Request for Proposal: Community Overdose Response Grants 2.0

Questions and Responses

Eligibility:

Q1: Are returning applicants welcome?
A: Returning applicants are eligible if the proposal covers [required activities](#) under the grant program.

Q2: Are 501c3(b) organizations eligible to receive this funding?
A: No, 501c3(b) organizations are not eligible for this funding, only 501c3(a). Organizations who are not eligible to apply can find a fiscal sponsor or partner with another organization who can act as the lead applicant.

Q3: Our organization incorporated under Massachusetts law but we have not filed for official status through the federal government/have not yet received our letter confirming tax-exempt status.
A: Organizations must have received official confirmation of tax-exempt status from the federal government in order to be eligible for this funding opportunity.

Q4: Are organizations who contain only one staff member eligible to receive this funding?
A: The grant is not intended for sole consultancy. The recipients must have the capacity to conduct programming while also following through on reporting and financial obligations, which includes staffing the project appropriately.

Q5: Could large organizations be competitive?
Any organization who meets the eligibility requirements outlined in the RFR can apply. Recipients will be chosen based on their proposals.

Q6: Will you accept more than one application per organization?
No, only one proposal per organization will be considered.

Q7: Is there a preference to maintain funding for existing grantees, or fund new partners?
A: No, there is no preference to maintain funding for existing grantees or to fund new partners.

Q8: The RFR states applicants should demonstrate a history of serving Dorchester, Roxbury, South End, East Boston, and/or Mattapan. Is prior experience serving one or more of these neighborhoods a strict eligibility requirement, or is it considered a preference that

strengthens an application? If an organization serves Boston residents but has a broader citywide footprint, would it still be eligible to apply?

A: Eligibility is based on who the organization currently serves. Prior experience serving priority neighborhoods may strengthen an application but is not required. Organizations serving additional neighborhoods are eligible if they demonstrate presence in the neighborhoods named in the RFR.

Q9: Are organizations who do not currently have a steady supply of naloxone for distribution, but are in the process of securing one with a Community Naloxone Program, still eligible to apply? If so, is official confirmation of that application necessary for eligibility?

A: It is not a requirement that organizations have a previously secured naloxone source at the time of their application. Though BPHC welcomes organizations to apply to the Community Naloxone Program in advance, we will work with any awardees to find a naloxone source should they not have one at the time of the award.

Q10: Must all program participants demonstrate Boston residency?

A: Organizations will not be required to show proof of residency for persons served.

Grant activities:

Q10: Can grant funds be used to pay for personnel?

A: Yes, funds can pay for staff and fringe costs.

Q11: Can organizations spend money on supplies for public health vending machines, including general wellness items like clothing and food, not necessarily naloxone?

A: Yes, so long as your organization also fulfills all required activities under the grant. Public health vending machines are listed as an example of an optional activity under the harm reduction category.

Q12: For organizations proposing mobile or pop-up community activation models—particularly those focused on daytime engagement in neighborhoods with higher overdose risk—does BPHC have guidance on how these models should structure their required activities (linkage to treatment, overdose education, naloxone distribution) to meet evaluation standards?

A: This grant is not designed to fund a short number of large events. Pop-up, community engagement, and mobile services are allowable. We welcome ideas for how a mobile/pop-up model could be used to meet the grant requirements and intended outcomes.

Q13: Are vehicle/mobile van operating costs allowable? How about capital costs, i.e. purchase of a van?

A: Vehicle operating costs are allowable so long as they directly relate to the scope of work. For instance, mileage (using the IRS rate) could be submitted using a mileage log to demonstrate how travel was related to activities outlined in the scope. Because a capital purchase would exceed the scope of work timeline, that is not an allowable cost.

Q14: Will trafficked and sexually exploited women qualify under "marginalized populations"?

A: Yes.

Q15: If an organization meets the mandatory activities, must optional activities also target the same participants/population?
Funds can only be used to support activities outlined in the RFR. Organizations serving additional populations or performing additional activities are welcome to apply, so long as funding is put towards eligible activities.

Budget:

Q16: Should the budget be submitted in a specific form?
A: Applicants should focus on submitting a professional and coherent budget that can provide insight on the organization's fiscal/administrative capability and align with the proposed scope. If helpful, please see the attached budget template on the RFP website.

Fiscal Sponsorship:

Q17: Can organizations act as fiscal sponsor for other organizations or act as leads, but contract out with smaller organizations?
A: Yes, we welcome community organizations to band together for applications. A large organization can function as a fiscal sponsor and administrative support for another smaller organization. Also, agencies can apply jointly but one must take the lead and responsibilities will need to be clearly delineated and described. Joint applications should include implementation planning around how the partners will collaborate and cover the project scope.

Q18: What is the best way to contact BPHC for guidance on identifying a qualified fiscal sponsor or lead partner that could help our organization participate in this reimbursement-based grant opportunity?
A: BPHC recommends reaching out to 501c3(a) organizations who have sufficient administrative capacity and have experience providing a fiscal sponsorship.

Q19: Do you have guidance for whether our organization needs a fiscal sponsor?
A: Only organizations with official 501c3(a) status, who have the administrative capacity to produce reporting and administer a cost-reimbursement payment structure, are eligible for the funding opportunity.

Q20: If is an organization is fiscally sponsored and allocates a percentage of its revenue to receive financial, payroll, and tech support, how will the grant treat that fiscal sponsor allocation. Would it be considered outside of the 10% indirect cost cap?
A: Any costs incurred for fiscal sponsorship are part of the 10% indirect.