Section III: Narrative

Instructions

Use 12-point font and include the **heading** (Applicant Background, Problem Statement, etc.) provided for each question. It is not necessary to repeat the text of the questions. Please limit responses to 200 words per **heading**. If a heading has multiple questions, then please limit responses to 200 words per **question**. The Section III. Narrative should not exceed 4,000 words.

Narrative Questions

1. **APPLICANT BACKGROUND**

   a. Describe the Applicant's mission and credentials for accomplishing the proposed project/program.

2. **PROBLEM STATEMENT**

   a. Describe the problem which the Applicant seeks to address with this proposed project/program.

3. **DEMONSTRATED NEED**

   a. Share any relevant data that may demonstrate the burden of the opioid crisis upon the geographic region or population in which this application is focused
      ii. Sources of "relevant data" may include but is not limited to CDPHE age-adjusted overdose rates (opens webpage), CDPHE nonfatal overdose rates (opens webpage), gaps in access to services (opens webpage), etc.

   b. Discuss the resource gaps and/or capacity limitations facing the targeted region or population.

4. **PROJECT OR PROGRAM REQUEST**

The Infrastructure Share is intended to support forward-looking opioid abatement strategies, programming, and services throughout the State of Colorado.

   a. Describe the project/program this funding will support. What will be the major activities described in the project/program's Workplan and the general timeline for executing the project/program?

   b. If this is a community or regional project/program, indicate if there has been any planning to identify or assess this community need.

c. If this is a state-wide project/program, indicate if there has been any planning to identify or assess this need at a state level.

5. EVIDENCE-BASE FOR APPROACH

Share the evidence-base for this approach or how this proposed project/program will advance evidence-based, evidence-informed, or practice-based approaches to addressing the opioid and substance use crises. If this does not apply, please explain.

6. REGIONALISM

Per the funding priorities adopted by COAC, there will be additional consideration given to collaborative applications among multiple Participating Local Governments (PLGs), Colorado State Agencies, and/or Regional Opioid Abatement Councils (ROACs).

a. Please describe how this project/program will benefit the Applicant's Region, or multiple Regions of the state.

   i. (If applicable) List the various ROACs and/or government partners involved in this request and explain what assets, resources, and/or staff time the various partners intend to contribute to this project/program.

b. Explain what steps (if any) the Applicant has taken to involve ROAC(s) in this application.

   i. It is suggested that Applicants submit a letter of acknowledgment provided by the ROAC of the Region in which the project/program will be located. See the Opioid Settlement Dashboard for a map of the 19 Regions and the List of Primary Contacts to contact the various regional councils.

   ii. If no ROAC letter of acknowledgment is included with the application, due to limited resources, bandwidth constraints, or otherwise, please explain.

   iii. *Please note: COAC reserves the right to contact the ROACs regarding any submitted applications, including those that describe plans to develop new Infrastructure or programs within a Region.*

7. ACCESS TO CARE

a. To what degree will the proposed project/program serve underserved, rural and/or disproportionately impacted regions or communities in Colorado?

b. To what degree are the organizations involved in this application embedded in the communities this project/program intends to serve?

c. How will the project/program recognize and incorporate the perspectives and life experiences of diverse populations, including people with lived experience?

ii. In opioid response work, this may refer to people in recovery, people in active use, affected families and friends, and/or people seeking services in the system.

8. SUSTAINABLITY

Proposed projects/programs should demonstrate Sustainability (*i.e.*, the ability to continue operating after all Award funding has been spent). There will be additional consideration given to Applicants who incorporate matching, braided, or in-kind funding for the proposed project/program. Funding matches are not a requirement of application.

a. Please describe how the Applicant and Implementing Organizations will ensure the Sustainability of this project/program after the two-year Award Cycle expires.

b. Describe how this request fulfills a need that cannot be addressed by other funding sources.

c. (If applicable) describe if the Applicant has consulted with Colorado Health First (Colorado's Medicaid Program) for the Sustainability of this project/program.

ii. *If the Applicant has determined that the items in this application may not be covered through Colorado's Medicaid Program, please explain why.*

d. Please describe which (if any) of the following entities the Applicant has contacted to explore partnership and/or matching funding opportunities:

- Regional Opioid Abatement Council(s)
- Regional Area Entity (RAE)
- Local public health agency (LPHA)
- Nearby hospital network
- Provider network or association
- Behavioral Health Administration Service Organizations (BHASOs)

9. EVALUATION

See the section titled "Evaluation" in the Funding Opportunity Announcement, available on the COAC webpage (opens webpage), for more information. For further questions, please submit a Q&A form (opens Microsoft form) or join during an upcoming office hours call (see Schedule of Activities).

a. **Program theory**: Describe how your proposed activities support short-term and long-term outcomes for individuals, systems (such as the healthcare system, justice system, treatment

or recovery system), and communities. If you have a visual program theory of change or logic model, please include it.

b. **Evaluation approach**: Describe how you plan to evaluate your work, including how you will monitor your strategy implementation (is the work implemented as intended?), and how you will monitor the outcomes of your work (is the work resulting in the short and long-term outcomes you intended?). Describe how you plan to use evaluation findings to celebrate successes, identify opportunities for improvement, and inform your ongoing work.

c. **Data collection**: Describe the types of information you plan to collect and how you plan to collect it, in order to implement your evaluation approach above.