Implementation and Monitoring of Overdose Prevention Indicators Request for Proposals

Issued on June 16, 2023

Application Due Date: August 4, 2023, by 5:00pm Eastern Time

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Supplemental Guidance Released on July 21, 2023
This Supplement addresses questions submitted during the inquiry period from June 16 to July 7, 2023.

Please note that only communication received in writing from the RFP Contact on behalf of the CDC Foundation shall serve to supplement, amend or alter in any way, this RFP released by the CDC Foundation. Any other communication is not binding and should not be relied upon by any party in interpreting or responding to this RFP.

For a copy of this supplemental, request for proposal, and application and templates, please go to: https://www.cdcfoundation.org/request-for-proposals, under the Implementation and Monitoring of Overdose Prevention Indicators RFP announcement.

Questions and Answers

Eligibility, Project Configurations and Lead Applicant Status

1. I see that there are three different options for how organizations can apply. Can an organization apply for more than one configuration for additional funding and be awarded under two different configurations?
   No, organizations can only apply to one project configuration under this funding opportunity. Organizations should pick the configuration that best meets the needs of the local partners and allows for an efficient and equitable distribution of funding. Please refer to ‘Grant Details’ on pg. 2 of the RFP for more information.

2. Can an organization that is housed within a university and provides community-based services and overdose prevention programs serve as a fiscal agent on behalf of a local community coalition that does not have the financial structure to manage a grant? Are universities eligible to apply as the lead?
   Yes, under certain circumstances, a university may apply on behalf of a local community coalition as a fiscal agent. Universities may be suitable as lead applicants under the intermediary organization configuration. Applicants will be evaluated on their partnerships and budget that equitably distributes funding to support community-based organizations (CBOs). Please refer to ‘Grant Details’ on pg. 2 and the ‘Evaluation Criteria’ on pg. 4 of the RFP for more information.

3. Can a nonprofit organization apply for this funding opportunity without having a 501c3 status? What if an organization is in the process of getting their 501c3 status reinstated from the IRS after revocation due to missing 990s?
   Yes, nonprofits that do not yet have 501c3 status may be considered for funding. Please be advised, if selected as a finalist for an award, some additional paperwork may be required by CDC Foundation to assess risk before a contract is established for the award. Our team will work with you through this onboarding process.
4. **Can an organization apply if they are currently/already partnering with the Overdose Response Strategy (ORS), whose Public Health Analysts are funded by the CDC Foundation?**

Yes. Partnership with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), CDC Foundation, Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) or High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) programs will not disqualify an organization from applying.

5. **Will limited resource areas be eligible for this grant opportunity given they have less capacity than higher resource areas?**

Yes, CDC Foundation is interested in learning from all types of communities. CDC Foundation would like to support innovation in communities that lack resources and capacity and understands that each jurisdictions’ geography and population has unique assets and challenges around overdose prevention. Please refer to ‘Grant Details’ on pg. 2 and Evaluation Criteria on pg. 4 of the RFP.

6. **Can for-profit organizations apply for this funding opportunity? For example, can substance use treatment companies apply for this funding opportunity?**

No, for-profit organizations are ineligible for this funding. To apply, an organization must be a community-based organization (CBO), intermediary organization or nonprofit that has a history of partnering with CBOs or a local health department, that performs overdose evaluation or prevention work and can track/report on a specific set of indicators selected by partners. CBO is defined as a public/private non-profit organization of demonstrated effectiveness. Intermediary organization is defined as a mission-driven organization that aims to link donors (individuals, foundations and corporations) more effectively with organizations and individuals delivering charitable services. CBOs and intermediary organizations must be public/private non-profit organizations (501c3 certification is not required). Please refer to “Grant Details” on pg. 2 of the RFP and ‘Eligibility Requirements’ on pg. 3 of the RFP for more information.

7. **Can small, disadvantaged businesses with 8a certification that assist local and state health departments in overdose prevention work serve as consultants on this funding notice?**

It depends. If the 8(a) organization is a nonprofit organization, working at the local level with a specific health department on collecting and reporting overdose prevention indicators, they would be eligible to apply. For-profit organizations are ineligible for funding. In addition, lead applicants can budget for consultants (for profit/nonprofit) as subcontractors or partners for the grant. To apply, an organization must be: 1) local health department, 2) a CBO or 3) an intermediary organization or nonprofit that has a history of partnering with CBOs or a local health department, that performs overdose evaluation or prevention work and can track/report on a specific set of indicators selected by partners. CBOs and intermediary organizations must be public/private non-profit organizations (501c3 certification is not required). Please refer to “Grant Details” on pg. 2 of the RFP and ‘Eligibility Requirements’ on pg. 3 of the RFP for more information.
8. **Are state health departments eligible for this funding?**

No, state health departments are not eligible as lead applicants for this funding opportunity. However, we encourage them to be project partners or subcontractors of a lead applicant in their state. To apply, an organization must be a CBO, intermediary organization or nonprofit that has a history of partnering with CBOs or a local health department, that performs overdose evaluation or prevention work and can track/report on a specific set of indicators selected by partners. Please refer to ‘Eligibility Requirements’ on pg. 3 of the RFP for more information.

**Budget**

9. **If applying as an intermediary organization, does the budget template allow for indirect expenses?**

For all applicants, the allowable indirect rate is a maximum of 15%. If an organization has a federally negotiated indirect rate that is higher, CDC Foundation requires documentation to verify the higher indirect rate. Please refer to ‘Funding Specifics’ on pg. 5 of the RFP for more information.

10. **Does the CDC Foundation adhere to federal spending regulations or operate as a non-profit?**

The CDC Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit organization and is not a federal agency. Please go to [www.cdcfoundation.org](http://www.cdcfoundation.org) for more information.

11. **Does the required travel to Atlanta for the awardee meeting need to be included in the budget?**

Yes, applicants should budget for two to four people to attend an in-person meeting in Atlanta, GA tentatively scheduled for February 2024. More details will be provided once awarded regarding the attendees (which partners/roles would be best suited to participate). Guidance can be found under the heading ‘Funding Specifics’ on page 5 of the RFP. This anticipated trip is also included under ‘Travel’ in the Budget Template (Attachment 4) on the [CDC Foundation Requests for Proposals](https://www.cdcfoundation.org) page, under the Implementation and Monitoring of Overdose Prevention Indicators RFP announcement.

**Overdose Prevention Indicators**

12. **If a health department collects data on a specific indicator but the CBO that they partner with does not, does it qualify as non-reported data?**

Yes. This project aims to support: 1) the collection of timely, high-quality data, and 2) collaboration between CBOs, health departments, people who use drugs, and other sectors to build capacity for data collection and reporting. Expanding data collection and/or reporting capacity are activities supported by this funding opportunity.

13. **What is the minimum number of indicators an organization can report on?**

The number of indicators reported on will be identified by the grantees and negotiated with the CDC Foundation team. The selection of indicators is dependent upon what is feasible for
the applicant, partners and the proposed project. Per the instructions on page 4 of the RFP, the choice of indicators must include at least one stigma reduction or health equity indicator. CDC Foundation is excited to learn from the final awardees and encourages applicants to select more than one indicator while being thoughtful in the selection process. For example, choosing all indicators may not be feasible during the project period.

14. **Can we track different indicators for different programs within the organization?**
Yes. The purpose of this funding is to collect and report data for a variety of programs/interventions within and across partner organizations. Lead applicant organizations, working with a group of partners, can track any number of indicators that are negotiated with the CDC Foundation Team, including either one stigma reduction or harm reduction indicator, and fit within the capacity of the organization(s).

15. **As we report on the identified indicators, will this grant help our organization make better data driven decisions to help our community?**
We certainly hope so as this is the goal of this funding opportunity! This project will:
1. **Enable the collection of timely, high-quality data** to help public health practitioners and other decision-makers understand the extent of the problem, focus resources where they are most needed and evaluate prevention efforts to determine if they are equitably reaching all members of the affected community.
2. **Support collaboration between community-based organizations, health departments, people who use drugs and other sectors** to strengthen public health data systems and build capacity for data collection and reporting. Collaborations will ensure data is not used to create harm, generate new biases or re-stereotype groups and that appropriate privacy protections are established.
3. **Understand facilitators and barriers at the local level** to overdose prevention data collection and use which will inform the development of recommendations around a standardized approach to a digital toolkit.

CDC Foundation and other partners, including a health equity consultant, are prepared to provide technical assistance, coaching and guidance to awardees as they implement the project. We hope awardees will gain valuable insights and recommendations by connecting and learning from one another on cohort calls that will occur throughout the project period.

16. **What types of overdose indicators are being considered? What’s in scope vs. out of scope?**
The aim of this project is to develop a standardized set of indicators to help monitor and track the progress of various overdose prevention efforts and interventions. Please refer to the `List of Overdose Prevention Indicators by Category` on pg. 9 of the RFP.

17. **Will this project include indicators related to any type of substance use or is it specific to opioids?**
Although some indicators might be specifically focused on opioids, opioid-involved overdose and opioid use disorder, others will address polysubstance use, including use of stimulants, and substance use more broadly in the context of an epidemic driven by illicit fentanyl.
18. What are the broad categories of indicators that have already been identified?
Categories already identified include: health systems; policy; health equity; harm reduction; stigma reduction; partnerships; prescribing and clinical care; and linkage to care. Please refer to the 'List of Overdose Prevention Indicators by Category' on pgs. 9 & 10 of the RFP.

19. Will this project include indicators related to youth substance use prevention?
The overdose prevention indicators will not specifically focus on youth substance use; however, stratifications/disaggregates proposed for some measures will account for age groups, including youth.

20. Are these indicators going to be focused on analyzing existing data or collecting new data?
Both the indicators to be reported on focus on analyzing existing data and determining and building capacity for additional resources and supports for data collection and reporting.

Project Activities and Timeline

21. Can the funding be used to advance an existing partnership between community-based organizations and a public health department to help with implementation and expansion?
Yes, data collection, reporting and sharing across partners are the primary activities for the proposed project. Community-based organizations and/or health departments are eligible to apply for this funding opportunity. Applicants must describe in their proposal how the funding will be used to support data collection and reporting on a tailored set of overdose prevention indicators. Activities that involve expansion of data collection activities (e.g., implementing new data collection methods, increasing frequency of data collection, expanding the scope of data collection, and accessing and/or acquiring new data sources) may be supported by this funding opportunity.

22. Can CBOs and/or health departments use the funds to distribute Fentanyl Test Strips and other harm reduction supplies?
No, the funding for this award is not intended to be used for harm reduction supplies. Funding should be used to support data collection and reporting on a tailored set of overdose prevention indicators.

23. Can the project timeline be extended if project deliverables are not completed during the proposed project period? Is there an option to renew the project after the one-year project period ends? Will there be additional funding opportunities after the grant ends?
The proposed project period is one year, starting September 1, 2023, and ending on August 31, 2024. The final financial and narrative report will be due by September 15, 2024. Currently, there is no renewal option beyond one year. The decision to allow for no-cost extensions will be made once projects are underway and are not guaranteed. There may be an opportunity for no-cost extensions at the end of the 1-year period if an awardee has not
met grant deliverables. There may also be additional funding opportunities after the initial grant end contingent on funding from the donor. Details are not available currently.

Other Questions – Letters of Support, Principal Investigator

24. How many letters of support should an organization attach to its application?
We recommend applicants obtain a letter of support from each organization that will be supporting/partnering with you on this project. Strong letters of support may describe the history of collaboration, where/how trust will be fostered across partners, the specific roles of the partner organization, and/or how the funding will be used to build capacity across partners around data collection and reporting.

25. Does this grant require a Principal Investigator?
A Principal Investigator is not required for this funding opportunity. Please refer to ‘Eligibility Requirements’ on page 3 of the RFP for more information.

26. Are there any other requirements of the awardees per the donor?
Yes, all applicants will be required to sign a declaration statement that no relationship exists with the tobacco industry. More information will be provided to the awardee during initiation of the contract with the CDC Foundation.

27. Can I speak to someone directly regarding this RFP?
We appreciate your interest in speaking to our team. Unfortunately, for the sake of being equitable, we cannot speak to potential applicants prior to the application due date on August 4, 2023. Please refer to our materials (including the slides and recording of the Informational Webinar) on the CDC Foundation Requests for Proposals page, under the Implementation and Monitoring of Overdose Prevention Indicators RFP announcement.