

# Memorandum

**To:** The Application Review Subcommittee of the ICOC

**From:** CIRM Leadership Team

**Re:** CIRM Team Recommendations: Community Care Centers of Excellence (INFR8)

**Date:** September 24, 2026

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## Executive Summary

This memo summarizes the background, and CIRM Patient Access staff funding recommendation, for the application submitted to the Community Care Centers of Excellence (INFR8) Program for consideration by the Application Review Subcommittee (ARS) on September 24, 2026.

## I. 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 INFR8 awards (\$27 million) determined to be meritorious by the GWG/FWG. Nine million in authorized funds remained unallocated.

In March 2026, the ICOC authorized up to \$9 million to fund a single CCCE award located in designated counties within Northern California. For the purposes of this RFA, 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, and Yuba counties.

This CCCE would help promote access to regenerative medicine for the roughly 2.9 million residents living in the northern third of the state, who currently reside significantly far from CIRM-funded Clinical Network sites. Applications were open from April 14 to June 4, 2026, and a single application was received.

## II. Scope & Structure

CCCEs must demonstrate the following capabilities, or develop these capabilities, to meet the objective described above:

- **Clinical Operations:** If not already in place at application submission, CCCEs must establish all capabilities and obtain all regulatory approvals and certifications required to deliver regenerative medicine therapeutic candidates in the context of FDA-regulated clinical trials in one or more designated counties. CCCEs must also have the ability to deliver FDA-approved regenerative medicine therapies to patients. If adequate technical capabilities exist, the developed CCCE must not exclude delivery of cell-based therapies derived from human embryonic or other pluripotent stem cells, gene therapies or other cellular or tissue-based products.
- **Patient Access:** Perform patient outreach, engagement and education necessary to achieve representation of affected populations in clinical trials.
- **Workforce / Career Development:** Conduct education, training and career development of physicians, nurses, research coordinators, community health workers or other health/medical professionals with the aim of expanding the availability of regenerative medicine treatments throughout California.
- **Community-based Partnerships:** Initiate and administer community-based partnerships to support the objectives of the CCCE program.
- **Knowledge Sharing and Evaluation Science:** Using structured, evidence-based methods, regularly self-evaluate operations, iterate to optimize them, and disseminate operational information vital to evaluating or replicating the centers' (1) core competencies, (2) training programs, and (3) outreach and engagement efforts with other CCCE.
- **Organizational Integration and Infrastructure Interconnectivity:** Integrate and develop clinical operations synergies with Alpha Clinic Network sites and other CIRM Clinical Infrastructure and Research Programs during and beyond the award period.

## III. Application Assessment

In concurrence with the GWG, the CIRM team recommends that the ARS fund application INFR8-20450. The proposed CCCE will expand the CIRM Clinical Network in the designated counties within Northern California, it will build strong connections with an

existing Alpha Clinic and, if successful, it will be positioned to deliver both clinical trials and approved regenerative medicine therapies to patients in the Northern California region.

### Summary of Funding Recommendation

| <b>Application</b> | <b>Median Score</b> | <b>Scores to fund</b> | <b>Scores not to fund</b> | <b>CIRM Recommendation</b> |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| INFR8-20450        | 90                  | 14                    | 1                         | Fund                       |