be reviewed without the expectation that public colleges/universities had access to LDH data in the preparation stage.

10. For projects involving primary data collection, will LDH provide a list of Medicaid members eligible to participate?

No. Under this opportunity, LDH cannot provide data for the purpose of identifying Medicaid members that are potentially eligible for participation in projects. Public colleges/universities are encouraged to partner with provider organizations, community-based organizations, or other organizations that serve Medicaid members to recruit participants.

11. What coordination with LDH will be required if a project is awarded?

Upon receipt of a notice of award, the public college/university and LDH must begin working toward execution of relevant agreements for funding. Public colleges/universities (i.e., the PD/PI or designee) will be expected to participate in regular meetings with LDH to review progress. In addition, public colleges/universities must present findings at an annual meeting.

12. Do projects need to be reviewed and approved by an Institutional Review Board?

Yes. All projects must be reviewed and approved, or determined to be exempt from review, by the Institutional Review Board of the public college/university followed by the LDH Institutional Review Board.

13. Can the public college/university publish its findings in peer-reviewed journals?

Yes. Where appropriate, it is encouraged that the public college/university collaborate scientifically with LDH staff, if applicable. While the public college/university retains scientific independence, it also must provide LDH the opportunity to review all dissemination materials in advance of dissemination. LDH can provide the public college/university guidance on analysis and interpretation of findings and can also help to identify issues with the data.

14. For a funded proposal submitted by an eligible campus, does all of the funding have to be expended literally at that campus? If a project requires collaboration with a health care provider, such as the recruitment of subjects at that site or to obtain EMR data for those Medicaid enrollees, can grant funds be used to support those arrangements?

As long as the Federal funding source limitations aren't a consideration, the university can expend the funds as needed to fulfill the project's goals. Subcontractors can be used and they do not need to be public entities.

15. Are there page limits? Are there specific templates needed for the application? Are references and citations included in the page limits?

Page limits are identified for specific sections of the application (NOFO page 5). Only the budget has a specific template. All other parts of the application may be submitted with pdfs. Citations and references should be included as a separate document that does not count towards the page limit.