

RFA 2023-06 Opioid Abatement Innovation Challenge

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1. Can you provide more information on if capital projects are eligible for this funding opportunity?

State Response: Opioid Abatement Innovation Challenge funds will support emerging and innovative approaches to combat Colorado’s opioid crisis that generate implementable solutions. Areas of focus include Prevention and Early Intervention, Harm Reduction, Treatment, Recovery, Continuum of Care and/or Care Coordination, Behavioral Health Services, and Technological Advances. Capital projects are not a priority of this funding opportunity.

2. Funding Opportunity Request Information.

If we are requesting 2 years of funding, whose yearly amounts are smaller than \$350,000, but will total more than \$350,000, do we select “small funding opportunity” because each year’s amount is less than \$350,000 – **OR** – do we select “medium funding opportunity” since the total amount is more than \$350,000?

State Response: Funding tiers correspond to the total request, whether it is over the course of one or two years. Therefore, an application requesting \$350,000 per year for two years, with a total funding request of \$700,000, would qualify as a medium funding opportunity.

3. Narrative Application Instructions

- a. The instructions say to limit our response to 200 words per **header**. Some headers have more than 1 question, for example, “4. Program or Project Request” has 5 questions. Does this mean that the total combined answer to all questions for this header shall not exceed 200 words still?

State Response: You are allowed 200 words for each question. As an example, for question 4.a., “Describe the program or project this funding opportunity will support. What will be the major activities described in the program/project’s workplan and the general timeline for executing the program/project,” you are allowed a 200-word answer.

4. Our organization has a question regarding eligibility to apply for the Opioid Abatement Innovation Challenge (RFA # 2023-06). Within the RFA, non-profit organizations in good standing with the Colorado Secretary of State are listed as eligible entities under section 111. Project Requirements – A. Eligibility. However, under Appendix A. Glossary of Terms, the description for “Implementing Organizations” mentions nongovernmental entities, such as non-profit organizations, being part of collaborative partnerships with governmental entities acting as the applicant.

We would like to confirm whether non-profit organizations are eligible to be prime applicants without a collaborative partnership with governmental entities. If so, we would also like to confirm if out-of-state non-profits operating on a nation-wide level are eligible as applicants.

State Response: Thank you for bringing this to our attention. To clarify, an Implementing Organization is any entity other than the primary Applicant that is either supporting or part of a collaboration with the Applicant. A non-profit organization is eligible to act as the primary applications.

Eligible applicants include the following:

- Colorado county
- Colorado municipality
- Colorado State agency
- Colorado's Federally Recognized Tribes
- Colorado Regional Opioid Abatement Councils as defined by and formed as a result of the MOU.
- Non-profit organization, in good standing with the Colorado Secretary of State
- For-profit organization, in good standing with the Colorado Secretary of State

Out of state non-profits in good standing are eligible to apply for the Innovation Grant, but only if the scope of work will be done in Colorado and/or for Colorado residents.

5. The section number and paragraph number of your inquiry: III. Project Requirements, IV. Tools and Guidance, C. Budget and workplan template: Question: I don't see any indirect cost budget category on the template. Should we include the indirect costs in the total column J? Also, I don't see any cap on indirect rates. Our federally negotiated indirect cost rate is 33%, is this what should be used?

State Response: The Department of Law limits grant indirect cost rate to 10% without prior written approval and will consider a Federally Negotiated Rate.

6. We are a commercial technology company headquartered in Atlanta GA with limited staff in Colorado. In reviewing the requirements under the Opioid Abatement Innovation Challenge RFA 2023-06, I question if we are precluded from being able to provide solutions to help Colorado residents? Our technology, summary attached, is built and deployable across Colorado in weeks not months. We are teamed with Verizon Wireless, also not a Colorado-based NGO to provide wireless access for free or at a reduced rate to Colorado residents that can't afford it under the federal Affordable Connectivity Program. We're a technology company and not used to dealing with state or local municipalities in an RFP relationship, so we need to know if our submission will be dismissed summarily for not being located within Colorado. We could also partner with entities for delivery and management of the solution should that be a requirement of the application. Please advise. Bruce

State Response: Applications may be submitted by a For-profit organization that is in good standing with the Colorado Secretary of State. The applicant will ultimately be responsible for ensuring that its innovation funds are expended on [Approved Purposes](#) and consistent with the [Colorado Opioid Settlement MOU](#) and any relevant settlement. Additionally, it is

recommended that applications present actionable plans, with clear deliverables and timelines, that provide measurable impact in combatting the serious challenges of the opioid crisis.

Out-of-state for-profits in good standing are eligible to apply for the Innovation Grant, but only if the scope of work will be done in Colorado and/or for Colorado residents.

7. How will applications be addressed if the regional council does not offer a letter of support for the applying organization?

Example: A harm reduction agency is applying for funding but their regional council is not comfortable funding harm reduction.

Would hate to see the regional council become a barrier to agencies receiving funds.

State Response: Letters of Support from any relevant partnering agency, organization or Regional Opioid Abatement Council are optional. With a goal of encouraging collaboration and maximizing the impact of Opioid Abatement Innovation Challenge funds, any letter of support will be taken into consideration, among many other factors, during the evaluation process. However, it is not required to receive funds.

8. *Applicant* has an innovative information technology project that we think fits the criteria for an Opioid Response Infrastructure Grant. I understand that you are the person that can point me in the right direction for applying for a grant. Please provide me with the best process for submitting an application.

State Response: The Infrastructure Funding Opportunity and the Opioid Abatement Innovation Challenge grant are two separate funding opportunities. You can find more information on each at the following links:

- [Infrastructure Funding Opportunity](#)
- [Opioid Abatement Innovation Challenge](#)

9. I have a question regarding the Opioid Abatement Innovation Challenge (RFA # 2023-06). Are capital projects in line with the Approved Purposes as described in Exhibit A of the MOU eligible for funding?

State Response: Opioid Abatement Innovation Challenge funds will support emerging and innovative approaches to combat Colorado's opioid crisis that generate implementable solutions. Areas of focus include Prevention and Early Intervention, Harm Reduction, Treatment, Recovery, Continuum of Care and/or Care Coordination, Behavioral Health Services, and Technological Advances. Capital projects are not a priority of this funding opportunity.

10. My colleagues and I are working on several applications for the DOL Opioid Abatement Innovation Challenge application. Our question is on the word limits for the narrative. The instructions specify a limit of "200 words per header." Are you defining "header" as the main **HEADING**? If so, that means that under heading 4 (Program or Project Request), the response to each question would be limited to only 50 words (2-3 sentences). This does not

seem like enough space, especially for question 4a, which asks for a program description, list of major activities and a timeline.

A compromise might be to allow 200 words for each response to the questions in Header 4, with the remaining headers limited to a total of 200 words under each header.

Could you please advise?

State Response: You are allowed 200 words for each question. As an example, for question 4.a., “Describe the program or project this funding opportunity will support. What will be the major activities described in the program/project’s workplan and the general timeline for executing the program/project,” you are allowed a 200-word answer. Therefore, under “PROGRAM OR PROJECT REQUEST,” you are allowed 800 words (200 per question).

11. It states on p.5 to "Please limit your responses to 200 words per header". There are two levels of header, the numbered headers and the lower-case lettered headers. Under some numbers, for instance 3 and 4, there are multiple second-level headers.

I am writing to confirm which level of header the 200 work limit applies to. It makes more sense for it to apply to the second-level, or lower-case letter, headers, since it would be very difficult to write only 200 works for multiple prompts. Please confirm which level of header the word limit applies to.

State Response: You are allowed 200 words for each question. As an example, for question 4.a., “Describe the program or project this funding opportunity will support. What will be the major activities described in the program/project’s workplan and the general timeline for executing the program/project” you are allowed a 200-word answer.

12. In the funding and budget section, do the amounts of the small, medium, and large funding opportunities refer to the annual project budget or the two-year total?

For example, if my project will cost \$250K for one year, would it be considered a small project (\$100K-\$350K) or a medium project (\$350,001-\$700K) because it's \$500K for two years?

State Response: Funding tiers correspond to the total request, whether it is over the course of one or two years. Therefore, an application requesting \$250,000 for one year would qualify as a small funding opportunity; whereas an application requesting \$250,000 per year for two years, with a total funding request of \$500,000 would qualify as a medium funding opportunity.

13. Is a for-profit SUD provider who is not currently operating in Colorado, but previously operated in Colorado County, CO eligible to apply for the grant to increase access to treatment for Opioid Use Disorder via a new medication opioid use disorder treatment program?

State Response: Applications may be submitted by a For-profit organization that is in good standing with the Colorado Secretary of State. The applicant will ultimately be responsible for ensuring that its innovation funds are expended on [Approved Purposes](#) and consistent with the [Colorado Opioid Settlement MOU](#) and any relevant settlement. Applications must

present emerging and innovative approaches, that generate implantable solutions to combat Colorado's opioid crisis. Opioid settlement funds must be expended to benefit the residents in the State of Colorado.

14. Can the grant monies be used for construction cost, FFE, salaries?

State Response: Opioid Abatement Innovation Challenge funds will support emerging and innovative approaches to combat Colorado's opioid crisis that generate implementable solutions. Areas of focus include Prevention and Early Intervention, Harm Reduction, Treatment, Recovery, Continuum of Care and/or Care Coordination, Behavioral Health Services, and Technological Advances. Capital projects are not a priority of this funding opportunity. FFE and salaries aligned with the Approved Purposes and the intent of the Opioid Abatement Innovation Challenge grant will be considered. It is recommended that applications present actionable plans, with clear deliverables and timelines, that provide measurable impact in combatting the serious challenges of the opioid crisis. The applicant will ultimately be responsible for ensuring that its innovation funds are expended on [Approved Purposes](#) and consistent with the [Colorado Opioid Settlement MOU](#) and any relevant settlement.

15. Could you let us know if target area #7 is intended to support all opioid abatement efforts or only other Innovation Challenge grant recipients?

State Response: Target area 7 is: **Technological Advances or Data Infrastructure** to support or enhance any of the [Approved Purposes](#) as outlined above or in Exhibit A of the MOU. If the technological advance or data infrastructure is new to Colorado, it is considered to be innovative and qualifies for consideration .

16. I noticed that the estimated period of performance for the innovation projects starts in January 2024. Is there any chance that this could occur earlier?

State Response: The start date of January 2024 allows the time required for applications submission, evaluation and selection, and the finalization of grant agreements with awardees. Therefore, the start date for all awards is estimated January 2024.

17. Section V, "Reporting", page 5: Is the reporting template and quarterly progress report ready? Can it be shared?

State Response: These templates will be emailed to applicants after notification of award.

18. Section V, "Reporting", page 5: What are the anticipated deliverables for this program?

State Response: The focus of the Opioid Abatement Innovation grant is intentionally broad to encourage advanced ideas and solutions that will maximize impact of the State's Opioid Settlement funds. It is recommended that applications present actionable plans, with clear deliverables and timelines, that provide measurable impact in combatting the serious challenges of the opioid epidemic. Post award notifications, awardees will collaborate with the DOL to finalize deliverables in the grant agreement.

19. Section V, "Reporting", page 5: Aside from the quarterly progress reports and annual expenditure reports described on page 5, are there additional reporting requirements?

State Response: The only required reporting will be the quarterly progress reports and annual expenditure data. As needed, virtual and/or in-person meetings and supplementary information may be requested.

20. Section V, “Reporting”, page 5: What data points are awardees expected to collect?

State Response: The collection of data will be dependent on each application and the agreed upon projected outcomes of the grant agreement.

21. Appendix A, “Potential Targeted Areas of Focus”, page 7: Would the purchase of Sublocade be an approved use of these funds?

State Response: Yes, Sublocade and other FDA Medication Assisted Treatment or Medications for Opioid Use Disorder fall under approved uses.

22. Section II. A. “Funding Requirements”, page 3: How many awards are expected to be made?

State Response: Up to \$4,000,000 is available through the Opioid Abatement Innovation Challenge grant. The DOL will, within their sole discretion, select awardees from any, all, or none of the funding tiers, limited by the available funding in this period. The DOL seeks partners that present actionable plans, with clear deliverables and timelines, that provide measurable impact in combatting the serious challenges of the opioid epidemic.

23. Section II. A. “Funding Requirements”, page 3: What is the average award amount?

State Response: The Opioid Abatement Innovation Challenge does not have an average award amount.

24. Are capital projects in line with the Approved Purposes as described in Exhibit A of the MOU eligible for funding?

State Response: Opioid Abatement Innovation Challenge funds will support emerging and innovative approaches to combat Colorado’s opioid crisis that generate implementable solutions. Areas of focus include Prevention and Early Intervention, Harm Reduction, Treatment, Recovery, Continuum of Care and/or Care Coordination, Behavioral Health Services, and Technological Advances. Capital projects are not a priority of this funding opportunity.

25. Does the phrasing in Section III, Subsection L of the Memorandum of Understanding "...to improve staff capability" specifically the word "improve" relate to an already existing service, program, or center?

State Response: The approved purposes listed in Section III, Subsection L of the MOU apply to existing and new opportunities for staffing and training.

26. Despite the intentionally broad approved purposes listed, our inquiry could potentially fit in several other areas, but as it's a novel application based on a brand new law, would there be a recommendation toward a better approved purpose than the one referenced above? Others I am considering are:

- a. I.A. 8: Training for health care providers, students, and other supporting professionals, such as peer recovery coaches/recovery outreach specialists, including but not limited to training relating to MAT and harm reduction.
- b. I.A. 10: Development and dissemination of new accredited curricula, such as the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry's Provider Clinical Support Service Medication-Assisted Treatment.
- c. I.B. 6: Support work of Emergency Medical Systems, including peer support specialists, to connect individuals to treatment or other appropriate services following an opioid overdose or other opioid-related adverse event.
- d. I.B. 10: Engage non-profits and faith community as a system to support outreach for treatment.
- e. I.E. 1: The full continuum of care of recovery services for OUD and any co-occurring substance use or mental health issues, including supportive housing, residential treatment, medical detox services, peer support services and counseling, community navigators, case management, and connections to community-based services.
- f. I.E. 3: Training and development of procedures for government staff to appropriately interact and provide social and other services to current and recovering opioid users, including reducing stigma.
- g. I.E. 4: Community-wide stigma reduction regarding treatment and support for persons with OUD, including reducing the stigma on effective treatment.

State Response: The State is unable to provide guidance on which approved purpose for which to apply. Please choose any [approved purposes](#) that aligns with the program for which you are applying, and include descriptions in the 200 word answers to the RFA questions.