

Colorado Opioid Abatement Council (COAC)

Review Committee

Meeting #17

March 24th, 2025
4:00pm – 5:00pm

Appointees: Terrence Gordon, Aaron Miltenberger

DOL Staff: Jamie Feld, Jack Patterson, Christian Dykson

Welcome and Introductions

ORU Staff welcomed Committee members.

3.15.25 Regional Funding Requests

ORU Staff presented funding requests from 8 regions totaling \$6.87 million. ORU staff noted that all allocations were for Approved Purposes identified in Exhibit E.

- **Region 1 (Northwest) requests \$40,000.**
 - Region 1 currently projects expenditures of \$863K from 2025-2026
 - Largest allocations are:
 - \$272K Infrastructure, staffing at government or not-for-profit agencies
 - \$200K Substance use prevention (general)
 - \$162K Supportive/recovery housing and other housing assistance
- **Region 5 (I-70 Mountain) requests \$480,081.68**
 - Region 5 currently projects expenditures of \$1.8M from 2025-2026
 - Largest allocations are:
 - \$500K Treatment services adhering to ASAM continuum of care
 - \$368K Media prevention campaigns
 - \$362K Syringe services and other harm reduction efforts for people who use drugs
- **Region 6 (Boulder) requests \$253,216.68**
 - Region 6 currently projects expenditures of \$2.5M from 2025-2026
 - Largest allocations are:
 - \$453K Peer-recovery centers, and events
 - \$423K Syringe services and other harm reduction efforts for people who use drugs
 - \$190K Full continuum of care of recovery services
 - \$190K Jail-based treatment, recovery or harm reduction services
- **Region 8 (Adams) requests \$4,851,862.44**
 - Region 8 currently projects expenditures of \$7.3M from 2025-2026
 - Largest allocations are:

- \$1.3M Harm reduction programs or strategies (general)
- \$1.3M Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) - (general)
- \$1.2M Substance use prevention (general)

- **Region 9 (Arapahoe) requests \$61,200.00**
 - Region 9 currently projects expenditures of \$4.8m from 2025-2026
 - Largest allocations are:
 - \$1.3M Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) - (general)
 - \$968K School and community prevention and education programs
 - \$943K Jail-based treatment, recovery or harm reduction services

- **Region 12 (Douglas) requests \$360,024.49**
 - Region 12 currently projects expenditures of \$1.7M from 2025-2026
 - Largest allocations are:
 - \$426K Withdrawal management services
 - \$400K Collaborative cross-systems coordination infrastructure and staffing
 - \$217K Media prevention campaigns

- **Region 17 (SWORD) requests \$790,497.65**
 - Region 17 currently projects expenditures of \$1.8M from 2025-2026
 - Largest allocations are:
 - \$819K Supportive/recovery housing and other housing assistance
 - \$446K Full continuum of care of recovery services
 - \$409K Infrastructure, staffing at government or not-for-profit agencies

- **Region 18 (San Luis Valley) requests \$32,270.39**
 - Region 18 currently projects expenditures of \$382K from 2025-2026
 - Largest allocations are:
 - \$110K Peer support specialists and recovery coaches
 - \$105K Substance use prevention (general)
 - \$102K Connection to care (General)

Vote to Recommend Release of Funds

Terrence Gordon moved to recommend the release of funds to Regions 1, 5, 6, 9, 9, 12, and 17.

Aaron Miltenberger seconded

Unanimously approved

The Committee raised no concerns regarding the request from Region 18 but lacked a quorum to make a recommendation to release funds due to recusals.

Expenditure Reporting Review Procedures

ORU staff presented the proposed procedures for reviewing expenditure reports. Staff explained that all required Year 2 (2024) reports had been received by the February 2025 deadline.

The review process would involve:

- Initial review and coding by ORU staff.
- Clarifications sought from submitters where necessary.
- Proposed relabeling or categorization corrections sent for review.
- Finalized data presented to the COAC for publication.

A six-category coding system was outlined (categories A–F) to distinguish between clear expenditures, unclear submissions needing resubmission, expenditures requiring minor edits, and expenditures outside Exhibit E.

ORU staff emphasized the intention to streamline the review process, reduce confusion, and preserve COAC members' time. The committee expressed general support for the proposed procedures.

Infrastructure Award Extensions

ORU Staff presented updates on three infrastructure award extension requests that were reviewed and approved by the Administrative Committee on March 4, 2025. Each request stemmed from evolving programmatic needs, administrative hurdles, or project developments that necessitated additional time to fulfill the objectives of the original award.

- Arapahoe County Public Health requested and received a 6-month extension to their award period, extending their project deadline to September 17, 2025. The extension was granted to support implementation of changes made during a recently approved budget amendment. The additional time will allow the organization to act on the modified budget and ensure successful completion of planned programmatic activities aligned with their infrastructure award.
- Fremont County (Boys and Girls Club) was granted a 12-month extension, moving their new deadline to March 17, 2026. Initially, the organization used 42% of its \$500,000 award to purchase a facility, which was intended to house and expand their youth programming. However, the high cost of renovating that facility prompted them to consider selling the property. They identified a new potential site—a historic post office on Macon Avenue in Cañon City—but the purchase agreement for that facility ultimately fell through. The extension was approved to give the organization time to reassess their options and identify a new facility that meets their operational and programmatic needs. ORU Staff emphasized continued engagement with the grantee and a commitment to support their strategic planning moving forward.
- Town of Buena Vista (Chaffee County Boys and Girls Club) originally requested an 18-month extension but was approved for 12 months, with the possibility of a 6-month extension if warranted by demonstrated progress. The new end date for this award is March 17, 2026. The extension was necessary due to the organization's ongoing capital campaign to secure total funding for their infrastructure project. At the time of the meeting, they had successfully raised approximately 75% of their goal. The committee opted for a phased extension strategy, encouraging the grantee to maintain momentum while allowing COAC to monitor their progress before granting additional time.

Committee members discussed the complexity of tracking overlapping Boys and Girls Club awards and affirmed the importance of accountability and timely project execution across all infrastructure recipients.

Infrastructure Close-Out Procedures

ORU Staff reviewed the draft Infrastructure Award closeout procedures, highlighting key elements of the 24-month infrastructure award cycle. Awardees were required to submit a final closeout report at the end of this period, detailing project outcomes, work plan goal completion, and feedback for COAC. The report included a narrative impact statement, assessment of up to three identified project goals, and feedback metrics. Photos and stories of success were encouraged.

ORU Staff noted that awardees might need to submit a final expenditure report depending on whether their award cycle ended before or after the annual February reporting deadline. Once all requirements were met, the administrator would issue a formal notice of award closeout, which might include an invitation for a future site visit. The closeout documentation would be maintained in the ORU's Microsoft-based records system.

During discussion, ORU Staff clarified that closeout reports could be submitted either by implementing organizations or primary governmental entities, with coordination and verification required between the two. Committee members praised the transparency and thoroughness of the process.

Infrastructure Award Updates

ORU Staff reported that Region 18, Region 12, and the Thornton Police Department had officially closed out their infrastructure awards as of March 17, 2025. Each had submitted or was in the process of submitting final closeout documentation.

Additionally, ORU Staff introduced a new infrastructure awardee learning forum designed to support shared learning, provide technical assistance, and collect examples of best practices and project success.

ORU staff previewed that quarterly infrastructure progress reports would be collected in April. ORU Staff asked for committee input on how to best share and synthesize these updates, whether through a regular cadence or as-needed reporting, particularly in cases where discrepancies or delays were observed.

Interest accrual on infrastructure funds was discussed. ORU Staff confirmed that guidance was being developed to address the reporting of interest earned across all shares—including infrastructure, tribal, and regional—and would be disseminated in a future memo. The team emphasized the importance of careful messaging to avoid inadvertently encouraging long-term holding of funds.

Opioid Response Unit Updates

ORU Staff shared that they had recently returned from the North Carolina Opioid Summit and would present key takeaways at the upcoming full COAC meeting on lessons learned from other states.

ORU Staff also highlighted upcoming outreach related to the anticipated sign-on process for future opioid settlements. All 312 participating local governments would be contacted in the coming months to facilitate the process of accessing additional settlement funds.

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Adjourn