**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

**Opioids & COVID: Supporting Justice Involved Individuals with SUD during COVID**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| RFA Posted | 10/28/2020 | | |
| Questions Due | 11/30/2020 | | |
| Applications Due | 5:00 pm 12/14/2020 | | |
| Anticipated Notice of Award | 01/15/2021 | | |
| Anticipated Performance Period | 02/01/2021 – 9/30/2022 | | |
| Service | Substance Use Disorder | | |
| Issuing Agency | Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services | | |
| E-mail Applications and Questions to | Margaret Bordeaux | Email | [justiceandpublichealth@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:justiceandpublichealth@dhhs.nc.gov) |

**THIS REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)** advertises the Division’s need for the services described herein and solicits applications offering to provide those services pursuant to the specifications, terms and conditions specified herein. All applications received shall be treated as offers to contract. If the Division decides to accept an application, an authorized representative of the Department will sign in the space provided below. Acceptance shall create a contract that is effective as specified below.

**THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY SUBMITS THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION AND CERTIFIES THAT:** (1) he or she is authorized to bind the named Contractor to the terms of this RFA and Application; (2) the Contractor hereby offers and agrees to provide services in the manner and at the costs described in this RFA and Application; (3) this Application shall be valid for 60 days after the end of the application period in which it is submitted.

**To Be Completed by Applicant(s):**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Applicant Agency Name: | Counties to be Served: |
| Applicant’s Street Address: | Email Address: |
| City, State & Zip: | Telephone Number: |
| Name & Title of Authorized Representative: | DUNS Number: |
| Signature of Authorized Representative: | Date: |

**Unsigned or Incomplete Applications Shall Be Returned Without Being Reviewed**

**NOTICE OF AWARD/FOR NC DHHS USE ONLY**: Application accepted and Contract # awarded on

. The Contract shall begin on , and shall terminate on .

By: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Authorized Representative Printed Name of Authorized Representative Title of Authorized Representative

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# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This request for applications (RFA) is to advance the goals outlined in the North Carolina Opioid Action Plan to prevent future opioid addiction by addressing the needs of justice-involved individuals with substance use disorder and expanding access to treatment and recovery support.

**1.1 PURPOSE**

The purpose of the grants awarded under this program is to advance the goal of the North Carolina Opioid Action Plan to reduce opioid overdose deaths by implementing key strategies under Connect to Care: Address the needs of justice involved populations.

Justice involved individuals with substance use disorder are in critical need of support during the COVID pandemic.

**1.2 BACKGROUND**

The COVID19 pandemic presents a double risk for people that are involved in the justice system. Persons that are incarcerated have been identified as an at-risk population for COVID-19 transmissions, with correctional facilities across the US and in North Carolina being a site of multiple COVID-19 outbreaks and individuals living in congregate settings being one of the most vulnerable groups in this current pandemic. Correctional health is intricately linked to community health, so supporting individuals leaving the justice system in their re-entry to their community is an important opportunity to prevent community transmission.

COVID-19 has also had a disproportionate impact on communities of color, who have been historically marginalized from access to healthcare, substance use treatment and other resources. African Americans and LatinX/Hispanic communities make up a disproportionate number of North Carolina’s COVID-19 laboratory confirmed cases and deaths. African Americans make up an estimated 22% of North Carolina’s population and 31% (as of May 26, 2020) of laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases and 35% of deaths. LatinX/Hispanic populations make 9.6% of North Carolina's population and 35% of confirmed COVID-19 cases. People who use drugs from historically marginalized populations (African Americans, Latinx, Native Americans, Immigrants, Refugees, and LGBTQ people) are also more likely to be justice-involved. Research shows people of color experience discrimination at every stage of the criminal justice system and are more likely to be stopped, searched, arrested, convicted, harshly sentenced, and saddled with a lifelong criminal record. This is particularly the case for drug law violations. Nearly 80% of people in federal prison and almost 60% of people in state prison for drug offenses are black or Latino.

In addition, this population has an increased risk of overdose post-release. People recently released from incarceration are 40 times more likely to die of an overdose in the first two weeks post release, and drug overdose continues to be one of the leading causes of death for people recently released from correctional settings. Studies have shown that connections to treatment and care among this population can significantly decrease overdose risks and other undesired health outcomes. However, connections to care during COVID19 are increasingly difficult, as many services may be taking fewer individuals, operating reduced or modified hours, or not operating.

These efforts must be met with appropriate and evidence-based strategies and programming to link individuals with substance use disorder (SUD) to appropriate care, provide access to culturally inclusive services, and reduce their vulnerabilities to COVID-19, overdose mortality, and recidivism. Jails provide unique opportunities to promote public health crisis interventions that can have a meaningful impact on individual, community and societal levels.

For this funding opportunity, NC DHHS recognizes the following as historically marginalized populations:

* African Americans,
* Latinx,
* Native Americans/American Indians,
* Immigrants,
* Refugees, and
* LGBTQ people.

**To achieve this purpose, eligible applicants may apply to implement Option 1 (Strategies A and/or B) or Option 2 as highlighted below. More details are in the Project Requirements section.**

**Option 1:**

Strategy A: Pre-arrest or post arrest diversion programs, such as Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD Programs) and Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiatives (PAARI), or pre-trial diversion programs, that divert people who commit low-level crimes to appropriate harm reduction, social/health services, treatment, and recovery services.

Strategy B. Comprehensive re-entry planning and navigation support programs support people in navigating treatment and support options during COVID-19, and connecting to the needed treatment, harm reduction programs, and other support services upon release. These programs should also provide naloxone upon release, education on how to prevent overdoses, how to respond to an overdose and how to access community resources.

**Option 2:**

Technical Assistance Manager to provide support and oversight for programs implementing pre- or post-arrest diversion programs, comprehensive re-entry and discharge programs, or other linkage to care programs.

# 2.0 ELIGIBILITY

The *Opioids & COVID: Supporting* Justice Involved Individuals with SUD during COVID funds are available to: local government entities (e.g. local law enforcement agencies, jails, community corrections, health departments, EMS agencies, etc.), substance use disorder treatment providers, hospitals, health centers, clinics, pharmacies, or other non-profit or for-profit organizations that have a clear history of working with the justice involved persons or people who use drugs.

All applicants must demonstrate a strong working relationship with local law enforcement agencies, jails, courts, or other partners required to implement the proposed programs.

# 3.0 AWARD INFORMATION

This initiative is funded by the Governor’s Mental Health and Substance Use Task Force funds. Total **Anticipated Funding**: $10,600,000

**Anticipated Number of Awards**: It is anticipated that a minimum of 14 awards will be funded through this initiative

**Anticipated Award Amount**:

Applicants for Option 1, Strategy A or B may request up to $250,000 per year for two years (total award: $500,000)

Applicants selecting Option1, both strategy A *and* B, the maximum award amount is $350,000 per year for two years (total award: $700,000)

Applicants for Option 2 may request up to $500,000 per year for up to two years. (total award: $1,000,000)

Length of Project: Up to 2 years

Applications will be reviewed and ranked according to the evaluation criteria outlined in the RFA. Applicants must submit a budget detailing the costs for this project that complies with the requirement in this RFA.

It is anticipated that awards will be announced by January 15, 2021.

The Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services will notify grant recipients electronically via email. Contracts are anticipated to be effective October 1, 2020- September 30, 2022.

**4.0 SCOPE OF WORK**

An applicant can apply for activities under Option 1 (strategies A and/or B) OR Option 2. An applicant cannot apply for both Option 1 and Option 2. The application should clearly state which strategies it is applying for, and lay out how all the proposed activities included in the program fall under one of these options.

**Option 1:**

Strategy A: Pre-arrest or post arrest diversion programs, such as Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD Programs) and Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiatives (PAARI), or pre-trial diversion programs, that divert people who commit low-level crimes to appropriate harm reduction, social/health services, treatment, and recovery services.

Strategy B. Comprehensive re-entry planning and navigation support programs support people in navigating treatment and support options during COVID-19, and connecting to the needed treatment, harm reduction programs, and other support services upon release. These programs should also provide naloxone upon release, education on how to prevent overdoses, how to respond to an overdose and how to access community resources.

**Option 2:**

Technical Assistance Manager to provide support and oversight for programs implementing pre- or post-arrest diversion programs, comprehensive re-entry and discharge programs, or other linkage to care programs.

**5.0 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND PRIORITIES**

All proposals must include:

* A plan for identifying individuals to be included in the program, including any use of screening and assessment tools as appropriate
* A description of how programs will plan for warm transfers from justice partners to appropriate community services and supports; plan may include use of peer support, care coordination or case management.

All proposals must include:

* A plan for identifying individuals to be included in the program, including any use of screening and assessment tools as appropriate
* A description of how programs will plan for warm transfers from justice partners to appropriate community services and supports; plan may include use of peer support, care coordination or case management.

Applicants must confirm that they are meeting all requirements of the specific programs they are proposing to implement in the Application.

**Option 1, Strategy A Program Requirements** : Pre-arrest Diversion programs, such as Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD Programs) and Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiatives (PAARI), or Pre-trial Diversion programs that divert individuals who commit low-level, non-violent, or drug related crimes to appropriate harm reduction, social/health services, treatment, and recovery services.

* Applications must identify the law enforcement agency and local court system partners committed to implementing diversion programs and indicate evidence of commitment and coordination in the application or through letters of support.
* Applications must identify the county Sheriff and other local law enforcement leaders in support of implementing diversion programs
* Outline and describe how participants will be selected for the diversion process and programmatic plans to prioritize historically marginalized populations for diversion. Programs will be required to report demographic information of program participants and individuals served.
* Identify community-based partners and supportive services committed to working with law enforcement and justice systems to ensure availability of resources and referrals for law enforcement and courts to implement diversion programs. Please specify the type of behavioral health, substance use treatment, and other needed services (e.g. primary care, harm reduction, housing, food, job training, etc.) that will be provided to program participants.
  + If your program does not have a diversion coordinator who supports the program by coordinating linkage to care such as behavioral health, substance use treatment, and other needed services, this funding can support someone in this role. Peer support specialists who have lived experience and/or come from directly impacted communities should be considered.
* Include implementation and sustainability plan for naloxone distribution and overdose prevention education to individuals in the diversion program. Budget must include a line item to purchase and distribute naloxone kits.

**Option 1, Strategy B Program Requirements:** Comprehensive re-entry and jail discharge programs are designed to connect returning citizens to appropriate behavioral health and substance use treatments and supportive services upon release from incarceration. To be eligible to receive funds applicants must:

* Identify the law enforcement agency and local jail partners committed to supporting comprehensive re-entry and jail discharge planning programs and provide evidence of commitment that outlines support of what is proposed in project narrative. If the applicant is not a law enforcement agency, Sheriff’s office or Detention Center, application must include a letter of support from the law enforcement agency
* Design a linkage-to-care process that will be used to engage at-risk individuals prior to release from jail, or a description of referral and intake processes and jail discharge planning.
  + The program must have a dedicated linkage coordinator to connect people to behavioral health, substance use treatment, and other needed services. People who have lived experience and/or come from directly impacted communities should be prioritized.
* Outline specific, evidence-based re-entry services that will be provided and describe how these services reduce the risk of overdose among justice-involved individuals, including strategies for connecting individuals to community jail-based MAT upon release from jail and referrals to accessible housing.
  + Linkage and navigation services should be based on the identified needs of the individual and can include navigation to primary care, job training, harm reduction, hepatitis C treatment, etc.
* Outline and describe how participants will be selected for re-entry services and programmatic plans to prioritize historically marginalized populations for program inclusion. Programs will be required to report demographic information of program participants and individuals served.
* Outline and describe how participants will be selected for re-entry services and programmatic plans to prioritize historically marginalized populations for program inclusion. Programs will be required to report demographic information of program participants and individuals served.
* Identify and respond to re-entry program challenges and service gaps related to COVID-19 and how the project plans to address these challenges.
* Include naloxone distribution to individuals and overdose prevention education upon release from incarceration.

**Option 2 Program Requirements:** Justice & Health Technical Assistance (TA) Manager that provides support and oversight to programs developing justice-involved programs in response to COVID-19 to reduce recidivism and overdose risks, prioritizing applicants selected in Option 1 Strategies (A) and (B). Utilizing harm reduction, public health, and healthcare approaches are required. Applicants must:

* Provide clinical expertise on evidence-based best practices for treating individuals with substance use disorder to each recipient of this Justice & Health RFA to improve health outcomes.
* Provide onboarding training to applicants selected in Strategies (A) and (B). Training must include best practices for program implementation, cultural humility and working with persons who use drugs, and centering race and equity in their work. TA Manager may provide this training themselves or work with experienced partners to provide this training.
* Provide a detailed technical assistance plan that includes method, frequency, and audience of TA to support programs from orientation to implementation and sustainability. In addition, the plan must include monitoring by troubleshooting as needs arise and through proactive engagement, including but not limited to monthly technical assistance calls with each recipient of this Justice & Health RFA. Additional technical assistance described can include:
* Virtual or in-person training sessions
* Program assessments
* Site visits, as appropriate with COVID-19 precautions
* Dissemination of resources
* Coaching calls
* Work with identified partner organizations including law enforcement, jails, and other community partners committed to implementing pre- and post-arrest diversion programs, comprehensive re-entry planning and navigation support programs, medication-assisted treatment in jails, and other linkage-to-care initiatives with justice-involved people.
* Demonstrate a history of working with jails and connecting at-risk individuals to evidence-based behavioral health, SUD interventions, and other needed support services. Evidence of this history must be demonstrated through letters of support.
* Designate at least one individual with lived experience and/or familiarity with the justice system to provide guidance to partnering programs.

**6.0 PERFORMANCE OVERSIGHT**

The Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services assumes responsibility for monitoring the performance of the selected applicants and the outcomes of these projects.

**7.0 TERM OF AWARD, OPTIONS TO EXTEND**

The performance period for this project begins February 1, 2021 and ends September 30, 2022. Grant funds awarded are one-time only funds and may not be extended beyond the contract term.

# 8.0 BUDGET

Use the budget template provided with this RFA (see Justice & Health RFA Budget Template); if the budget template is not used, zero points will be awarded for the budget section. The budget should be for the two twelve-month periods February 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 and October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022. This should be a project specific budget, NOT the budget for your entire organization.

**9.0 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Successful awardees must submit Financial Status Reports on a monthly basis, depicting accurate expenditures from the previous month for payment no later than the 10th of the month post expenditure. Backup documentation for the Financial Status Reports must be available upon request.

Successful awardees must submit Quarterly Progress Reports must be submitted no later than the 15th of the month after each quarter. Progress Reports are due no later than:

• January 15th – Quarter 1 Report (October, November and December)

• April 15th – Quarter 2 Report (January, February and March)

• July 15th – Quarter 3 Report (April, May and June)

If this contract is terminated prior to the original end date, the Contractor is required to submit a final reimbursement report and to return any unearned funds to the Division within 30 days of the contract termination date or no later than June 10. All payments are contingent upon fund availability.

# 10.0 APPLICATION CONTENT AND INSTRUCTIONS

The grant application must be submitted as the following two files:

1. One consolidated PDF file with the following:
   1. A written narrative document, limited to ten pages, single-spaced with 1” margins written in Arial font size 11.
   2. Letters of support (do not count towards page limit).
2. Completed budget template (provided) - to be submitted as a separate Excel file.

**Cover Page** with all fields completed, signed by an authorized official of the Applicant organization (not inclusive in the 10-page limit). Please see cover page template in **Appendix A.**

**Proposal Summary (0 points)**

Provide a brief (no more than 500 words) overview of your planned project. Must include a purpose statement describing how your application will address justice and health. Indicate whether your applying under Option 1 or Option 2 *Required, not scored. However, 1 point will be deducted for an incomplete summary, and 2 points will be deducted for a missing summary.*

**Organization Background and Qualifications (5 points)**

Provide your organization name, counties served/operated in and organization type. Describe your organization and its qualifications for funding, including history of work with people involved in the justice system and history of work with people impacted by substance use, and outcomes/successes of past projects related to the Justice & Health RFA.

**Assessment of Need (Problem Statement) (10 points)**

Include a description of your organization’s needs, population(s) served, geographic area covered by proposed projects, the priority population that this planned project will serve; estimated number of people served by the project; needs of historically marginalized populations in community; identified needs of the population served, including the needs of historically marginalized populations in the community, and ability of the project to meet the needs of the population served and community impact. Applications will be assessed for the inclusion of participant involvement and/or input from communities most impacted in the assessment of need.

Option 1: Provide demographic data, including age, gender, sexual orientation, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status (including housing and employment status), health insurance status, opioid data (death, emergency department visits, and hospitalizations), etc. in the prioritized community. Provide any other pertinent information as it relates to the need for this project in this community.

Option 2: Demonstrate your organization’s experience meeting technical assistance needs of partners, including partners serving people who use drugs, justice-involved populations, and historically marginalized populations.

Applicants should provide citations/reference sources for all community demographic and health status data. Much of the required data is available here:

* Injury and Violence Prevention Poisoning Data <http://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/DataSurveillance/Poisoning.htm>
* NC Opioid Dashboard <https://injuryfreenc.shinyapps.io/OpioidActionPlan/>
* COVID-19 North Carolina Dashboard <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard>
* NC State Center for Health Statistics Data <https://schs.dph.ncdhhs.gov/data/hsa/>
* NC Social Determinants of Health Dashboard <http://nc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=def612b7025b44eaa1e0d7af43f4702b>

Determination of need will be based on NC DPH IVP surveillance data for overdose burden and NCDHHS surveillance data for COVID-19.

**Project Description and Narrative (15 points)**

Describe your proposed project, in detail. Include how you plan to implement the project. Clearly identify which of the two options you are proposing to implement, and how you will meet the requirements listed under **Project Requirements** for that option. If selecting Option 1, indicate if you plan to implement Strategy A, B, or both. Explain how you will engage the priority population and individuals with lived experience in developing this proposed project, including historically marginalized populations. Detail how this project will address the organization’s needs. Describe how you will meet the program goals of your chosen option. Include a timeline for project implementation with specific program objectives as they relate to performance measures and budget (e.g. hiring staff or contractors, enrolling participants, etc.) If you are applying for both Strategy A and B under Option 1, you must address both strategies in your project description and narrative; and also submit a separate budget for each strategy.

**Collaboration and Community Support (15 points)**

Describe how you will collaborate on this project or initiative with other relevant organizations in your community, and how this project will improve the collaboration between local stakeholders or engage new stakeholders. Describe how you will verify that projects or services are not being duplicated in the community and with the population served. Describe how you will incorporate people with lived experience and directly impacted communities into your collaborations. Describe how you will ensure that people have equitable access to your programs.

If the project involves **direct collaboration or joint collaboration** with other partners, these partners should submit letters of support clearly describing their organization’s roles and responsibilities and agreement to participate. Each key partner referenced in the application narrative and/or the budget should have an accompanying letter of support to demonstrate evidence of collaboration. The partnership highlighted in the letter of support should also be reflected in the application narrative.

**All applicants must include a letter of support from each of the following:**

* **one local organization(s) who works to link justice-involved people to care, including linkages to harm reduction, social/health services, treatment, and recovery services.**
* **one local government public safety agency (such as your local Sheriff’s Office or detention center).**

Letters of support should be included with your grant application PDF file as an appendix and will not count toward the narrative page limit of this RFA. Please do not have letters sent separately to the Division. Only letters that are included in your application file will be read by reviewers.

**Project Evaluation (10 points)**

Describe how you will evaluate your project. All project evaluation plans must indicate willingness to work with NCDHHS and selected technical assistance managers.

For option 1, include the project’s influence on increasing the linkage of justice-involved persons to care, including harm reduction, social/health services, treatment, and recovery services. Also, describe how you will engage the priority population in assisting with the evaluation of this project. The evaluation will include the required performance measures (below) and how you will monitor the project. Describe how you will collect key metrics in your project and describe the metrics that you will evaluate.

Option 1 Required Performance Measures to track during the project:

* Number of unique individuals served
* Number of contacts with individuals
* Demographic information, including race, ethnicity, age, and gender identity of program participants and individuals served
* Demographic information, including race, ethnicity, age, and gender identity of baseline population (demographics of detention center or current program participants if applicable, or demographics of population program is aiming to serve)
* Number of connections to partner services
* Type of partner services connected to (MAT, other treatment, other recovery supports, SSP services, social services, etc)
* Number of naloxone kits distributed by the program
* Number of referrals made to obtain naloxone from another source
* Challenges to completing project goals, strategies for overcoming these challenges, and lessons learned from engaging in the work

For option 2, include the project’s impact on how programs are able to better implement their support of justice-involved persons.

Option 2 Required Performance Measure to track during the project:

* Number of programs provided with technical assistance
* Types of technical assistance provided
* Frequency of technical assistance provided
* Challenges in providing technical assistance, strategies for overcoming these challenges, and lessons learned from engaging in the work

**Potential Impact (20 points)**

Explain why the proposed project is a good use of funding. Describe the potential health impact and other effects on the population the programs will serve, and the community more broadly. Describe how the project will reduce opioid overdose deaths, increase access to services and supports for historically marginalized populations, and support social distancing measures during COVID19. Use research on program outcomes to identify what works. Use research on program outcomes to identify what works. Whenever possible, quantify the possible economic savings and/or gains brought about by the project through program specific data. For option 2, indicate these potential impacts based on the technical assistance your program provides.

**Organizational Sustainability (15 points)**

Describe how the project will contribute to or promote the capacity or your organization or your community over time to prevent opioid use disorders and overdose deaths and respond to COVID-19 related concerns among justice-involved individuals. Applications must describe how the enhancements, improvements, or increases achieved during the grant year may be sustained past the funding secured during the grant term. Describe obstacles that may affect your organization’s ability to sustain this program after the grant cycle and potential solutions to these identified challenges. Detail any funding from other sources that will be used towards this project. Organizations demonstrating funding from other sources or leadership commitment to sustain programs beyond the end of the grant year will be scored higher.

**Line Item Budget and Budget Narrative (10 points)**

Use the budget template provided with this RFA (see Justice & Health RFA Budget Template); if the budget template is not used, zero points will be awarded for the budget section. The budget should be for the two twelve-month periods February 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 and October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022. This should be a project specific budget, NOT the budget for your entire organization.

**For applicants submitting applications to Option 1, A and B, a separate budget is required for each strategy (A and B).**

* Human Resources – Staff salaries and expenses for all staff working on the project should be entered into Human Resources. In the narrative (column H), include details about the specific role each staff member will play on the project.
* Operational Expenses – Detail the cost breakdown for the project. Include all relevant details for each line item in the narrative. If items are broken down by unit, include the number of units and the price per unit. **For Option 1 (A and B) a line item is required for naloxone and other medications such as those to treat Opioid Use Disorder and other behavioral health, mental health, and psychosocial needs.**
* Subcontracting Expenses - For each of the subcontractors on the project, please provide the name of the organization column A. Provide the total amount for Period 1 and 2. In the narrative (column H) provide the description of what this partner plans to contribute to the project. Note that a full breakdown of the subcontractor's expenses is not required for this application but we encourage these details to be decided upon before the start of the funding cycle.

For Option 1 A & B: Budget is required to have a line item for naloxone and other medications, such as those to treat OUD and other behavioral health, mental health, and psychosocial needs.

Funds may not be used to purchase vehicles or pay down existing

mortgages and/or other loans. Funds may not be used for construction of new facilities.

**11.0 EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SCORING**

Applications will be evaluated by a team of grant reviewers. Points will be allocated as indicated in the application content and instructions section of this RFA. Applications that are submitted late, or not following the submission instructions, will not be considered.

Applications are reviewed by a multi-disciplinary committee of health and human services providers who are familiar with the subject matter. Staff from applicant organizations may not participate as reviewers. Applications will be evaluated by a committee according to completeness, content, experience with similar projects, ability of the organization’s staff, cost, etc. The award of funds to one organization does not mean that the other applications lacked merit, but that, all facts considered, the selected application was deemed to provide the best service to the State.

Organizations are cautioned that this is a request for applications, and the funding agency reserves the unqualified right to reject any and all applications when such rejections are deemed to be in the best interest of the funding agency.

**12.0 SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

Grant applications should be emailed to [justiceandpublichealth@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:justiceandpublichealth@dhhs.nc.gov) by 5:00 p.m. ET on December 14, 2020.  
  
Only electronic copies that are sent to the above email address will be accepted. Applications must be submitted with two files: one consolidated PDF file including letters of support; and completed budget using the provided Excel template.  
  
**Multiple application documents or separate attachments will not be reviewed. Incomplete applications and applications not completed in accordance with the instructions will not be reviewed. Late applications will not be reviewed.**   
  
Technical Assistance: A webinar to review the Justice & Health: Communities Supporting Justice-Involved Individuals during COVID-19 RFA will be scheduled for late November 2020.  
  
Questions regarding the grant application may be directed to Margaret Bordeaux or Elyse Powell by email at [justiceandpublichealth@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:justiceandpublichealth@dhhs.nc.gov).  
  
Questions may be submitted through November 30, 2020. Frequently Asked Questions will be posted on the DMHDDSAS website at: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/about/grant-opportunities/mental-health-developmentaldisabilities-substance-abuse-services-grant-opportunities>

**13.0 HELPFUL RESOURCES**

North Carolina Opioid Action Plan

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/about/department-initiatives/opioid-epidemic/north-carolinas-opioid-action-plan>

National Sheriffs Association Jail Based MAT guide

<https://www.sheriffs.org/Jail-Based-MAT>

SAMHSA Guide to MAT in Criminal Justice Settings

[Use of Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder in Criminal Justice Settings](https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Use-of-Medication-Assisted-Treatment-for-Opioid-Use-Disorder-in-Criminal-Justice-Settings/PEP19-MATUSECJS)

RTI International Primer for Implementation of Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution in Jails and Prisons

<https://harmreduction.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Naloxone-Prison-Primer_v2.pdf>

Naloxone Saves NC

[www.naloxonesaves.org](http://www.naloxonesaves.org)

Pre-arrest Diversion Program

[www.nchrc.org/lead/law-enforcement-assisted-diversion](http://www.nchrc.org/lead/law-enforcement-assisted-diversion)

NC Safer Syringe Initiative

[www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/north-carolina-safer-syringe-initative](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/north-carolina-safer-syringe-initative)

North Carolina Certified Peer Support Specialist Program

<https://pss.unc.edu>

Partnering with Jails to Provide Re-entry

<https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/29146/412211-Partnering-with-Jails-to-Improve-Reentry-A-Guidebook-for-Community-Based-Organizations.PDF>

More Powerful NC – Law Enforcement Resources During COVID-19

<https://www.morepowerfulnc.org/get-the-facts/law-enforcement-resources-during-covid-19/>

More Powerful NC – Justice System Response

<https://www.morepowerfulnc.org/get-the-facts/justice-system-response/>

Drug User Health Resource Guide

<https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/hepatitis/DrugUserHealthResourceGuide_2.19.20-WEB.pdf>

Transforming The System

<https://transformingthesystem.org>

COVID-19 Resources for People Who Use Drugs and Other Vulnerable Communities

<https://www.vitalstrategies.org/drug-use-covid-resources/>

Care First, Jails Last

<https://lacalternatives.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ATI_Full_Report_single_pages.pdf>

**Appendix A- Cover page template**

**To Be Completed by Applicant(s):**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Applicant Name: | County: |
| Applicant’s Street Address: | Email Address: |
| City, State & Zip: | Telephone Number: |
| Name & Title of Authorized Representative: | DUNS Number: |
| Program Strategies Selected (Please circle one)  Option 1, Strategy A Option 1, Strategy B Option 1, Strategy A and B Option 2 | |
| Counties served through the programs (list counties): |  |
| Signature of Authorized Representative: | Date: |

**Appendix B**

# OVERVIEW OF THE SOLICITATION PROCESS

The following is a general description of the process by which agencies or organizations will be selected to complete the goal or objective.

1. RFAs are being sent to prospective agencies and organizations.
2. Written questions concerning the RFA specifications will be received until the date specified on the cover sheet of this RFA. A summary of all questions and answers will be posted on the RFA website.
3. Applications will be received from each agency or organization. The original must be signed and dated by an official authorized to bind the agency or organization.
4. All applications must be received by the funding agency not later than the date and time specified on the cover sheet of the RFA. Faxed applications will not be accepted.
5. Applications from each responding agency and organization will be logged in at the date and time received.
6. At their option, the evaluators may request additional information from any or all Applicants for the purpose of clarification or to amplify the materials presented in any part of the application. However, agencies and organizations are cautioned that the evaluators are not required to request clarification: therefore, all applications should be complete and reflect the most favorable terms available from the agency or organization.
7. Applications will be evaluated according to completeness, content, experience with similar projects, ability of the agency's or organization's staff, cost, etc. The award of a grant to one agency and organization does not mean that the other applications lacked merit, but that, all facts considered, the selected application was deemed to provide the best service to the State.
8. Agencies and organizations are cautioned that this is a request for applications, and the funding agency reserves the unqualified right to reject any and all applications when such rejections are deemed to be in the best interest of the funding agency.

# GENERAL INFORMATION ON SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

1. Award or Rejection   
   All qualified applications will be evaluated and awarded to those agencies or organizations whose capabilities are deemed to be in the best interest of the funding agency. The funding agency reserves the unqualified right to reject any or all offers if determined to be in its best interest. Successful Contractors will be notified no later than 1/15/21.
2. Cost of Application Preparation  
   Any cost incurred by an agency or organization in preparing or submitting an application is the agency's or organizations sole responsibility; the funding agency will not reimburse any agency or organization for any pre-award costs incurred.
3. Elaborate Applications  
   Elaborate applications in the form of brochures or other presentations beyond that necessary to present a complete and effective application are not desired.
4. Oral Explanations  
   The funding agency will not be bound by oral explanations or instructions given at any time during the competitive process or after awarding the grant.
5. Reference to Other Data  
   Only information that is received in response to this RFA will be evaluated; reference to information previously submitted will not suffice.
6. Titles  
   Titles and headings in this RFA and any subsequent RFA are for convenience only and shall have no binding force or effect.
7. Form of Application   
   Each application must be submitted on the form provided by the funding agency.
8. Exceptions  
   All applications are subject to the terms and conditions outlined herein. All responses will be controlled by such terms and conditions. The attachment of other terms and condition by any agency and organization may be grounds for rejection of that agency or organization's application.
9. Advertising   
   In submitting its application, agencies and organizations agree not to use the results therefrom or as part of any news release or commercial advertising without prior written approval of the funding agency.
10. Right to Submitted Material   
    All responses, inquiries, or correspondence relating to or in reference to the RFA, and all other reports, charts, displays, schedules, exhibits, and other documentation submitted by the agency or organization will become the property of the funding agency when received.
11. Competitive Offer   
    Pursuant to the provision of G.S. 143-54, and under penalty of perjury, the signer of any application submitted in response to this RFA thereby certifies that this application has not been arrived at collusively or otherwise in violation of either Federal or North Carolina antitrust laws.
12. Agency and Organization's Representative   
    Each agency or organization shall submit with its application the name, address, and telephone number of the person(s) with authority to bind the agency or organization and answer questions or provide clarification concerning the application.
13. Subcontracting  
    Agencies and organizations may propose to subcontract portions of work provided that their applications clearly indicate the scope of the work to be subcontracted, and to whom. All information required about the prime grantee is also required for each proposed subcontractor.
14. Proprietary Information   
    Trade secrets or similar proprietary data which the agency or organization does not wish disclosed to other than personnel involved in the evaluation will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by NCAC TO1: 05B.1501 and G.S. 132-1.3 if identified as follows: Each page shall be identified in boldface at the top and bottom as "CONFIDENTIAL." Any section of the application that is to remain confidential shall also be so marked in boldface on the title page of that section.
15. Participation Encouraged   
    Pursuant to Article 3 and 3C, Chapter 143 of the North Carolina General Statutes and Executive Order No. 77, the funding agency invites and encourages participation in this RFA by businesses owned by minorities, women and the disabled including utilization as subcontractor(s) to perform functions under this Request for Applications.
16. Federal Certifications
    * 1. Agencies or organizations receiving Federal funds will be required to execute Federal Certifications regarding Non-discrimination, Drug-Free Workplace, Environmental Tobacco Smoke, Debarment, Lobbying, and Lobbying Activities. A copy of the Federal Certifications is included in this RFA for your reference (see Appendix B). Federal Certifications should NOT be signed or returned with the application.