

Have you heard? The County and the City of Santa Cruz released the **CORE Investments Request for Proposals (RFP)** on **June 3, 2024**, and **applications are due on August 2, 2024**. You can find the CORE RFP and any addenda on the [County's website](#).

For more information on the CORE Investments RFP, including a timetable of all major dates, training and technical assistance opportunities, and all corresponding documents, please visit the [Human Services Department's \(HSD's\) website](#).

HSD is hosting a virtual **Applicants' Conference** on **Friday, June 21, 10 am – 12 pm** to review the RFP and respond to initial questions regarding the application process. The Applicants' Conference will be held on Zoom in English only. The **recording will be available** on [HSD's website](#) after the event.

Register: <https://bit.ly/CORE-RFP-06-21-2024>

Any questions related to the contents of the RFP or the overall funding process should be sent to HSD at COREFunding@santacruzcountyca.gov. Questions that are **received by July 1, 2024** will be addressed by the County in a document posted on HSD's website by [date].

The CORE consulting team (Nicole Young, Nicole Lezin, Kristal Caballero) **is offering three types of training and technical assistance** (TA)—Trainings, Office Hours, and TA Sessions— through the CORE Institute for Innovation and Impact. All trainings and TA sessions are optional but recommended, especially if you are new to CORE Investments or grant-writing.

1. Participate in structured **Trainings** to learn about the CORE framework and get hands-on practice using tools that will help you develop and refine your CORE application. All trainings will be held on Zoom in English with simultaneous interpretation into Spanish, and recordings and bilingual materials **will be** available on HSD's website after the event.
2. Attend the informal, unstructured **Office Hours** to receive additional guidance on how to apply the CORE concepts and tools to their proposals. Each scheduled office hour will focus on a specific CORE Condition. Bring your questions and we'll work through them together. Office hours will be held on Zoom in English and **will not** be recorded. The CORE consultants will make every effort to arrange for Spanish interpretation if it is requested at least five (5) business days prior to the office hours session.
3. Sign up for **TA Sessions** to get individualized assistance from one of the CORE consultants. Each program/agency may receive up to **2 one-hour TA sessions per application**, with up to four people in each TA session. TA sessions will be held on Zoom in English only and **will not** be recorded. You may sign up for the TA sessions at any time, but we recommend spacing them out to make the best use of the individualized assistance—e.g., schedule the initial TA session earlier in your planning or writing process, and schedule the second TA session when you are farther along in your application.

Sign up for an **initial TA session between June 17 – July 8** using this form:

<https://bit.ly/CORE-RFP-TA-Signup>. The CORE consultant who will be leading your TA session will work directly with you to schedule your **second TA session between July 9 – August 2**.

Note: The CORE consultants' role is to provide training, tools, and guidance to help applicants understand key concepts in the RFP, such as equity, collective impact, Results Based Accountability, CORE Conditions for Health & Well-being, the CORE Continuum of Results and Evidence, developing program outcomes, etc. The CORE consultants are unable to provide specific recommendations about applicants' proposals (i.e., what to apply for, what activities to conduct, etc.) and are unable to assist with writing or editing proposals and budgets. They will not be involved in selecting the panelists, scoring the applications, or making recommendations for awards.

Please send questions about the trainings and TA sessions to Nicole Young, Optimal Solutions Consulting, at nicole@opti-solutions.com.

CORE INVESTMENTS RFP TRAINING & TA SCHEDULE

Sign up for an **initial TA Session** here: <https://bit.ly/CORE-RFP-TA-Signup>

Thursday, June 6, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Training: Developing a Theory of Change and Logic Model with an Equity Lens

Register: <https://bit.ly/CORE-Training-June6>

Description: Join us as we lead interactive discussions and guided activities on:

- The CORE Investments Framework: Vision, Mission, Values, and CORE Conditions for Health and Well-being.
- Tips and techniques for developing a theory of change and logic model that shows the relationship between program activities, program outcomes, and community-level impacts.
- How to use CORE tools, such as the [CORE Results Menu on DataShare](#) and the [strategies and program outcomes](#) menu, when developing a theory of change and logic model.

Presenters: Nicole Young & Nicole Lezin

Language: English, with Spanish interpretation

Recordings and bilingual materials will be available in English and Spanish on HSD's [CORE Investments website](#) after the event.

Thursday, June 13, multiple times

Office Hours: one session per CORE Condition

Register

- Thriving Families session (2:00 – 2:45): <https://bit.ly/CORE-RFP-OH-June13-TF>

- Lifelong Learning & Education session (3:00 – 3:45): <https://bit.ly/CORE-RFP-OH-June13-LLE>
- Healthy Environments session (4:00 – 4:45): <https://bit.ly/CORE-RFP-OH-June13-HE>

Description: Office Hours are informal, unstructured opportunities to receive additional guidance on how to apply the CORE concepts and tools to their proposals. Each scheduled office hour will focus on a specific CORE Condition. Bring your questions and we'll work through them together. We will share ideas and resources that we know of and invite other participants to share their wisdom and expertise.

Facilitators: Nicole Young, Nicole Lezin & Kristal Caballero

Language: English; Spanish interpretation may be available if requested at least 5 business days in advance

These sessions **will not** be recorded.

Friday, June 14, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Training: Developing a Statement of Need & Strengths with an Equity Lens

Register: <https://bit.ly/CORE-RFP-Training-June14>

Description: Join us as we lead interactive discussions and guided activities on how to:

- Use quantitative and qualitative data with an equity lens to identify and describe a community's strengths, needs, challenges, and issues related to specific CORE Conditions and Impact Statements.
- Describe inequities in ways that make a compelling case for your program, without reinforcing harmful stereotypes or assumptions about the population you intend to serve.
- Identify and describe community strengths or assets that your program can build upon to help address inequities in well-being.

Presenters: Nicole Young & Nicole Lezin

Language: English, with Spanish interpretation

Recordings and bilingual materials will be available in English and Spanish on HSD's [CORE Investments website](#) after the event.

Tuesday, June 18, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Training: Developing Your Programmatic Approach & Evaluation Strategy

Register: <https://bit.ly/CORE-RFP-Training-June18>

Description: Join us as we lead interactive discussions and activities on how to:

- Use your theory of change and logic model to describe your proposed program (who you will serve, activities or services, needs and inequities your program addresses, etc.) in relation to a specific CORE Condition and Impact Statement.
- Use the [CORE Continuum of Results and Evidence](#) and principles of the [Equitable Evaluation Framework](#)[™] for program planning and evaluation.
- Develop outcome statements that are Specific, Measurable, Action-oriented, Relevant, Time-bound, Inclusive, and Equitable (SMARTIE).

- Prepare to collect data using a Results-Based Accountability (RBA) framework—e.g. How much did you do and for whom? How well did you do it? Is anyone better off as a result?

Presenters: Nicole Young & Nicole Lezin

Language: English, with Spanish interpretation

Recordings and bilingual materials will be available in English and Spanish on HSD's [CORE Investments website](#) after the event.

Friday, June 21, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

CORE Request for Proposals (RFP) Applicants' Conference

Hosted by: Santa Cruz County Human Services Department

Register: <https://bit.ly/CORE-RFP-06-21-2024>

Description: The purpose of this virtual optional meeting is to review the RFP, gather questions, and respond to initial questions regarding the RFP document.

Language: English only

The recording and materials will be available in English on HSD's [CORE Investments website](#) after the event.

Tuesday, June 25, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Training: Finding & Using Community-level Data on DataShare and Other Sources

Register: <https://bit.ly/CORE-RFP-Training-June25>

Description: Join us as we lead interactive discussions and opportunities to practice how to:

- Search for relevant community-level data on DataShare and other sources to support your Statement of Need & Strengths.
- Accurately describe community-level trends, disparities, or inequities using everyday language (i.e., not overly scientific or academic).
- Cite data and sources in grant proposals when character counts are limited.

Presenters: Nicole Young & Nicole Lezin (CORE consultants), Eva Holt-Rusmore (DataShare Santa Cruz County)

Language: English, with Spanish interpretation

Recordings and bilingual materials will be available in English and Spanish on HSD's [CORE Investments website](#) after the event.

Wednesday, June 26, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Training: How to Use the Online Portal for CORE RFP Applications

Register: <https://bit.ly/CORE-RFP-Training-June26>

Description: Learn how to access the CORE application, create an account in Reviewr, and fill out applications in the platform.

Presenters: Santa Cruz County Human Services Department

Language: English

The recording and materials will be available in English on HSD's [CORE Investments website](#) after the event.

Tuesday, July 2, multiple times

Office Hours: one session per CORE Condition

Register

- Lifelong Learning & Education session (12:00 – 12:45): <https://bit.ly/CORE-RFP-OH-July2-LLE>
- Healthy Environments session (1:00 – 1:45): <https://bit.ly/CORE-RFP-OH-July2-HE>
- Thriving Families session (2:00 – 2:45): <https://bit.ly/CORE-RFP-OH-July2-TF>

Description: Office Hours are informal, unstructured opportunities to receive additional guidance on how to apply the CORE concepts and tools to their proposals. Each scheduled office hour will focus on a specific CORE Condition. Bring your questions and we'll work through them together. We will share ideas and resources that we know of and invite other participants to share their wisdom and expertise.

Facilitators: Nicole Young, Nicole Lezin & Kristal Caballero

Language: English; Spanish interpretation may be available if requested at least 5 business days in advance

These sessions **will not** be recorded.

Tuesday, July 9, 10:00 – 12:00 p.m.

Training: Preparing a Program Budget & Budget Narrative

Register: <https://bit.ly/CORE-RFP-Training-July9>

Description: Join us as we lead interactive discussions and opportunities to practice how to:

- Prepare a program budget that aligns with your proposed program and evaluation strategy.
- Prepare a concise yet detailed budget narrative that helps readers understand the proposed costs and how they support the program you have proposed.
- Decide whether and how to complete the optional “leveraging template” (for Tiers 1 and 2 only).

Presenters: Nicole Young & Nicole Lezin

Language: English, with Spanish interpretation

The recordings and slides will be available in English and Spanish on HSD's [CORE Investments website](#) after the event. The budget template is only available in English.

Friday, July 12, 10:00 – 12:00 p.m.

Training: In Case You Missed It: Training Highlights

Register: <https://bit.ly/CORE-RFP-Training-July12>

Description: Join us as we provide a high-level review and opportunities to practice key concepts and tools from the previous CORE RFP trainings on:

- Developing a Theory of Change and Logic Model with an Equity Lens
- Developing a Statement of Need & Strengths with an Equity Lens
- Developing Your Programmatic Approach & Evaluation Strategy
- Finding & Using Community-level Data on DataShare and Other Sources
- How to Use the Online Portal for CORE RFP Applications
- Preparing a Program Budget and Budget Narrative

Presenters: Nicole Young & Nicole Lezin

Language: English, with Spanish interpretation

The recordings and slides will be available in English and Spanish on HSD's [CORE Investments website](#) after the event. The budget template is only available in English.