



**STATE OF COLORADO, DEPARTMENT OF LAW
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
OPIOID RESPONSE UNIT**

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**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
Opioid Response Strategic Impact Grant
RFA #LAAA 2024*06**

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INTRODUCTION

The Attorney General and the Department of Law (“DOL”), collectively referred to as the Colorado Attorney General’s Office, represents and defends the legal interests of the people of the State of Colorado and its sovereignty. The Attorney General exercises the responsibilities given to the office by the Colorado Constitution, statutes enacted by the Colorado General Assembly, and the common law.

The Division of Community Engagement (“DCE”) serves as Coloradans’ open door to the AG’s Office. We build relationships and establish meaningful dialogue across Colorado, working hard to truly hear the needs, ideas, and voices of the people of our State.

We engage with Coloradans on a range of issues—from improving public safety, to financial literacy and protecting consumers, to addressing the opioid epidemic, protecting our land, air, and water, and many others—through the operation of five programs: Outreach and Engagement, Consumer Engagement and Data Services, Safe2Tell Colorado, Opioid Response, and Grants and Partnerships.

The Opioid Response Unit (“ORU”), a program within the DCE, is responsible for strategically managing and distributing opioid settlement funds received by the DOL in accordance with the [Colorado Opioid Settlement’s Memorandum of Understanding \(“MOU”\)](#). The ORU works closely with stakeholders across Colorado who are engaged in abating the opioid crisis, including municipal and county governments, State agencies, non-profits, service providers, and non-governmental organizations.

DOL funds authorized by C.R.S. § 24-31-108 serve as the primary source of support for the DCE funded partnerships. These partnerships support a diverse range of organizations throughout Colorado that address critical challenges facing our State. The DCE works with partners to develop and provide start-up funding for data-driven, high-impact programs that can develop long-term success and build a sustainable foundation.

The Colorado MOU was finalized between the Colorado Attorney General’s office and the local governments of Colorado on August 26, 2021. Three-hundred and twelve local governments signed on to the MOU, which dictates the governance, distribution, and expenditure of any current or future opioid settlement funds for Colorado.

There are four different funding streams listed in the MOU:

- 60% to the Regional Government Share
- 20% to the Local Government Share (Each local government can choose to opt-out of receiving the funds, thus directing the funds to their opioid Region)
- 10% to the State Share
- 10% to the Infrastructure Share

This funding opportunity addresses the 10% of Opioid Settlement funds set aside for the State Share.

Project Background and Overview

The DOL announces an Opioid Response Strategic Impact grant (“Impact Grant”) which will focus on allocating Opioid Settlement Funds strategically across the state to generate implementable, far-reaching solutions to combat Colorado’s opioid crisis.

The DOL’s intent with the Impact grant is to accelerate progress with transformative ideas. The ORU seeks partners that present actionable plans, with clear deliverables and timelines, that provide measurable impact in addressing the serious challenges of the opioid epidemic.

For a full list of Approved Purposes, see [Exhibit A](#) of the Colorado MOU and [Exhibit E](#), the National Opioid Settlements’ list of approved uses for the settlements’ remediation funds.

In addition, below is a list of targeted focus areas:

- A. Strengthen Peer Recovery Support and Peer Services
- B. Promote Culturally Responsive Substance Use Prevention, Harm Reduction, Treatment and Recovery Services
- C. Expand Access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder, Naloxone, Contingency Management and Other Evidence-Based Clinical Interventions
- D. Bolster Housing for People with Substance Use Disorder (SUD)
- E. Develop Family Peer Support Services and/or Expand Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women
- F. Promote Recovery-Friendly Workplaces

Detail on each targeted area of focus can be found in Appendix A.

The Impact grant highlights targeted areas that will maximize impact of the State’s Opioid Settlement funds. **Applications outside of these target areas are allowable, but must still fall within the Approved Purposes** found in [Exhibit A](#) of the Colorado MOU and/or [Exhibit E](#) of the *National Opioid Settlements’ list of approved uses for the settlements’ remediation funds*. The anticipated projected funding period is from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026. The actual funding period will coincide with the award date and grant agreement execution and is subject to vary from the dates above, accordingly.

FUNDING OVERVIEW AND BUDGET REQUIREMENTS

Funding Overview

Up to \$8,000,000 is available in this funding period over the course of a two-year funding period. The DOL will, within their sole discretion, select awardees from any, all, or none of the targeted areas of focus, limited by the available funding in this period.

No individual award will exceed \$1,000,000. The DOL will take the size of the request compared to the annual operating budget into consideration when making award determinations.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility

Eligible entities for the Impact grant include:

- 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

Multi-agency partnerships are possible and encouraged for this opportunity, with clear evidence of close interaction and responsible partnership among the participants. If multiple entities are applying together, please select one entity to serve as the Applicant. This should be the entity that will receive the grant award, receive the disbursed funds, and be responsible for funds management and submitting required reporting. The additional entities should be listed in the application as “Implementing Organization(s).” Applicants must clearly articulate in the project description each entity’s role in project implementation.

For the purpose of this RFA and subsequent Grant Agreements, “Implementing Organizations” will be considered by the DOL as the Applicant’s “Subgrantee(s).” Subgrantee(s) means an entity receiving grant funds through the Prime Recipient (Applicant/Grantee identified in the Grant Agreement) to support the performance of the project or program for which the funds were awarded. A Subgrantee is subject to the terms and conditions of the award to the Prime Recipient, including program compliance requirements. The Applicant is responsible for ensuring the Subgrantee’s compliance with requirements.

Applications may be declined if the grant recipient cannot demonstrate financial viability or program sustainability, or if the request does not fall within the Approved Purposes.

Accessibility Requirements

All work performed as a result of this solicitation must comply with all applicable provisions of sections 24-85-101 through 24-85-104, C.R.S., including the Accessibility Standards for Individuals with a Disability, as established by the Office of Information Technology pursuant to section 24-85-103(2.5), C.R.S.; all State of Colorado technology standards related to technology accessibility; and with Level AA of the most current version of the [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\)](#), 6 incorporated in the State of Colorado technology standards. For more information, applicants can review the [Vendor Accessibility Guidelines and Checklist](#).

Required Application Components

All applications must address the following components of the proposal.

Component 1: Notice of Intent to Apply

Please note: to assist the program in planning for the application process (e.g., recruiting enough reviewers), it is requested that applications submit a non-binding [Notice of Intent to Apply Survey](#) no later than 5:00pm MDT on **February 13, 2024**. The survey takes about one minute to complete.

The Notice of Intent to Apply will be used solely for planning purposes by the DOL. The survey will cover the following information:

- RFA number and title
- Organization/agency name
- Contact information

The Notice of Intent to Apply does not need to include any explanations of the applicant's qualifications or desire to receive grant funding.

Component 2: Application Form

Provide the following information by completing the Application Form included as Attachment 1 to this RFA.

A. Applicant Details and Contact Information

- **A Project Director** who will be responsible for coordinating with the DOL throughout the application, contracting, and grant management processes.
- **A Fiscal Contact** who will be responsible for responding to budgetary or funding inquiries from the State.
- **A Principal Representative** who will be responsible for obligating a Grantee through their authorized signature on the Grant or Grant Modifications.
- Any additional contacts for the Application period.
- Note: an individual may fill more than one of these roles, but one individual may not fill all three roles.

B. Project Title

C. Total Amount Requested

There will be a space to indicate the total two-year request as well as a breakdown by each year.

D. Proposal Overview/Executive Summary

Provide a brief description of the proposed project. If applicable, identify which of the Targeted Focus Areas (A-F) listed below that aligns with your project. Note: it is not required that your project addresses a Targeted Focus Area. 150 word maximum.

E. Target Opioid Settlement Region

Indicate the Opioid Settlement Region(s) that your project will serve. If your project will be statewide, please indicate.

F. Target population

Indicate if specific populations will be targeted/impacted by this project.

G. Implementing Organizations

List any partner organizations that would receive subgrants to execute this project.

H. Current Annual Operating budget

Component 3: Project Narrative

*The Project Narrative should not exceed 3,000 words or approximately 6 single-spaced pages.

A. Problem Description

- Describe the specific problem/need as it shows up in the region/area or population that the applicant intends to serve. As feasible, use data to describe the scope of the issue.

B. Project Description

- Describe in detail how your project will address the identified need.
- Describe what activities will be carried out as part of the project and the intended outcomes of the project, including a description of the communities that will be impacted.
- Compared to other populations or communities in Colorado, describe how the community or population served by this application has been under-resourced, under-represented, or under-served.
- Summarize the timeline for the project, including key benchmarks or milestones that will be met during the two-year grant period.
- Demonstrate how the applicant has the capacity, including personnel, resources, technology, and other relevant infrastructure needed to implement the project and the expertise in understanding the nature and dimension of the need.

C. Relevant Experience

- Describe the experience your organization and any implementing partners have that make you well-suited to carry out this project effectively.
- Provide descriptions or examples of at least one program the applicant has overseen that demonstrates a track record of success in implementing programs/projects with similar objectives.

D. Collaboration

- Describe if and how your organization will leverage collaborative partnerships to maximize the impact of your project. Describe if your organization will leverage collaborative partnerships in the opioid settlement region(s) it serves and, if so, how. Examples could include healthcare organizations, nearby hospitals, health insurances, Medicaid/Medicare, Regional Accountable Entities, local public health agencies, local community providers or associations, safety net providers, behavioral health organizations, and/or the Behavioral Health Administration.
- Explain if and how your organization has worked successfully with these partners previously or how your organization will build new partnerships to help carry out this project. Letters of support from collaborators are optional. Letters of support from the Regional Opioid Abatement Council or Councils representing the region or regions your project will serve are strongly encouraged.

E. Project Sustainability

- This is a one-time funding opportunity. Explain if and how projects/programs created through this funding will be sustained beyond the funding cycle, including capacity for Medicaid reimbursement, if applicable.
- Describe any other funding sources, earned revenue models (if applicable), or partnerships that will support the proposed project's sustainability, including capacity for Medicaid reimbursement, if applicable. Note: Supplanting is not allowed with state dollars. Supplanting is to deliberately reduce federal, state, or local funds because of the receipt of new funding. State funds may only be used to supplement existing funds for program activities and not replace those funds which have been appropriated for the same purpose. Potential supplanting is subject to review during the application review, pre-award review, post-award monitoring, and audit.

F. Performance Measures

- Identify what data will be collected, estimate target metrics as relevant, and describe how the information will be used to guide and assess the program and the program's effectiveness. A list of potential data indicators related to the Core Strategies in [Exhibit E](#) of National Settlements for Opioid Settlements funds are available on the Opioid Response Unit [website](#).
- In measurable data points, describe the intended impact of the project, both in the short-term and long-term if applicable.

Component 4: Budget and Work Plan

Complete the Budget and Work Plan worksheets available as Attachments 2 and 3 to this RFA. Retain the Excel formatting for these attachments.

G. Budget Guidelines:

- Opioid Funds from the State Share shall be used for Approved Purposes only. The list of the Colorado Approved Purposes can be found in [Exhibit A](#) of Colorado MOU, or in [Exhibit E](#) of the National Opioid Settlements.
- Expenses must be project related. Use the narrative descriptions in the budget to make a clear connection between the requested expense and project activities.
- The template has formulas to assist you in the completion of the budget proposal; however, you can override the formula if necessary. It is your responsibility to verify the amounts are accurate and total correctly.
- Round expenses to the nearest whole dollar amount.
- Budget categories include Personnel, Materials/Supplies & Operating, Travel, Equipment, Contracts & Subgrants and Indirect.
 - Personnel – The DOL will consider funding a number of positions commensurate with the size of the request, but no more than 10 positions will be considered.
 - Materials/Supplies & Operating – Items should be specific and listed individually. Avoid general line items like “office supplies” where possible, as anything that cannot be clearly tied to the project should be covered in indirect.
 - Travel – Include calculations in your description (i.e., 500 miles x .56 cents per mile). Any rates must follow your agency’s reimbursement policy.
 - Equipment – Only items that exceed \$5,000 per unit and have a lifespan of more than one year should be included in Equipment. There are additional requirements on tracking the value of any equipment that is awarded.
 - Contract/Subgrants - Use this section for any of the project activities or expenses that are subcontracted or if an Implementing Partner will be carrying out project-related activities and incurring the expenses. In the description, explain your procurement process for selecting the specific contractor and include any hourly rates. Please note any contracts or sub-grants over \$50,000 over the course of a year will require additional Expenditure Reporting.
 - Indirect – Unless your agency has a federally negotiated rate, you are eligible for up to 10% of the total direct costs. If any occupancy/rent expenses were included in the direct expenses, these should be deducted from the total direct expenses before applying the 10%. Provide the DOL with a copy of your federally negotiated rate, if you are requesting that rate.
- The Project Period is two years, but budget proposal must show expenses for Year 1 and Year 2 separately.

H. Work Plan Guidelines:

- There should be a clear connection between the Project Narrative, Work Plan and Budget.
- The template has space for three goals and three objectives under each goal with space for activities necessary to achieve the objective. You do not need to have three goals or three objectives for each; but may include as many goals and objectives as are relevant for your specific project. Use the Instructions on the template as a guide.
- Please aim to list the aligned Approved Purpose under each activity. For ‘Desired Outcome’ we recommend, if applicable, pulling from the list of proposed data indicators that will be available on the [Opioid Response Unit webpage](#).

Component 5: Organizational History and Fiscal Accountability

Provide the following documentation:

- A.** Completed Sources of Income form (Attachment 4). The DOL reserves the right to request audited profit and loss statements or additional financial documents at no additional cost to the Department.
- B.** Non-profit organizations only:
 - Documentation of IRS tax exempt status, such as 501(c)(3) determination letter, or description of the reason that the applicant does not have federal tax-exempt status.
 - Certificate of Good Standing from the Colorado Secretary of State.

How to Apply

Responses must be submitted as specified in this announcement. Applications that fail to follow all the requirements may not be considered.

Notice of Intent to Apply

Complete the [Intent to Apply Survey](#) no later than 5:00pm MST on February 13, 2024. Entities that do not submit an Intent to Apply Survey are still eligible to submit an application.

The Notice of Intent to Apply will be used solely for planning purposes by the program. The survey will cover the following information:

- RFA number and title
- Organization/agency name
- Contact information

Formatting Guidelines

- 12 pt font, Arial or Calibri preferred.
- 1-inch margins.

- For Component 3: Project Narrative, use headings provided to distinguish each section of the narrative. Component 3 should not exceed 3,000 words or 6 single-spaced pages.
- Title documents clearly.
- Save documents as Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF files.

Required Documents

A completed application must include all items described in “Required Application Components.” Please provide each item listed, and all related documents, as separate Microsoft Word, Excel or Adobe PDF files following this order:

- Application Form (see Attachment 1)
- Project Narrative
- Budget Worksheet (see Attachment 2) - retain Excel format
- Work Plan (see Attachment 3) - retain Excel format
- Sources of Income table (see Attachment 4) - retain Excel format
- Non-profit tax-exempt status (if applicable)
- Certificate of Good Standing from Colorado SOS (if applicable)
- LETTERS OF SUPPORT (optional): Provide any relevant partnering agency, organization or Regional Opioid Abatement Council letters of support.

Note: If awarded, your organization will be required to provide additional documentation including a signed W-9 and insurance certificates.

Submission Instructions

For consideration of award, an applicant for the OPIOID RESPONSE STRATEGIC IMPACT GRANT (RFA 2024-06) must submit a completed application as a Zip File no later than 11:59 p.m. MT on Friday, March 8, 2024 via email to MBT_R.lf1ocnf3n7retzxx@u.box.com.

No hard copies of applications will be accepted. Applications submitted after the application submission deadline will not be accepted.

If you are unable to submit your application using the provided box.com address, please contact the Department of Law at procurement@coag.gov.

Please note the following:

- The subject line and body of the email are not uploaded into the online submission application and will not be received by the DOL. Only email attachments are uploaded. Should any Applicant wish to ask a question or make a comment regarding the RFA, send a separate email to procurement@coag.gov.

- Applicants should attach one (1) zip folder that contains all required application submission documents. The zip folder name should include the following title: “RFA LAAA 2024*06_OPIOID RESPONSE STRATEGIC IMPACT GRANT_[*APPLICANT’S NAME]”.
- The e-submission application typically uploads submissions within five minutes. Applicants are advised to submit their applications no later than one hour prior to the solicitation deadline to ensure the application has been received.
- The e-submission application sends an automated email confirmation if submissions were uploaded correctly.
- Please do not encrypt your email. The e-submission application automatically encrypts attachments, and any additional encryption may result in failure to upload.
- The e-submission process with box.com is only for proposal submission. All inquiries, questions, comments, or concerns should be submitted to the procurement contact, not through the e-submission system. The Notice of Intent to Award will at minimum be posted on Colorado VSS, all other communication from the DOL may be through direct email from the procurement contact and/or posted to the DCE Funding Opportunities website.
- During the solicitation process for this RFA, all official communication with applicants will be via notices on the DOL program website listed in the schedule of activities. Notices may include any modifications to administrative or performance requirements, answers to inquiries received, and/or clarifications to requirements. Program staff will host a pre-application webinar to be announced on the website. It is incumbent upon applicants to carefully and regularly monitor the website for publication of modifications to this solicitation and any other information in regard to this RFA. Any DOL announcement of the winning applicant(s) will be via e-mail or in another format, as determined by the DOL, and must be within the timing and discretion of the DOL.
- Applicants are not to contact any other state office or individual regarding this RFA or this project, except for the program contact noted below. Applicants are not to rely on any other statements that may alter any specification or other term or condition of the solicitation outside of the DOL website.
- All materials submitted shall become the property of the DOL and will not be returned.

Questions and Inquiries

Applicants may make written inquiries via email to obtain clarification of requirements concerning this RFA. Send all inquiries to:

Program contact name: Alison Williams Helm

Program contact email: procurement@coag.gov

- Clearly identify your inquiries with:
 - RFA Number

- RFA Title
- The section the inquiry applies to.
- Applicants are not to rely on any other statements that alter any specification or other term or condition of the RFA, unless they have been formally issued by the DOL and posted to DOL’s Funding Opportunities webpage. DOL may also elect to use Colorado VSS to post formal modifications to the RFA.

Pre-application Webinar

As indicated in the Schedule of Activities, Applicants have the option to attend a pre-application webinar for clarification on this RFA. Visit the [DOL’s Funding Opportunities webpage](#) for information on how to log-in to join these meetings

Schedule of Activities

Key Activities	Dates*
RFA Published on coag.gov/funding-opportunities	January 29, 2024
Applicant Question Submission Deadline	February 12, 2024
Notice of Intent to Apply Deadline	February 13, 2024
State Responses Posted	February 23, 2024
Pre-Application Webinar (Optional)	February 27, 2024, 10:00-11:00AM (MT)
Application Submission Deadline	March 8, 2024, 11:59 p.m. (MT)
Estimated Notification of Award(s)	May 2024
Estimated Contract Execution	July 1, 2024

*The DOL reserves the right to revise the dates in this schedule.

SELECTION, EVALUATION, AND AWARDS

Evaluation Process

DOL will review each application to determine whether the application includes all required information and documentation. Applicants that do not meet all requirements specified above may be disqualified, and their applications will not be considered for a grant award.

The technical aspects of applications will be assessed based on the soundness of the applicant's approach and the applicant's understanding of the requirement. Past experience/qualifications will be assessed by considering the extent to which the qualifications, experience, and past performance are likely to foster successful, punctual performance.

The DOL carefully designs scoring and selection process to ensure fair selection of the best qualified applicants. The selection process is described below. The criteria for scoring are in direct correlation to the required application components.

Evaluation Committee

An Evaluation Committee will be established utilizing measures to ensure the integrity of the evaluation process. These measures include the following:

- Selecting committee members who do not have a conflict of interest regarding this solicitation.
- Facilitating the independent review of proposals.
- Requiring the evaluation of the proposals to be based strictly on the content of the proposals.
- Ensuring the fair and impartial treatment of all Applicants.

The objective of the Evaluation Committee is to conduct reviews of the proposals that have been submitted, to hold frank and detailed discussions among themselves, and to recommend applicant(s) for award.

The Evaluation Committee will review each qualifying application proposal based on the criteria identified above and will make a separate determination for an award of a grant for each qualifying proposal. Only individuals on the Evaluation Committee will evaluate proposals for grant awards.

REPORTING

Acceptance of these funds indicates agreement to terms of reporting. Quarterly progress and reimbursement requests reports will be required using a provided template. Awardee attendance will be required at COAC Regional Online Learning Forums at minimum on a quarterly basis; attendance will be highly encouraged at the annual Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference. Supplementary information or virtual meetings may be requested as necessary in addition to reporting.

Additionally, on an annual basis, grantees shall provide additional expenditure information and outcome data in accordance with DOL requirements, related to any Opioid Funds received from the State Share and subject itself to an accounting as required by the Colorado Opioid Abatement Council.

APPENDIX A: TARGETED AREAS OF FOCUS

Please see [Exhibit A](#) and [Exhibit E](#) for full list of Approved Purposes. Below are some possible targeted areas of focus.

A. Strengthen Peer Recovery Support and Peer Services

Peer support involves an individual with lived experience providing non-clinical assistance and practical guidance to support long-term recovery from substance use disorders. Recovery support services help people enter and navigate systems of care, remove barriers to recovery, stay engaged in the recovery process, and live full lives in communities of their choice. Recovery support services include culturally and linguistically appropriate services that assist individuals and families working toward recovery from mental and/or substance use problems. They incorporate a full range of services that facilitate recovery, wellness and linkage to service providers, and other supports shown to improve quality of life for people (and their families) in and seeking recovery. Recovery support services may be provided before, during, or after clinical treatment, or may be provided to individuals who are not in treatment but seek support services. Some examples of recovery support include, but are not limited to, recovery residences, recovery community organizations, one-to-one or group-based peer support services, etc. Communities can address these barriers and expand peer placement in recovery community centers, recovery residences, criminal legal settings, emergency departments, child welfare agencies, homeless shelters, public health departments, specialty treatment, medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) treatment programs, and primary care settings. [Source: Recovery Support Services, Behavioral Health Administration](#); [Source: Opioid Overdose Reduction Continuum of Care Approach, National Institutes of Health](#)

B. Promote Culturally Responsive Substance Use Prevention, Harm Reduction, Treatment and Recovery Services

There are striking racial disparities to consider in prioritizing populations with a high risk for overdose. Communities of color remain disproportionately affected by opioid overdose and premature mortality due to substance use, exclusion from access to high-quality care, and criminalization. Overdose deaths among Black and Indigenous communities are growing faster than among White individuals across the United States. A recent study showed a 40 percent increase in the opioid overdose death rate for Black individuals relative to non-Hispanic White individuals. Indigenous Americans have experienced a five-fold increase in opioid overdose fatalities over the past two decades. Communities are encouraged to tailor interventions with cultural humility to address racial and ethnic inequities when implementing evidence-based practices and policies.

Interventions could include provision of culturally and linguistically accessible substance use services more specifically, or structural interventions such as diversion and re-entry programs, as individuals of color are over-represented in the incarcerated population. Interventions could include efforts to increase the diversity of the behavioral health workforce, such as through pipeline training programs, loan repayment and subsidization of trainees particularly for under-represented populations. These examples are not an exhaustive and recommend tailoring to your local community needs, addressing diversity including sexual orientation, social class, urban/rural, religion or race, or ethnicity; understanding that every individual's makeup consists of varying

identities. [Source: Opioid Overdose Reduction Continuum of Care Approach, National Institutes of Health](#) [Source: Principles for the Use of Funds from Opioid Litigation, John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health](#)

[Source: Cultural Considerations in Addiction Treatment, Advances in Addiction & Recovery](#)

C. Expand Access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD), Naloxone, Contingency Management and Other Evidence-Based Clinical Interventions

There is overwhelming evidence that MOUD reduces overdose fatalities and improves patient outcomes. In a national study of 40,885 individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD) who were treated with buprenorphine or methadone, MOUD was associated with a 76 percent reduction in overdoses at three months and a 59 percent reduction in overdoses at 12 months. Despite the evidence, medications are still underutilized in most communities. Common barriers to MOUD access include inadequate treatment availability, failure to identify and engage high-risk populations in MOUD, and poor treatment retention. [Source: Opioid Overdose Reduction Continuum of Care Approach, National Institutes of Health](#)

Naloxone administration reverses an opioid overdose if administered in time. Overdose education and naloxone distribution (OEND) includes education about overdose risk factors and how to recognize and respond to an overdose, how to administer naloxone, as well as providing naloxone or full rescue kits. OEND can be successfully implemented at multiple venues for diverse populations. The education component empowers trainees to respond to overdoses. Community-level implementation of OEND has been associated with reduced opioid overdose mortality. The best evidence for reducing overdose through OEND has been seen in communities that proactively make OEND accessible. [Source: Opioid Overdose Reduction Continuum of Care Approach, National Institutes of Health](#)

D. Bolster Housing for People with Substance Use Disorder (SUD)

A person's ability to recover from SUDs depends heavily on having stable housing. Homelessness, unstable housing, and associated stress can trigger the recurrence of use and relapse. Communities should determine what new capacity can be developed for housing people receiving medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD). Research and real-world experience show that when people have housing—one of the most basic human needs—they are better able to tend to other areas of their lives. [Source: Opioid Overdose Reduction Continuum of Care Approach, National Institutes of Health](#)

The effectiveness of recovery residences for opioid use is well-supported by the evidence. A Surgeon General report cites well-supported evidence for the effectiveness of recovery housing in the treatment of most substance use disorders. For example, an 18-month descriptive study showed decreased drug and alcohol use and increased employment among 245 adults with substance use disorders who were actively engaged in recovery residences. [Source: Evidence-Based Strategies for Abatement of Harms, Legal Action Center](#)

E. Develop Family Peer Support Services and Expand Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women

Parent peer support, also commonly called family peer support or family support services, offers hope, guidance, advocacy, and camaraderie for parents and caregivers of children and youth receiving services from mental health, substance use, and related service systems. Parent support providers deliver peer support through face-to-face support groups, phone calls, or individual meetings. They bring expertise based on their own experience parenting children or youth with social, emotional, behavioral, or substance use challenges, as well as specialized training, to support other parents and caregivers. Working within a peer support framework that recognizes the power of mutuality and experiential understanding, parent support providers deliver education, information, and peer support. [Source: Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale, Substance Abuse Mental Health Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#)

In addition, providing treatment and supports during pregnancy and the postpartum period is a well-supported strategy. Due in part to stigma, it can be difficult to find a treatment provider during pregnancy and the postpartum period; a 2020 study found that people were 17% less likely to be accepted to buprenorphine treatment while pregnant. [Source: Primer on Spending Funds from Opioid Litigation: A Guide for State and Local Decision-Makers, John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Health](#)

Childcare is a promising recovery support that has high face validity because it could reduce barriers to sustained participation in outpatient treatment, especially among women. [Source: Evidence-Based Strategies for Abatement of Harms, Legal Action Center](#)

F. Promote Recovery-Friendly Workplaces

The Recovery Friendly Workplaces give business owners, particularly small business owners, the resources and support they need to foster a supportive environment that encourages the success of their employees in recovery. Recovery-ready workplaces adopt policies and practices that:

- Expand employment opportunities for people in or seeking recovery
- Facilitate help-seeking among employees with substance use disorder (SUD)
- Ensure access to needed services, including treatment, recovery support, and mutual aid
- Inform employees in recovery that they may have the right to reasonable accommodations and other protections that can help them keep their jobs
- Educate all levels of the organization on SUD and recovery, working to reduce stigma and misunderstanding, including by facilitating open discussion on the topic

Employers, employees, customers, and society all benefit from recovery-ready workplace policies. Among the benefits are an expanded labor force, increased worker well-being, decreased turnover, improved productivity, and reduced health care costs. Employers adopting such policies help to reduce societal stigma and misunderstanding by fostering a culture in which substance use disorder (SUD is recognized as a treatable health condition from which one can recovery, and people in or

seeking recovery are welcomed and supported in the workplace. [Source: Recovery Ready Workplace, US Department of Law](#)

G. Other Areas

Other areas, not listed above, but consistent with Approved Purposes (see [Exhibit A](#) and [Exhibit E](#)).

APPENDIX B: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Term	Definition
Applicant/Prime Recipient	The entity that will submit the application, receive the grant award, receive the disbursed funds, and be responsible for funds management and submitting required reporting.
Approved Purpose(s)	<p>Approved Purposes are forward-looking strategies, programming, and services to abate the opioid epidemic as identified by the terms of any Settlement. If a Settlement is silent on Approved Purpose(s), then Approved Purpose(s) shall mean those forward-looking strategies to abate the opioid epidemic identified in Exhibit A of the Colorado MOU, Exhibit E, the National Opioid Settlements’ list of approved uses for the settlements’ remediation funds, or any supplemental forward-looking abatement strategies added to Exhibit A by the Abatement Council.</p> <p>Consistent with the terms of any Settlement, “Approved Purposes” shall also include the reasonable administrative costs associated with overseeing and administering Opioid Funds.</p>
Colorado Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	<p>The Colorado MOU establishes the framework for distributing and sharing these settlement proceeds throughout Colorado. Local governments and the State prepared the Colorado MOU, which prioritizes regionalism, collaboration, and abatement. It is expected that the Colorado MOU will also be used for settlements with other opioid defendants in the future, including any settlement from Purdue Pharma’s bankruptcy proceeding.</p> <p>Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser signed the MOU on August 26, 2021. The Colorado MOU can be found at www.coag.gov/opioids.</p>
DOL	Colorado Department of Law
Implementing Organization/ Subgrantee	<p>Entities other than the Applicants that are either supporting or part of a collaborative application.</p> <p>Nongovernmental entities, such as not-profit organizations, may be part of the collaborative partnership proposed in the application with a governmental entity acting as the Applicant and fiscal sponsor.</p>
Opioid Funds	Opioid Funds shall mean damage awards obtained through a Settlement.
Settlement	"Settlement" shall mean the negotiated resolution of legal or equitable claims against an Opioid Settling Defendant when that resolution has been jointly entered into by the State and the Participating Local Governments, or by any individual Party or collection of Parties that opt to subject their Settlement to this MOU.

	Unless otherwise directed by an order from a United States Bankruptcy Court, "Settlement" shall also include distributions from any liquidation under Chapter 7 of the United States Bankruptcy Code or confirmed plan under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code that treats the claims of the State and Local Governments against an Opioid Settling Defendant.
State Share	The State Share, representing 10% of Opioid Settlement Funds, will be used for state-funded initiatives, including the Opioid Response Strategic Impact Grant.