

Memorandum

To: Members of the ICOC
From: Jonathan Thomas, PhD, JD, President and CEO, and Geoffrey Lomax, Associate Director Patient Access
Re: Reopening INFR-8 Concept Plan, Community Care Centers of Excellence
Date: March 26, 2026

Background:

The mission of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) is to accelerate world class science to deliver transformative regenerative medicine treatments in an equitable manner to a diverse California and world. The California Stem Cell Research, Treatments, and Cures Initiative of 2020 (Proposition-14) mandates the establishment of the Community Care Centers of Excellence (CCCE) Program to promote access across the state, to clinical trials, treatments and cures arising from CIRM-funded research.

In March 2025, the ICOC authorized up to \$36 million to fund up to four CCCE awards. In October of 2025, the ICOC approved three INFR-8 awards (\$27 million) determined to meritorious by the GWG/FWG. Nine million in authorized funds remained unallocated.

When these awards were announced, the Board expressed concern that the roughly 2.9 million residents living in the norther third of California remained geographically distant from a clinical research and treatment center within CIRM's Network. The Board directed CIRM to consider option for addressing gaps that remain in promoting access to northern California residents.

CIRM Recommendation:

To address this request, CIRM recommends re-opening the Board-Authorized INFR-8 Application with minor technical amendments.

- Authorize up to \$9 million for one award
- Revise the application deadline to close in June or July 2026
- Restrict eligibility to applicant organizations with primary CCCE clinical operations in one or more designated counties in the northern third of the state¹

These amendments have been incorporated into the previous concept plan.

Requested Action:

CIRM requests the ICOC reopens the Community Care Centers of Excellence (INFR-8) funding opportunity by approving the modified concept plan.

¹ Designated counties include Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, and Yuba. Clinical operations and administration operations for the CCCE do not need to be in the same building, but do need to be co-located in the same county.