



**STATE OF COLORADO, DEPARTMENT OF LAW
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing Challenge Grant

RFA #LAAA 2025*01

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Introduction

The Colorado Attorney General and the Department of Law (“DOL”), collectively referred to as the Colorado Attorney General’s Office, represent and defend 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”) is one of the sections within the DOL and serves as Coloradans’ open door to the Attorney General’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.

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

Background

Even before the trauma and isolation of the COVID-19 epidemic, children and youth were facing increasing rates of anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues, which research shows increases the likelihood of youth vaping.^{1,2} The United States also faces what the U.S. Surgeon General calls an epidemic of loneliness that is exacerbating the already existing mental health crisis.³

The DOL reached a settlement with JUUL Labs, Inc. (“JUUL”) that will provide Colorado with funds to be used in accordance with the acceptable uses of that settlement. To aid in combatting the youth ENDS (Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems) crisis, programs are needed that support and build protective factors that reduce the chance of vaping and other nicotine/tobacco use.

¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10133863/>

² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9376900/>

³ <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/surgeon-general-social-connection-advisory.pdf>

Grant Summary

The DOL's Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing Challenge Grant ("Challenge Grant") seeks to support collaborative, community-driven projects in coordination with schools that increase protective factors for children and youth to decrease ENDS usage.

For purposes of this funding opportunity, the DOL will review applications that aim to decrease youth ENDS use by addressing one or more of the following objectives:

Objective 1: Programs that promote healthy peer groups, positive social norms, and school/community connectedness and belonging for youth under age 21. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Programs that provide additional access to physical activity and/or extracurricular opportunities for students
- Interventions that promote healthy smart phone and social media usage for youth and other positive social norms
- Peer to peer supports

Objective 2: Programs that promote the skills of parents, caregivers, and/or other trusted adults to support youth under age 21. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Programs that are designed to encourage greater connections and/or mentorship between youth and trusted adults
- Interventions that provide opportunities for youth to develop new career and workforce skills and/or create opportunities for youth to make a difference in their communities
- Parent and caregiver trainings or workshops to promote positive parenting and how to talk to students about mental health, substance use, and healthy smart phone and social media usage
- Professional development trainings, workshops, presentations, and support for teachers and school staff to help them meet the physical and mental health needs of students
- Programs with community partners to address whole family needs with the goal of increasing youth wellbeing and reducing barriers to learning, including utilizing community health workers

Objective 3: Programs that promote student resiliency, psychological safety, and/or positive school climate in youth under age 21. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Evidenced-based programs that emphasize resiliency skill-building and wellbeing for students and that are culturally tailored and appropriate or designed for youth
- ENDS and other substance use prevention and non-disciplinary intervention programming

This grant opportunity is targeting [Multi-Tiered Systems of Support \(MTSS\)](#) Tier 1 (universal) interventions and foundational supports. Tier 2 (targeted small group supports) and Tier 3 (intensive individual supports) strategies or programs, including individual and group counseling services, are less likely to be prioritized through funds awarded by this RFA.

Data is an important part of ensuring short and long-term impact. However, many communities lack robust data that helps demonstrate their needs. Applicants must commit to collecting a baseline data measure related to the chosen objective(s) within the first six (6) months of the grant period or submit existing data related to the objective(s) with the application. More information related to this data requirement is detailed in the Project Narrative section below.

Projects will be prioritized that demonstrate one or more of the following components:

- Projects that demonstrate youth engagement in program planning and/or implementation
- Projects that demonstrate community partnerships (including, but not limited to, community-based organizations; foundations; non-profit entities; governmental entities including counties and cities, universities, local health or human services departments; other public entities; and faith-based organizations); and
- Projects that have *not* received prior rounds of JUUL funding (Note: Prior JUUL-fund grant recipients are not prohibited from submitting an application.)

Grant Period

The anticipated funding period is 36 months, from **July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028**. The actual funding period will coincide with the award date and grant execution and is subject to vary from the dates above, accordingly.

Funding Overview

Approximately \$20,000,000.00 is available for this funding period. Grant amounts are broken into three (3) tiers:

- Large: Up to \$2.5 million over three (3) years for projects in a school district, Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES), network or collaborative that serves at least 23,000 students.
- Medium: Up to \$1.75 million over three (3) years for projects in a school district, BOCES, network or collaborative that serves between 7,500-22,999 students.
- Small: Up to \$750,000 over three (3) years for projects in a school district, BOCES, network or collaborative that serves under 7,500 students.

Project Requirements

Applicant Eligibility

There are three (3) types of eligible applicants for the Challenge Grant:

- 1) The following Colorado PK-12 educational institutions are eligible to apply for this opportunity individually or in collaboration:
 - A School District or group of School Districts;
 - A Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES);
 - A network of Charter Schools (formal or informal); and/or
 - An Indian tribe or tribal organization (as such terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Act (25 U.S.C. 450b)).

The above eligible educational institutions may, and are encouraged to, collaborate on initiatives and/or include home-schooled student populations, facility schools, or other educational institutions. Larger collaborations will make projects eligible for larger funding tiers and will be given additional prioritization in application scoring. **Individual schools and charter schools are not eligible to apply on their own but may join other collaborations with an eligible educational institution.**

If a project involves multiple eligible educational institutions, the eligible educational institutions must designate one (1) lead eligible educational institution to apply on behalf of the collaboration. The lead eligible educational institution must have and submit a draft MOU with the other eligible educational institutions for the project, and a final signed MOU will be required before funding will be dispersed.

- 2) Alternatively, a community partner (including, but not limited to, community-based organizations; foundations; non-profit entities; governmental entities including counties and cities, universities, local health or human services departments; other public entities; and faith-based organizations) is also eligible to apply as long as the application is in coordination with at least one eligible educational institution. The community partner and each eligible educational institution(s) must have and submit a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the project and a final signed MOU will be required before funding will be dispersed.
- 3) Finally, if an eligible educational institution(s) project involves multiple community partners or utilizes a coalition of partners, the eligible educational institution (or the lead eligible educational institution, if more than one eligible educational institution is involved) may apply or the eligible educational institution(s) and community partners may designate one (1) lead community partner to apply on behalf of the collaboration. The lead community partner and each eligible educational institution(s) must have and submit a draft MOU for the project, and a final signed MOU will be required before funding will be dispersed.

For each category, the MOU between parties must include the following:

- Purpose of the MOU.
- Responsibilities of the parties, including financial disbursement arrangements between parties. Note: DOL will only provide grant funds to the single, lead organization identified in an MOU.
- A final, signed MOU will be required for the final grant agreement if awarded. Signatures are not required for the draft MOU submitted with the grant application.

The following entities are not eligible:

- Individuals

Accessibility Requirements

All work performed as a result of this solicitation must comply with all applicable provisions of sections §24-85-101, *et. seq*, 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 (“State”) technology standards related to technology accessibility; and with Level AA of the most current version of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), incorporated in the State’s technology standards.

Grant Work Product Expectations

The purpose of grant funds is to benefit the people of Colorado, with the goal and intention of making resources, tools, and other work product created using grant funds available to the public. The DOL will retain legal rights to the work product created using grant funds and will make an effort to share and promote this work across Colorado.

Applicants selected to receive a Grant will be provided with the State’s template Grant Agreement, defining the terms of the grant award. If an Applicant requests modifications to the template agreement terms, the decision to reject, accept, or further negotiate any requested changes will be at the DOL’s sole discretion. In the event an Applicant’s requested modifications violate State or federal law, regulation, or policy, or would otherwise not serve the best interest of the State, the DOL may determine that an application is no longer responsive and therefore ineligible for the award.

Required Application Components

Component 1: Application Form

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

- **Applicant Details and Contact Information**
 - A **Project Director/Principal Representative** 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.
 - An **Authorized Signer** 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.
- **Project Title**
 - **Total Amount Requested**
There will be a space to indicate the total three-year request as well as a breakdown by each year.
 - **Objective(s) Addressed**
 - **Proposal Overview/Executive Summary**
Provide a brief description of the proposed project and goals. Include identification of which Objective(s) will be addressed. 150 word maximum.
 - **Target region**
Indicate the geographic region and school(s)/district(s) that your project will serve.
 - **Student population**
Indicate how many students are enrolled in the school district(s), BOCES, network or collaborative served by the project.
 - **Partner Organizations**
List any partner organizations that would receive subgrants to execute this project (including, but not limited to, community-based organizations; tribal entities; private non-profit entities; governmental entities including counties and cities, universities, local health or human services departments; other public entities; and faith-based organizations).
 - **Current Annual Operating budget of the applicant** (not applicable if lead applicant is an eligible educational institution)

Component 2: Project Narrative

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

A. Problem Description

- Briefly describe the population/region to be served and identify any unique geographic and demographic characteristics.
- Describe the specific problem/need that this project is designed to address. As feasible, use data to describe the scope of the issue including any health inequities or disparities. If data is not available, please describe the problem qualitatively.

B. Project Description

- Identify which of the RFA objective(s) the project will address and how focusing on the objective(s) will help address the identified problem/need in your

community, including any health inequities or disparities that you have identified.

- Describe what activities will be carried out as a part of the project and summarize the timeline for the project, including key benchmarks or milestones that will be met during the three-year grant period. (Note: these activities should also be reflected in the Work Plan)
 - Include any planning activities that may need to occur in the initial phase of the project to set the project up for success.
- Describe how the grant project aims to increase protective factor(s) related to youth wellbeing and mental health and how this ultimately aims to decrease youth vaping.

C. Youth Voice & Equity

- Explain how youth in the community have actively engaged in project development and/or will actively participate in project implementation.
- Explain how the project is informed by and responsive to the needs of the community being served.
- Explain how the project will be culturally tailored and identity affirming.

D. Collaboration

- This project seeks to support collaborative, community-driven projects and will prioritize projects that demonstrate significant collaboration. Describe how this project was developed with parents/caregivers, youth, and community partners, including, but not limited to, community-based organizations; tribal entities; private non-profit entities; governmental entities including counties and cities, universities, local health or human services departments; other public entities; and faith-based organizations.
- Explain whether and how your organization has worked successfully with these partners previously or detail how your organization will build new partnerships to help carry out this project.
- Describe how the applicant will leverage these partnerships during implementation to maximize the impact of the project. What roles and responsibilities will each partner hold?

E. Organizational Capacity

- Demonstrate how the applicant and/or partners have the experience and 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.

F. Project Resiliency

- This is a one-time funding opportunity. Explain if and how projects/programs created through this funding will be sustained beyond the funding cycle.
- Describe any other funding sources, earned revenue models (if applicable), or partnerships that will support the proposed project's resiliency. **Note:** Supplanting is not allowed with state dollars. Supplanting occurs when an entity

deliberately reduces federal, state, or local funds for an activity because of the receipt of new funding for that same activity. 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.

G. Performance Measures

- Describe at least one (1) baseline data point related to the project's objective and your plans to reassess the data point during and at the end of the grant period. Applicants may use an already existing data source for this requirement. If data is not currently available, please identify at least one (1) proposed data point you plan to collect to establish a baseline measure and plans for collecting and providing this baseline data to the DOL within the first six (6) months of the grant period and reassessing this data during and at the end of the grant period. **Note:** There are no requirements to utilize a specific data platform (for example, applicants could send out a survey to parents or students). Applicants may also request funding within the grant to pay for a necessary assessment tool or other costs related to data collection.
- Describe how the collected data point(s) will help demonstrate how the project addressed the chosen objective and how the data may be used in the future to support student well-being.

The DOL has provided example data related to each objective, but these examples are meant to be illustrative, not required:

- Objective 1: Programs that promote healthy peer groups, positive social norms, and school/community connectedness and belonging for youth under age 21.
 - Data examples: number of students participating in extracurricular activities or attending a peer-to-peer activity, how many hours per week/month do they participate in the activity, assessment of student sense of belonging, or adjustments in behavior on smartphones and social media via student survey, school attendance data
- Objective 2: Programs that promote the skills of parents, caregivers, and/or other trusted adults to support youth under age 21.
 - Data examples: survey of number of trusted adults a student is connected to; number of students participating in mentoring, volunteering, or internships; assessment of parent/caregiver or teacher self-efficacy via survey; number of parent/caregivers who participated in programming; number of staff trained

- Objective 3: Programs that promote student resiliency, psychological safety, and/or positive school climate in youth under age 21.
 - Data examples: assessment of student resiliency via survey, ENDS use rates or other substance use rates, number of disciplinary issues related to vaping or other substance use

Component 3: Budget and Work Plan

Complete the Budget and Work Plan worksheets available as Attachments 2 and 3 to this RFA. Complete Attachment 2.A for any additional subgrantee budget(s). Applicants must submit worksheets as an Excel file.

Budget Guidelines:

- 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 and that are essential for implementation of the project.
 - 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 \$10,000 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 purchased as a result of an award. Laptops should be included above as “supplies”.
 - Contract/Subgrants - Use this section for any of the goods and services that are subcontracted or if a community partner will be carrying out project-related activities and incurring the expenses.
 - **Contracts:** In the description, explain your procurement process for selecting the specific contractor and include any hourly rates. If you have not selected a specific contractor yet, explain the goods and services that are being procured as well as the procurement process for selecting a contractor. A separate budget is not required for contracts.

- Subgrants: Include the total amount of any subawards the primary applicant will be passing through to another recipient for the purpose of carrying out a portion of the project. The applicant will submit additional subgrant budgets equal to the total listed for any subgrant in this section using Attachment 2.A.
 - Indirect – Unless your agency has a federally negotiated rate, you are eligible for up to 15% 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 15%. Only the first \$50,000 of any individual subgrant can be included in the calculation for direct expenses. Provide the DOL with a copy of your federally negotiated rate, if you are requesting that rate. If you need to adjust the calculation due to large subgrants, occupancy/rent or a different base calculation from a federally negotiated rate, please show your calculation in the description and override the formula for the total.
- The Project Period is three (3) years, and budget proposals must show expenses for each year, separately.
- We encourage you to consider whether part of your work plan and budget should include planning time and whether you wish to budget for less in year one as implementation begins. Projects will not be penalized for requiring additional planning activities as long as those activities are transparently described in the budget and/or work plan. We also encourage you to consider what is required to fulfill the data requirements of this project and whether to include a budget for a survey tool or other data collection tools.
- Budget may include travel expenses for staff from eligible educational institution(s) served by the project and community partners to attend a one-day youth mental health convening in Denver during the summer of 2025. Travel expenses, however, may not exceed more than \$1,500.00, unless specifically approved by DOL.
- Unallowable Expenses include but are not limited to capital construction, the purchase of vehicles or real property; equipment used for surveillance (e.g., vaping detectors/cameras); lobbying expenses, and/or fundraising costs.

Work Plan Guidelines:

- There should be a clear connection between the Work Plan and the Project Narrative.
- There is a section in the Work Plan to indicate which Objective(s) with which your project aligns and a space to describe the baseline data that you have or will collect to measure progress on the Objective(s). The information here should align with the Performance Measures section of the Project Narrative. One baseline data point is required for any Objective selected, but you can include more data points if applicable to your project.

- The template has space for three (3) goals and three (3) objectives under each goal with space for activities necessary to achieve the objective. You do not need to have three (3) goals or three (3) 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.

Component 4: Organizational History and Fiscal Accountability

Provide the following documentation:

- Lead Community Partner (not applicable to applicants who are an eligible education institution):
 - Certificate of Good Standing from the Colorado Secretary of State
- 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.
- The DOL reserves the right to request audited profit and loss statements or additional financial documents at no additional cost to the DOL.

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 **November 15, 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 DOL. The survey will cover the following information:

- RFA number and title
- Organization/agency name
- Contact information
- Objective(s) selected
- Funding tier

Formatting Guidelines

- 12 pt font, Arial or Calibri preferred.
- 1-inch margins.
- For Component 2: Project Narrative, use headings provided to distinguish each section of the narrative. Component 2 should not exceed 3,000 words or 6 single-spaced pages.

- Title documents clearly. Save documents as Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF files. The DOL uses Box.com to intake all applications. Please keep your individual file names short. If file names are too long, the system has trouble accepting them. Box.com may impose character limitations for certain unsupported special characters in file names, preventing successful file uploads.

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. Ensure the following are included:

- Application Form (see Attachment 1)
- Project Narrative
- Budget Worksheet (see Attachment 2) - retain Excel format
- Subgrantee Budget Worksheet(s) (see Attachment 2.A - retain Excel format (if applicable)
 - Subgrantee budgets are only required if subgrants are listed in the primary budget and as many as necessary can be submitted. Contracts do not require a separate budget to be included.
- Work Plan (see Attachment 3) - retain Excel format
- Memorandum of Understanding (if applicable)
- Non-profit tax-exempt status (if applicable)
- Certificate of Good Standing from Colorado SOS (if applicable)

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 **Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing Challenge Grant RFA #LAAA 2025*01** must submit a completed email application via **zip file** no later than 11:59 p.m. MST on **January 15, 2025** to: MBT_R.dovkl8xjntdxm65p@u.box.com

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 2025*01_Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing Challenge Grant_[*APPLICANT’S NAME]”**.

Note: please keep your individual file names inside the zip folder short. If file names are too long, the Box.com system has trouble accepting them.

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 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.

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 DOL 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.

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.

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. All inquiries must be received by the Program contact no later than January 10, 2025 and be sent to:

Program contact name: Mackenzie Owens

Program contact email: procurement@coag.gov

- Clearly identify your inquiries with:
 - RFA Number
 - RFA Title
 - The section the inquiry applies to.
- DOL may post Applicant inquiries and DOL responses to the DOL Funding Opportunities website and Colorado VSS. If Inquiries are posted, identifying information will be removed to make inquiries anonymized.
- Inquiries received after January 10, 2025 may not be responded to, in the DOL's sole discretion.
- 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.

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 “how to apply” 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 shall be within the timing and discretion of the DOL.

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.

Applicants are not to contact any other state office or individual regarding this RFA or this project, except for the program contact noted above. 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.

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

Activity	Date
RFA Published on coag.gov/funding-opportunities/	October 14, 2024
Pre-Application Webinar (Attendance optional)	November 12, 2024
Notice of Intent to Apply deadline Notice of Intent to Apply Survey	November 15, 2024
Applicant Inquiry Deadline	January 10, 2025
Application submission deadline	January 15, 2025

Evaluation Period (estimated)	January 16, 2025 – March 16, 2025	March 16, 2025
Estimated Notification of Award		May 2025
Estimated Contract Effective Date		July 1, 2025

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, on-time 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, not the quality of writing.
- 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, followed by a youth panel review of the project. The Evaluation

Committee and youth panel's recommendation for an award of each qualifying proposal will be submitted to the DOL's Custodial Fund Committee for final review and approval.

Appendix A: Glossary

Applicant/Lead Applicant: 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.

Culturally tailored: When the program, activities and other components of an intervention have been adapted to reflect cultural needs and preferences at the population level.

DOL: Colorado Department of Law

DCE: Division of Community Engagement

ENDS: Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems, 'use of ENDS' will be used synonymously with vaping.

Identity-affirming: when the program, activities and other components of an intervention promote a sense of belonging and the participants can see themselves reflected in the materials.

Implementing Organization: any partner organization the applicant subgrants a portion of the award to in order to assist in carrying out the project's activities.

MOU: Memorandum of Understanding

Vaping: the use of any device, such as an electronic cigarette, which fundamentally heats a liquid solution into an aerosol that is inhaled into the lungs of the person using it.

Youth: individuals who are under the age of 21.