



Dyadic Services Program Academy Frequently Asked Questions

1. Does each application support only one site?
 - Each site is required to submit an application. If the organization wants to apply for more than one site, then they will need to submit an application for each site.
2. Can organizations apply for multiple sites?
 - An organization can apply for multiple sites but each site, must submit an application.
3. Should practice data in the application (number of children empaneled, number of well visits, etc.) represent our organization overall or the proposed HealthySteps site?
 - Data should only be provided for the site for which you are applying for the grant.
4. Does a behavioral health specialist have to be contracted full-time?
 - The HealthySteps model and ZERO TO THREE recommends one full-time HealthySteps Specialist to cover a practice that has up to 2,000 children birth to age three. Practices with lower volumes may choose to have their HealthySteps Specialist serve children ages birth to 3 and spend the rest of their time supporting older children. Clinics are encouraged to reach out to Christina Nigrelli (CNigrelli@zerotothree.org) at ZERO TO THREE to discuss their clinic's staffing questions.
5. Can the behavioral health specialist provide services to more than one practice?
 - We understand that clinics will need to configure their behavior health specialist roles in the way that best fits their practice. The priority is for the behavioral health specialist to be present for timely services and for pediatric team integration, as well as allowing the clinic to bill for the services provided to each family. For more detailed questions about how this may work for your clinic(s), please contact Christina Nigrelli at CNigrelli@zerotothree.org.
6. If we are managed care providers, would we have to contract an in-house behavioral health specialist or social worker for us to meet the billing requirement?
 - The dyadic services benefit is for Medi-Cal managed care. In order to bill, your practice would need to have a behavioral health contract with CalOptima Health, and the behavioral health provider would need to be contracted as a behavioral health provider with CalOptima Health.
7. Can an intern such as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist intern serve in the HealthySteps Specialist role?
 - Yes, but they must be under the direct supervision of a licensed behavioral health provider who is able to bill for the services provided by



the intern. Because of the importance of trust building and continuity of care the same HealthySteps Specialist is recommended to remain assigned to the clinic as long as possible.

8. Apart from the requirement for a licensed healthy steps specialist, are there other requirements the program requires of this position (i.e. cap on caseload, etc.)?
 - It is recommended by HealthySteps and ZERO TO THREE that one full-time HealthySteps specialist cover no more than 2,000 children, ages 0-3 years. From the billing perspective, the behavioral health specialist needs to be contracted as a behavioral health provider with CalOptima Health in order to be an in-network provider and be able to bill for services.
9. Do we need to submit an interest form for each site if applying for multiple?
 - Yes, all clinics are required to submit an interest form per site to [ZERO TO THREE](#) and to submit a separate application per site to First 5 Orange County.
10. Do we have the codes used to bill for Dyadic services?
 - Yes, they are included in the application in question 11. In addition, during the Academy we will provide clinics with technical assistance related to billing dyadic services. HealthySteps National also provides a crosswalk linking which providers can bill for specific services.
11. Just to confirm, this is for CalOptima patients but not including CHOC/Talbert/Monarch, etc.? The population we are using, does it include IPA (Independent Physicians Association) patients as well as Cal Optima Direct patients?
 - The grant prioritizes clinics in which the majority of the pediatric patients are insured by CalOptima Health, whether it is through the IPA or CalOptima Direct. With that being said, we expect that all children ages birth to three within the practices will receive services through the HealthySteps program regardless of the type of insurance coverage.
12. For our managed care patients, aren't dyadic services included in our capitation payment?
 - While aspects of the Well Child Visit remain under the capitation, the California Department of Health Care Services all plan letter ([22-029](#)) and the description of the new Non-Specialty Mental Health services identifies dyadic services that can be billed on a fee for service basis (both are referenced in the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#)). If you have questions about your specific contract with CalOptima, please reach out to your CalOptima Provider Relations lead.
13. What would a successful applicant/application look like?
 - All applicants will be considered based on their answers to all eleven questions in the application.
14. Is there anything that would preclude us from participating?



- Please see the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) that includes the following Eligibility Criteria: 1. Applicants must currently be licensed to operate a community clinic, an FQHC or be a pediatric practice. 2. Preference is given to practices that treat at least 350 pediatric patients or have 3,800 visits/year for children ages birth–three. 3. Applicants must be committed to integrating behavioral health into pediatric practice. 4. Applicants must be contracted with CalOptima Health (CalOptima Direct or through a Health Network) to provide services to children who are insured by Medi-Cal. A clinic site located outside of Orange County will not be considered for this grant.
15. Will larger clinics be prioritized for this grant or do smaller clinics have the same chance of getting funding?
- We will review each application and consider multiple factors, including Medi-Cal/CalOptima Health patient volume, and the number of children ages 0-3 years active in their practice.
16. Do dyadic services mean the program requires a HealthySteps Specialist or behavioral specialist to accompany patients (age 0-3 years old) with each visit with the pediatrician?
- HealthySteps is an evidence-based model that delivers dyadic services in the pediatric primary care setting. A HealthySteps Specialist, who is integrated into the pediatric primary care team, uses a two-generation approach to promote well-being and to address concerns about challenging behavior, development delays, caregiver mental health, and family needs such as food/housing instability. Each site must deliver the [Core Components](#) of the model, including Tier 1 services that must be provided to all children 0-3. Larger HealthySteps sites use risk stratification to allocate resources efficiently in Tiers 2 and 3. Within smaller sites, all families may be able to receive services across the three tiers, leveraging one HealthySteps Specialist.
17. How is the behavioral health champion established?
- For clinics that have an existing Behavioral Health department, the behavioral health champion is the person who will be collaborating with the primary care team in implementing the HealthySteps model. If your clinic does not have a behavioral health department or provider at this time, you may indicate so in the application.
18. Is any information available on how to find a behavioral specialist and will clinics receive support with hiring a HealthySteps Specialist?
- ZERO TO THREE will share resources such as a sample HealthySteps Specialist job description, and can provide resources on job announcement platforms where clinics can place job postings.



19. If they do not find someone to hire, is the pediatric provider or medical assistant able to serve in that role themselves?
- No, the HealthySteps Specialist must be a licensed clinician, such as a social worker or family therapist, who is able to bill for behavioral health or dyadic services.
20. What screening tools are used for autism?
- Early childhood screenings are recommended to be done using evidence-based tools. The MCHAT is a commonly used autism screening tool. Please refer to the American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines on [early childhood developmental screening](#) for more information about developmental screenings and available evidence-based tools.
21. What are the planned tax implications of money received since funds will go towards the salary of the behavioral specialist?
- Each selected site will receive \$150,000 divided into three equal payments that will support the payment to ZERO TO THREE HealthySteps of \$25,000 (training fee) and to support the additional staff needed to implement the model. We are unable to provide direction regarding tax implications of receiving a grant. Please work with your tax advisor.