

## Building Community Capacity Through Community Behavioral Health Organizations – Request for Applications FAQs

### Quick Links

- [Register for System for Award Management \(SAM\) and Unique Entity ID.](#)
- Create an Award Force account/start your [application](#).
- View the full [request for applications \(RFA\)](#).
- View the [recording and slides](#) for the January 11<sup>th</sup> informational office hour.

### Application Questions

#### What is the project period?

Project plans should span 12 months starting in March 2023. Awarded projects are required to participate in a kick-off grantee call on March 9, 2023, from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. ET. Training and technical assistance (TTA) will commence in March 2023 and conclude in July 2023.

#### Is there a chance of funding past one year?

No, this is a one-time award for a 12-month project period starting in March 2023.

#### How much funding is available?

Applicants may apply for up to \$100,000 for a one-year project proposal.

#### Who may apply for the funding?

Community-based organizations that provide overdose treatment and prevention services within a city, county or multiple geographic locations with a population of 400,000 people or more. Applicants must use the 2020-2021 U.S. Census population totals to confirm [city](#) or [county](#) eligibility. Applicants should have the experience and infrastructure necessary to begin active implementation within five months of the start of the project period. Community coalitions are eligible to apply; however, the maximum funding amount will remain the same as if a single organization applied (\$100,000).

#### Are organizations in Puerto Rico and other US territories eligible to apply?

Yes

#### Are for-profit and government organizations eligible to apply?

Yes

#### How does an organization apply for the funding?

- **Applicants must register with SAM.gov and possess a Unique Entity ID.** To check your organization's status or to register your organization, visit [SAM.gov](#)
- **Applicants must have an account on Award Force**, the online platform where applications will be submitted. To register for an account, visit <https://ncmw.awardsplatform.com/>.

CHARLES INGOGLIA, MSW, President and CEO | JEFF RICHARDSON, MBA, LCSW-C, Board Chair

**While using the online application platform, can you start an application and save it to come back to it later?**

Yes, on Award Force you can save your progress and return to complete your application later.

**Is scoring criteria specified within the RFA?**

Yes, scoring criteria are included in the RFA, based on the strategic priorities for this opportunity. Applications will be scored by a panel of overdose prevention and response experts and National Council for Mental Wellbeing staff.

**Is there a template for the budget and budget narrative?**

There are no templates for the budget and budget narrative. Applicants can submit their budget and budget narrative in their preferred format, but it must include separate line items that indicate the allocation of funds for project expenses including, but not limited to, salaries and wages, fringe benefits, consultant costs, equipment, supplies, travel, contractual costs, indirect costs and other expenses. The budget narrative should include enough detail for reviewers to determine how line items were calculated.

**Can an organization submit more than one application if they demonstrate distinct activities, partnerships, and goals?**

Yes

**Is this a reimbursement-based grant?**

No, partial payment will be provided at the start of the project period with the remaining distributed July 2023.

**Do organizations need to have a peer-led program in place to be eligible?**

No

[Project Proposal Questions](#)

**What are the goals of this funding opportunity?**

The goals of this funding opportunity: 1) support the implementation and enhancement of evidence-based services or promising practices to prevent and reduce overdose and other drug-related harms through linkages to care, harm reduction and peer support services and 2) increase the collaboration between community based health organizations (CBHOs), harm reduction organizations and other community-based organizations to link people who use drugs and people with substance use disorder to harm reduction services, peer support, treatment and recovery support and other wraparound services.

**How do you define linkage to care?**

Linkage to care initiatives identify people who are at risk for overdose or have recently experienced a non-fatal overdose and actively refers them to harm reduction services, health care, evidence-based

substance use treatment and wraparound supports. The key is that these initiatives are person-centered – helping individuals to access services when they express the desire for them.

### **How do you define evidence-based and promising practices?**

Provide evidence of the practice potential based on the population you serve. Evidence should show the approach is effective at achieving the outcomes of the project goals. There may be some research evidence, but it may also be practice-based evidence and data that you have collected, not yet in the form of research.

### **What are the core components of linkage to care programs?**

Core components of linkage to care programs include:

- Active referral/warm handoffs to substance use treatment, harm reduction services, recovery support services and primary care services.
- Intensive, comprehensive outreach, including one-on-one visits with people who are at risk of overdose, in-person or virtually.
  - Brief motivational interviews.
  - Facilitate risk and readiness to change self-assessments.
  - Facilitate self-directed health, well-being planning (for example, moderation, safer use or no goals related to substance use) and recovery planning.
  - Active relationship-building and follow-up.
- Overdose education and naloxone distribution.
- Stigma-reduction education and messaging campaigns.
- Health and wellbeing promotion.

### **What are examples of wraparound services?**

Wraparound services may include mental health care, transportation to treatment, peer support, assistance with insurance sign-up, securing appointments, HIV/Hep C testing, housing assistance, employment services, infectious disease care, obstetric care and other harm reduction services that address barriers to care.

### **How do you define health hubs for PWUD?**

A health hub is an emerging harm reduction model that provides a one-stop place for individuals who use drugs to be able to receive health care services.

### **Can an organization build upon an existing program?**

Yes, if the existing program is using this opportunity to enhance and expand critical services that reduce the risk of overdose by increasing engagement in evidence-based and innovative harm reduction treatments, linkages to care and peer support services. If the program is being funded by another grant, please ensure the scope of work is slightly different to align with the goals of this opportunity.

### **What does program evaluation entail? What do we need to measure?**

Grantees will be asked to define their own metrics for data collection as part of describing how success will be measured (RFA question III.5). Typically, this is data that organizations are already collecting, that are related to project processes, outputs and outcomes. Examples:

<b>Process measures</b> Whether and how an activity was accomplished.	Demographics of population reached. Participant satisfaction.
<b>Output measures</b> Number served or quantity of activities done.	Unique participants served. Harm reduction supplies distributed. Number of trainings on using naloxone.
<b>Outcome measures</b> Effect of activity/activities.	Positive change in health status. Increased linkages and care coordination.

**Do grantees create their own evaluation or does National Council have an evaluation that grantees are required to use?**

Grantees will define their own metrics for success in the application and evaluate project activities against their identified metrics. Progress on these metrics will be part of the brief report to be submitted to the National Council in July 2023.

Additionally, grantees will be required to participate in a National Council-directed evaluation of the cohort. Our evaluator will conduct online survey assessments and zoom interviews with each grantee to understand the outcomes and impacts related to their participation in this funding opportunity. The interviews will take place at the beginning of the project (March/April 2023) and at five months (July 2023).

**What is the official start for the project?**

Project plans should span 12 months starting in March 2023.

Selected applicants will be sent notification by February 24, 2023. Training and technical assistance for grantees will commence in March 2023 and conclude in July 2023.

**Are fentanyl test strips and funding for drug checking allowable expenses?**

Yes

**Is the purchase of naloxone an allowable expense?**

No, the purchase of naloxone is not an allowable expense. Funding for the distribution of naloxone, such as wages for staff who are distributing naloxone, is an allowable expense.

**Are incentives such as gift cards for surveys an allowable expense?**

Yes

**Can funding be used to evaluate outcomes of existing implementation of overdose prevention promising practices?**

Awarded funds cannot be used for research.

**Can funds be used to purchase a vehicle for outreach services?**

No, a vehicle purchase is not an allowable expense. Organizations are able to lease a vehicle to be used for linkage to care services. For the full list of unallowable and allowable expenses visit page 5 of the RFA.

*This project is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$3,000,000 with 100% funded by CDC/HHS. The content is that of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, CDC/HHS or the U.S. Government.*