

# Request for Applications (RFA)

## **Building Partnerships to Address Overdose in Rural Georgia: Coalition Funding Opportunity**

Date Issued: Thursday, October 2, 2025

**Due Date:** Friday, October 17, 2025 by 5:00pm Eastern Time

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## Table of Contents

1. CDC FOUNDATION.....	3
2. PURPOSE.....	3
3. BACKGROUND.....	3
4. SCOPE OF WORK .....	4
5. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS .....	5
6. FUNDING.....	5
7. GRANT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.....	5
8. INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS.....	6
9. SELECTION PROCESS AND REVIEW CRITERIA .....	7

## 1. CDC FOUNDATION

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[The CDC Foundation](#) helps Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) save and improve lives by unleashing the power of collaboration between CDC, philanthropies, corporations, organizations and individuals to protect the health, safety and security of America and the world. The CDC Foundation is the nonprofit authorized by Congress to mobilize philanthropic partners and private-sector resources to support CDC's critical health protection mission. The CDC Foundation manages hundreds of programs each year impacting a variety of health threats from chronic disease conditions including cardiovascular disease and cancer to infectious diseases like rotavirus and HIV, to emergency responses, including COVID-19 and Ebola.

## 2. PURPOSE

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The purpose of this Request for Applications (RFA) is to announce the availability of funds from the CDC Foundation, supported by the [Georgia Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust](#), to strengthen community-based responses to the opioid crisis in Georgia. Through this funding opportunity, eligible community coalitions in rural Georgia will be awarded resources to design and implement locally driven, evidence-based prevention strategies that connect public health and public safety resources to address overdose and related harms. The intent of this RFA is to build sustainable partnerships, enhance local capacity, and ensure the funds are directed toward interventions that support overdose prevention, treatment, and recovery services, which improve the well-being of Georgians most impacted by the opioid epidemic.

## 3. BACKGROUND

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The CDC Foundation intends to award funding to approximately 15-17 community coalitions in rural Georgia, with each award anticipated up to \$250,000 for a 14-month project period, subject to the availability of funds and satisfactory performance. This initiative focuses on aligning public health and public safety efforts in the selected rural communities, with the overarching goal of reducing fatal and non-fatal substance overdoses and saving lives. Each community will implement locally tailored strategies that foster collaboration between public health and public safety.

Successful applicants will have demonstrated experience in:

- Addressing the unique needs of rural and underserved populations in Georgia through culturally responsive and locally tailored approaches.
- Implementing evidence-based substance use prevention or harm reduction strategies in community settings.
- Building and sustaining multi-sector coalitions that engage sectors such as public health, public safety, behavioral health, healthcare, education, and community organizations.
- Managing grants or contracts in compliance with federal, state, or philanthropic requirements, including financial and programmatic reporting.
- Collecting, analyzing, and using data to inform program design, monitor progress, and evaluate outcomes.
- Collaborating with individuals with lived experience, when possible, to ensure the proposed interventions are informed from that perspective.

## 4. SCOPE OF WORK

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The scope of work for this Agreement is expected to include (but may not be limited to) the below goals and deliverables for funded coalitions:

Project Goals:

- Overdose prevention: Reduce the incidence of fatal and non-fatal overdoses through evidence-based community-driven strategies.
- Strengthen public health and public safety partnerships: Facilitate collaboration to address overdose prevention and response efforts.
- Enhance access to services: Improve community awareness of, and access to, evidence-based prevention, treatment, and recovery support services.
- Promote data sharing and coordination: Support the timely sharing and use of local data to inform community overdose response strategies.
- Build sustainable capacity: Equip coalitions with the tools, knowledge, and infrastructure needed to sustain overdose prevention efforts beyond the funding period.

Key project expectations include, but are not limited to:

- Attendance at a virtual kick-off meeting: January 2026
- Attendance at an in-person convening at the CDC Foundation office in Atlanta, GA: estimated March 2026.
- Regular reporting, including financial reports and progress updates.
- Attendance at monthly CDC Foundation led cohort meetings, technical assistance calls, project check-in meetings, etc.
- Strategic planning, in collaboration with the CDC Foundation's technical assistance providers.
- Project-specific evaluation plan, in collaboration with the CDC Foundation's technical assistance providers.
- Implementation of project-specific plan, in collaboration with the CDC Foundation's technical assistance providers.
- Implementation of project-specific evaluation plan, in collaboration with the CDC Foundation's technical assistance providers.
- Other project-specific deliverables, as specified

Example activities include, but are not limited to:

- Targeted naloxone distribution to the community.
- Naloxone distribution in treatment centers and criminal justice system.
- Naloxone leave-behind programs.
- Increase access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT).
- Increase MAT in the criminal justice system and upon release.
- Create or enhance an Overdose Fatality Review (OFR).
- Create post-overdose outreach programs.
- Provide compassion fatigue programs, stigma reduction, and other trainings for first responders.
- Host community events that support overdose prevention awareness.
- Develop and disseminate overdose prevention informational materials.
- Create Peer Support Specialist/First Responder co-response programs.

## 5. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

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Applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Organization headquartered in Georgia and authorized to work in the United States.
- Established or emerging coalition with multi-sector partners, including:
  - A public health entity (e.g., local health department, nonprofit, FQHC).
  - A public safety partner (e.g., law enforcement, EMS, fire).
  - A peer or community-based group with lived experience to provide consultation.
- Demonstrate local needs, readiness, and commitment to collaboration.
- Identify a fiscal agent to manage funds and reporting, and must be in good financial standing.
  - If the fiscal agent is not submitting the application, they are required to submit a letter of support.
- Meet the criteria for rurality: Counties with fewer than 50,000 people.
- Letter of support from partners.
  - If a public health entity is submitting the application, please provide a letter of support from a public safety partner (and vice versa) to demonstrate that both public health and public safety partners are committed to the project.

## 6. FUNDING

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- Individual awards are anticipated at up to \$250,000 per community coalition, during a 14-month period with the potential opportunity for a no-cost extension. Applicant budgets will be reviewed for feasibility.
  - Any vehicle purchases or communications campaigns need to be approved in advance by the donor.
- Period of performance: January 2026 – February 2027 (14 months).

In the application, please submit a proposed budget using the provided template, using your best estimates of expenses. We will guide you through finalizing the budget template, if selected for the project.

## 7. GRANT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

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If selected, CDC Foundation will work with each community coalition to develop a reporting schedule.

The reporting requirements will include:

- Monthly meetings with CDC Foundation and bi-monthly webinars with all community coalitions to report on progress, successes, challenges, and to receive technical assistance from CDC Foundation.
- Monthly metrics and budget reports submitted to the CDC Foundation on progress toward workplan activities, successes, challenges and lessons learned and expenses. These reports will also track process metrics - example metrics include: <sup>\*</sup>
  - Expenses incurred during the reporting period
  - Staff contributing to the project
  - Partnerships formed/strengthened
  - Number of individuals served
  - Number of unduplicated individuals receiving one dose of the intervention
  - Number of unduplicated individuals recurring interventions
  - Number of naloxone kits distributed
  - Number of educational materials distributed

- Number of events hosted or supported
- One final narrative and budget report at the end of the funding cycle.

*\*Detailed metrics will be identified in individual evaluation plans, and templates and guidance will be provided.*

Additionally, awardees may also be required to participate as follows:

- In an in-person convening of all subrecipients in Atlanta, GA, estimated March of 2026.
- In sharing success stories, photos, and documentation on programmatic progress.
- In program related contributions towards conference presentations and publications.
- In site visits conducted by CDC Foundation staff and technical advisors.

## 8. INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

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Proposal materials should be submitted no later than 5:00pm ET on Friday, October 17, 2025, via this [Smartsheet link](#). An automated notification of receipt of the application will be generated upon submission. Proposals will not be accepted after this deadline.

The following steps and files are required for an eligible application:

- Lead partner information via [Smartsheet form](#).
- [Application narrative](#) (see instructions below).
- Letter(s) of support:
  - If a public health entity is submitting the application, please provide a letter of support from a public safety partner (and vice versa).
- Budget
  - [Template provided](#)

### Lead Partner Information

The following information should be provided directly in the online form linked above:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal Organization Name</li> <li>• Abbreviated Name (if applicable)</li> <li>• Street Address</li> <li>• City, State, Zip Code</li> <li>• Website</li> <li>• Primary Point of Contact Name</li> <li>• Primary Point of Contact Phone Number</li> <li>• Primary Point of Contact Email</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal Tax Identification (ID) Number/Employer Identification Number (EIN)</li> <li>• Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number</li> <li>• System of Award Management (SAM) Unique Entity ID (UEI)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year Established</li> <li>• Business Classification(s)</li> </ul>
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### Instructions for Application Narrative:

Applicants should upload the application narrative as an attachment to the online submission form. The narrative should be uploaded as a single Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx), PowerPoint (.ppt), or Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) file. Note that the maximum file size that can be uploaded is 30MB.

The application narrative should include the following:

- An overview of the proposed approach to meeting the deliverables listed above.
- Proposed activities and milestones, as applicable.
- Brief overview of demonstrated multi-sector partnerships.
- Description of your experience implementing similar substance use interventions in your community.
- Confirmation of your capacity to meet deliverables within the anticipated timeframe of 14 months.
- Proposed budget, including personnel and expenses for interventions, trainings, travel, supplies, etc.

The CDC Foundation is committed to providing accessibility for people with disabilities and is working towards making our materials more accessible. If this document presents accessibility challenges, please email [cgudmundsen@cdcfoundation.org](mailto:cgudmundsen@cdcfoundation.org) with the subject line “Accessibility Assistance.” We will gladly work with you on providing the information in a different format.

The CDC Foundation may, at its discretion, invite presentations, hold panel interviews, request clarification, conduct discussions and/or solicit a best and final application from any or all applicants. The CDC Foundation also reserves the right to conduct a pre-award risk assessment and may request additional financial and/or organizational information for the purpose of conducting the assessment. Review findings may impact eligibility and/or award structure.

The CDC Foundation will not be responsible for any proposal which does not follow the instructions in this RFA, and may, at its discretion, reject any such non-compliant proposal. Further, this solicitation does not commit the CDC Foundation to pay any cost for the preparation and submission of a proposal.

## 9. SELECTION PROCESS AND REVIEW CRITERIA

The timeline below is subject to change at the sole discretion of the CDC Foundation:

October 2, 2025	RFA Release
October 8, 2025	Deadline for questions submitted to <a href="mailto:cgudmundsen@cdcfoundation.org">cgudmundsen@cdcfoundation.org</a> to be included in FAQ document
October 10, 2025	FAQ document posted
October 17, 2025	Application Submission Deadline
October 27-31, 2025	Anticipated Selection Notification
November 3 - December 31, 2025	Agreement implementation
January 1, 2026	Agreement Effective Date*

*\*Due to the competitive nature of this funding, we are unable to offer any flexibility on the implementation start date. However, we encourage any entity not able to meet the timeline to identify partners in your community who may be ready and able to enter into an agreement with the CDC Foundation to begin project implementation on January 1, 2026.*

Communication During the RFA Period:

Questions and requests for clarification are welcomed! All inquiries regarding this RFA should be

submitted by prospective applicants in writing via email to [cgudmundsen@cdcfoundation.org](mailto:cgudmundsen@cdcfoundation.org). Questions submitted by 5 pm ET on October 8 will be included in an FAQ document, which will be posted publicly on October 10.

Applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Approach to meeting the intervention goals and deliverables within the anticipated timeframes stated in the RFA.
- Partner roles, collaboration intent and organizational capacity to participate in and support the implementation of the project.
- Experience and relationship with established public health and public safety partners.
- Experience implementing similar substance use-related projects
- Demonstrated ability for the project to be sustainable as applicable to your coalition and partners. Please note that CDC Foundation technical advisors can provide strategic planning guidance to support sustainability efforts.
- Proposed budget:
  - Please use the template provided with this application.
- Letter(s) of support:
  - If a public health entity is submitting the application, please provide a letter of support from a public safety partner (and vice versa).

### Scoring Rubric

Application Category	Description	Weight %
Approach & Intervention Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear, evidence-based strategies proposed to prevent overdoses and reduce related harms. (0–12 pts)</li> <li>• Proposed deliverables align with RFA requirements. (0–12 pts)</li> <li>• Timeline is realistic and achievable within 14 months. (0–8 pts)</li> </ul>	32%
Coalition Capacity & Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coalition structure includes required partners: public health/public safety and includes consultation from people with lived experience (0–10 pts)</li> <li>• Demonstrated experience in managing grants/contracts and complying with reporting. (0–5 pts)</li> <li>• Evidence of strong collaboration across sectors (healthcare, education, CBOs, etc.). (0–10 pts)</li> <li>• Letter(s) of support provided. (0–5 pts)</li> </ul>	30%
Organizational Experience & Readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of implementing evidence-based prevention or harm reduction strategies. (0–5 pts)</li> <li>• Capacity to collect, analyze, and use data to inform programming and evaluation. (0–5 pts)</li> </ul>	15%



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to address the unique needs of rural/underserved populations in Georgia. (0–5 pts)</li> </ul>	
Budget & Use of Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft budget is reasonable, aligns with project activities, and uses CDCF template. (0–9 pts)</li> <li>Budget narrative clearly justifies expenses. (0–9 pts)</li> </ul>	18%
Geographic Distribution & Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposal strengthens statewide reach by targeting underserved rural areas. (0–5 pts)</li> </ul>	5%

**Notification:**

All applicants will receive notification of whether they are selected or not selected. The CDC Foundation will not provide scores but may provide feedback upon request.