**North Carolina**

**Department of Health and Human Services**

**Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services**

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS Questions and Answers**

**RFA#: DMH22–12CK-RFA\_REPOST**

**RFA Title: North Carolina Grants to Prevent Prescription Drug/Opioid Overdose-Related Deaths (PDO)**

**Addendum Number: 1**

**Bidder Conference Date: August 31 and September 2**

**Questions Received Until Date: 09/12/2022**

**Questions and Responses**

1. **Question:** How can we register for the August 31st informational webinar?

**Answer**: Informational webinars were held on August 31st and September 2nd. Information and a recording are located on the following website: <https://ncpreventiontta.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/8957233040141-PDO-RFA-Informational-Meeting>

1. **Question:** For “North Carolina Grants to Prevent Prescription Drug/Opioid Overdose-Related Deaths (PDO) DMH22-012CK-RFA\_REPOST” Page 4, section 2.C states “Qualified applicants for this RFA include but are not limited to LME-MCO funded organizations, community-based organizations, and coalitions in good standing with the Department.” However, page 8, section 5.6 states “Qualified applicants for this RFA are limited to LME-MCOs, community-based organizations, and coalitions in good standing with the Department.” Can you please advise as to who are qualified applicants for this RFA?

**Answer**: Qualified applicants for this RFA are non-profit organizations and may include LME-MCO funded organizations, community-based organizations, local health departments, and coalitions in good standing with the Department.

1. **Question:** How does DMHDDSAS define community-based organization?

**Answer**: For the purposes of the PDO grant, we define a community-based organization as a public or private non-profit organization that is both representative of a community and provides educational or other related services to individuals within the community.

1. **Question:** Regarding coalitions in good standing with the department - what is required to demonstrate good standing with the department? Should the coalition have been established for a specific period of time?

**Answer**: For the purposes of the PDO grant, coalitions in good standing with the department are those who have been active in substance use prevention efforts in North Carolina for a minimum of one year. If coalitions have been funded previously by the state, we take into consideration those coalitions who have a successful record of completing all deliverables on previous substance use prevention state-funded grants.

1. **Question:** In the section labeled “To Be Completed By Grantee” Catchment Area #, is this referring to the number of catchment areas to be applied for or the numerical numbers of the catchment area based on how they are listed in numerical order on the list?

**Answer**: Please write the name of the county for which you are applying.

1. **Question:** In the section labeled “To Be Completed By Grantee” DUNS Number, is this asking for the DUNS Number of the RFA or the grantee DUNS Number?

**Answer**: We are requesting the grantee DUNS number, if the grantee has one available.

1. **Question:** Are staff costs allowed as part of the grant? I don’t see that in the budget template. If yes, where should we assign those costs?

**Answer:** Yes, staff/personnel costs are an allowable expense for this grant. The budget template has been updated to reflect this. Please see the PDO Attachments B-E link below the PDO Request for Applications on the DMH Grant Opportunities website.

1. **Question:** Will NCHRC be providing the Naloxone, or do we need to include that as a line item?

**Answer:** NCHRC will not be providing naloxone; however, the state will be providing a limited amount of naloxone to each community during each year of the project. In addition, project staff will be helping communities discover additional methods of obtaining naloxone. Communities are also allowed, and encouraged, to include naloxone as a line item in their Budget Proposals since it is a key implementation activity for this project.

1. **Question:** Do we have to address each activity, or can we specialize in one or two? For example, focusing on referrals to care and supply of Naloxone?

**Answer:** While applicants are not required to address all of the implementation activities, we strongly encourage applicants to select a variety of activities to implement with PDO funding. We will prioritize applicants who demonstrate the capacity and readiness to meet the data collection requirements and whose projects support the overall goals and objectives of the PDO project.

1. **Question**: Can you clarify what is meant by household and recipient type in Attachment B?

**Answer**: For the purposes of the PDO grant, “Household” refers to the number of kits that were distributed to the household. For example, one family requests multiple kits, so 3 kits went to 1 household. “Recipient type” refers to who the kit(s) were given to, whether it was law enforcement, first responders, an individual at risk of experiencing an overdose event, a community member, etc.

1. **Question**: Can you clarify why only four sites will be selected through the RFA but ten sites will be funded through the project?

**Answer**: The RFA was originally released in April 2022. We funded six communities through that RFA but needed a more diverse pool of applicants, so we re-released the RFA in August to fund the additional four communities.

1. **Question**: Will grantees have access to the CSRS prescriber use data?

**Answer**: We understand that CSRS data can be difficult to obtain, so the PDO Evaluation Team will assist grantees in collecting this data as needed.

1. **Question**: Are counties who were funded through the first RFA eligible for additional funding through the second RFA?

**Answer**: No. We will not fund multiple organizations serving the same county. If your community was funded through the first RFA, we encourage you to connect with the funded organization and determine ways to partner on the project.

1. **Question**: For the naloxone data, are funded communities required to collect household income in the demographic data?

**Answer**: No. You will not be required to collect information related to income. However, we do encourage applicants to consider how socioeconomic factors are contributing to opioid misuse and overdose and include that information in the program narrative as part of the application.

1. **Question:** Are local governments eligible to apply?

**Answer**: The PDO funding opportunity is only available for non-profit organizations. While local governments are deemed ineligible, local health departments may apply.

1. **Question**: Who are the six currently funded communities?

**Answer**: The currently funded communities are Burke, Cabarrus, Carteret, Robeson, Stanly, and Surry counties.

1. **Question**: Does the community-based organization have to be a non-profit organization?

**Answer**: Yes. The community-based organization can be a public or private non-profit organization. If you are not a non-profit organization, you are welcome to partner with a non-profit organization to apply.

1. **Question**: Can one of the currently funded organizations apply for funding in another eligible county?

**Answer**: Yes. Currently funded organizations are welcome to apply for another eligible county under this Request for Applications.

1. **Question**: Can applicants include two counties in the same application?

**Answer**: No. Given the page limit for the program narrative, each county should have its own application so that the applicant can elaborate on why that community has the demonstrated need, capacity, and community readiness to successfully complete the project.

1. **Question**: Are there any restrictions or recommendations for the types of professionals who can be hired/funded under this Request for Applications? For example, peer support specialists versus prevention professionals versus licensed clinicians

**Answer**: No, there are no restrictions or recommendations on the types of professionals who can be hired/funded under this Request for Applications.

1. **Question**: Is Naloxone/Narcan an allowable purchase with this funding?

**Answer**: You are allowed, but not required, to use PDO funds to purchase naloxone/Narcan. Some naloxone/Narcan will be provided to each funded community, but we encourage communities to include additional naloxone/Narcan in their proposed budget as needed.

1. **Question**: If a partnering agency is providing naloxone for the project, is the applicant agency required to include a line item for naloxone in the budget?

**Answer**: No. If you do not plan to purchase naloxone with PDO funding, a budget line item is not required.

1. **Question**:Is in-kind documentation required?

**Answer**: Since there is not a matching requirement for the PDO project, in-kind documentation is not required. However, if you are receiving in-kind naloxone or LYM materials, the PDO Evaluation Team will expect you to report on that.

1. **Question**: Are there any unallowable budget line items (i.e. syringes or SHARPS containers)?

**Answer**: Yes. You will NOT be able to use PDO funds to purchase syringes although you may purchase other safer injection supplies such as wound care supplies.

1. **Question**: Are applicants only able to purchase nasal naloxone or is injectable naloxone allowable?

**Answer**: You may purchase either type of naloxone product depending on your specific community’s needs and capacity.

1. **Question**: Should applicants focus on the entire eligible county or can they focus on smaller pockets of the county that are experiencing higher rates of overdose?

**Answer**: The purpose of the PDO project is to reduce overdose-related deaths in high-need communities. If the data supports that *certain areas* are experiencing overdoses at a higher rate, then it would be appropriate to concentrate your efforts on those particular areas.

1. **Question**: Should applicants indicate plans to work with specific minority populations? Can minority groups be the target population for this project?

**Answer**: Yes, it is appropriate to indicate your plans to work with specific minority populations. The purpose of the PDO project is to reduce overdose-related deaths in high-need communities. If the data supports that certain minority groups are experiencing overdoses at a higher rate than other racial/ethnic groups, then it is appropriate to concentrate your efforts on that particular population.

1. **Question**: What data sources should applicants use to document the number of reversals?

**Answer**: For the purposes of reporting baseline data (Attachment B2) for this application, we recommend using local EMS data or any other data that might be available to you. For those who are awarded PDO funding, the PDO Evaluation Team will assist communities in determining the best data sources for tracking the required measures.

1. **Question**: Related to Goal 2B, is there a proportion of naloxone that should be distributed to first responders vs. high need communities?

**Answer**: No, there are not any requirements around how communities distribute naloxone among community groups. Applicants should plan to distribute naloxone based on the needs of the community.

1. **Question**: Can PDO funding be used to cover administrative costs?

**Answer**: Yes. Applicants are allowed to include the federal de minimus cost rate (10%) in the budget to cover administrative costs.

1. **Question:** There is a DNP student working in the community to launch a program around safer prescribing practices. Could that be incorporated into the project as well?

**Answer:** Because prescriber and dispenser education is an allowable strategy/activity through this RFA, this could be incorporated into the PDO project. However, we encourage applicants to consider a variety of strategies/activities, so applicants should keep that in mind as they build their proposal.