**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services**

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

**RFA Questions and Answers**

**RFA #:** DMH25-005

**RFA Title:** *Community Based Substance Use Disorders Services Access – Priority populations and areas with elevated rates of overdose or limited access*

**Addendum Number**: 2

**Number of questions answered in this document:** 152

**Questions and Responses**

1. **Question:** When will the awarded organizations be announced?

**Answer:** Awards will be announced on December 12, 2025.

1. **Question:** Are there percentage limitations of Capital expenditures, operational expenditures, etc?

**Answer:** For a complete list of budget guidance, expense limits, and unallowable expenses, please refer to pages 16-18 of the RFA and SAMSHA's Budget Guidance found here: https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/grants/budget-guidance.pdf

1. **Question:** Could we get copies of successfully funded proposals for comparable projects with redacted information?

**Answer:** This is NCDHHS's first publication of this RFA, so there are no examples we can provide.

1. **Question:** What’s the ideal length of proposal?

**Answer:** There is no ideal length for an application. Each application should aim to answer each section of the RFA with enough relevant detail to allow for a thorough review of the proposal.

1. **Question:** The RFA states that there are no page limits for F, G, H, or I - what do you anticipate is needed for each?

**Answer:** For each section without a page limit, the length of the section should be determined solely by what is necessary and sufficient to provide the context and information requested in each section. There is no anticipated length for each of those sections.

1. **Question:** Can you award more than one organization per county?

**Answer:** Yes, multiple organizations may be awarded in a county.

1. **Question:** What word are you saying - supters grant?

**Answer:** SUPTRS - Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant. You can read more about it here: <https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/block-grants/subg>

1. **Question:** If awarded the grant, will there be a follow up time to give outcomes data? How much follow up is required?

**Answer:** Yes, for the purposes of these funds, applicants should expect to report on outcomes. At minimum this will include quarterly reports and an annual report. The content in those reports will be unique to each project's Scope of Work.

1. **Question:** Is this grant exlusively for non-profit ? Are for profit groups eligible ?

**Answer:** This grant is exclusively for nonprofit organizations, not-for-profit organizations, and public entities. For-profit groups are inelligible to receive grant funds for this grant.

1. **Question:** Should the questions be copied over word for word from the RFA into a Word document or can we label them by numbers- example C1, C2, D1, etc.…

**Answer:** Questions do not need to be copied over word for word from the RFA. As long as an application is clearly organized to answer each section of the grant, and designated with headers, that will be sufficient.

1. **Question:** Can services be intergrated into existing programs as an expansion or does the project need to stand alone?

**Answer:** Funds can be used to expand services for already existing programs.

1. **Question:** Is this a SAMHSA funded grant

**Answer:** Yes, funds from this grant are a portion of SAMHSA's Substance Use Block Grant (SUBG, previously titled SUPTRS BG). More information can be found here: <https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/block-grants/subg>

1. **Question:** What is the geographical scope of the grant

**Answer:** The geographcal scope of this RFA is the state of North Carolina, in any of its 100 counties.

1. **Question:** How many awards will be made?

**Answer:** At least 12 awards will be made. The total award for this grant is $6 million. There is a $500,000 cap for each application. More than 12 awards may be made depending on the budgets for successful applications.

1. **Question:** On page 25, Section F, it asks for work plans, timelines, schedules and transition plans. I don't understand if there's a substantial difference between these types of documents for the purposes of this grant application. Do you want four separate implementation plans?

**Answer:** No, we do not want four separate implementation plans. Work plans detail the work that needs to be done. Timelines detail the dates that will be associated with the aspects of the work plan. Schedules detail a daily or weekly schedule of programming. A transition plan details how an organization will incorporate the new project or program within its current operations.

1. **Question:** Can the same org be awarded for initiatives in different catchment areas?

**Answer:** Organizations may only be funded one award through this RFA. However, the initiative/project may span multiple counties and catchment areas.

1. **Question:** I own a profit SUD business and a non profit for SUD. Can I apply under both?

**Answer:** No. For profit businesses are inelligible for this RFA.

1. **Question:** What’s a priority population?

**Answer:** For the purposes of this RFA priority populations are disproportionately impacted by overdose, hospitalizations and/or barriers to treatment.

1. **Question:** What kinds of metrics are you looking for?

**Answer:** Quantitative and qualitative data that is relevant to the scope of an organization's proposal.

1. **Question:** What if you are an orgainzation that is based in another state but provide services in a County in NC? Will your organization be overlooked or judged the same way as a organization that is orginated in NC?

**Answer:** All programs and services funded by this grant must be provided in the state of North Carolina, even if the organization is not headquarted in the state.

1. **Question:**  What is the technical definition for a community organization.

**Answer:** A community based organization (CBO) is generally understood as a nonprofit and/or grassroots organization created, led, and operated by a specific community to address that community's needs/interests/priorities.

1. **Question:** Did you say that organizations that get state dollars can apply?

**Answer:** Yes, organizations that currently receive state dollars are eligible for this RFA.

1. **Question:** Can you show how to access the current data on the website NCDHHS Violence & Injury? What I see was from January 2025.

**Answer:** Current data can be found on the NCDHHS Injury & Violence Prevention Branch by clicking on the "Monthly Overdose Reports" on this page: <https://www.dph.ncdhhs.gov/programs/chronic-disease-and-injury/injury-and-violence-prevention-branch/north-carolina-overdose-epidemic-data#monthly-reports>

1. **Question:** Can the MOU with a partner agency be a for-profit agency if the submitting agency is a non-profit?

**Answer:** All subcontracts for core services to be performed under the application must be with non-profit entities.

1. **Question:** Do we only submit a 1-year budget or three?

**Answer:** Entities should provide annual budgets for 3 years as listed on page 5 under “Funding.”

1. **Question:** What kind of reporting will awardees be subject to?

**Answer:** For the purposes of these funds, applicants should expect to report on outcomes. At minimum this will include quarterly reports and an annual report. The content in those reports will be unique to each project's Scope of Work.

1. **Question:** Should the narrative follow the evaluation criteria sections on page 19, or the applicant's response sections starting on page 23? There is a slight difference between the two.

**Answer:** The full application should reflect the checklist on Page 20. The project proposal's narrative should follow the framework on starting on Page 23.

1. **Question:** The Budget link in the RFA isn't working. Can you provide a link to the budget template?

**Answer:** Yes, the budget worksheet can be accessed here: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mental-health-developmental-disabilities-and-substance-use-services/grants/mental-health-developmental-disabilities-and-substance-use-services-grant-opportunities#RFADMH25-00>

1. **Question:** Perhaps you can provide some clarification on how to understand the differences between the criteria listed on page 19 and then the requested headings named in the Applicant's response section on page 23. For example, "Proposal Summary, Organizational Background and Qualifications, and Assessment of Need" all match headings between pages 19 and 23. However, the criteria headings "Project Description, Collaboration and Community Support, and Potential Impact" on page 19 don't match up with the headings "Written Description of Grantee's Approach..., The Plan of Action, Project Implementation Plan, Staffing Plan, Sustainability, and Resolution of Challenges." Are we supposed to write responses with the criteria headings or responses with the applicant response headings?

**Answer:** Either headings are ultimately acceptable, however the applicant response headings may prove more helpful for applicants to ensure they answer all of the relevant questions. The criteria headings are for internal evaluation purposes and capture more broad categories than the applicant response headings. If all applicant response headings are addressed, it will ensure that you've met the requirements for the criteria headings.

1. **Question:** On page 24, Section D, 1). Do you want us to list project goals or project outcomes? It asks for goals but then just talks about outcomes.

**Answer:** For the purposes of this RFA, goals are broader aims of the proposal, and outcomes are the specific and measurable indications that a proposal is successful in beginning to achieve its goals.

1. **Question:** On page 24-25, I'm confused about "The Plan of Action". E,1) asks for inputs, activities and throughputs, strategies and methodologies, and schedules. What's a throughput in this context? Do we write a schedule of activities here AND in the section F Project Implementation Plan?

**Answer:** A throughput in this context describes the estimated amount of time for a specific outcome to be achieved (i.e. A service recipient undergoes an intake and is referred to external partner for MOUD services: 7 days). There is no need to repeat the schedule of activities for both sections. Applicants can provide a high-level summary for the purposes of section E and refer to the details provided in section F.

1. **Question:** On page 25, E, 3), it states "Once the measures have been selected, it is necessary to design a way to get the information (see project evaluation below). There is no Project Evaluation section. How do you advise?

**Answer:** There is no need for a fully formalized Evaluation Design for the purposes of this RFA. Please describe the steps that will be taken to gather and evaluate the data on the measures that have been selected to be reported on.

1. **Question:** On page 25, Section F, it asks for work plans, timelines, schedules and transition plans. I don't understand if there's a substantial difference between these types of documents for the purposes of this grant application. Do you want four separate implementation plans?

**Answer:** For the purposes of this section, we are not asking for four separate responses. It is intended that within your project plan, you should seek to cover these topics fully to explain how you will succeed in the work you are proposing.

1. **Question:** Page 1 of the RFA notes “Electronic copies of the application are available at: https://www.ncdhhs.gov/about/grant-opportunities/mental-health-developmental-disabilities-and-substance-abuse-services-grant-opportunities.” The referenced link connects to the RFA. Page 11 of the RFA notes “Applicants shall submit their application as one single, consolidated PDF file with all required attachments and scanned signatures to: rfa.responses@dhhs.nc.gov.” Please clarify if there is an electronic application/portal or do we submit a pdf of the application.

**Answer:** There is not an electronic application or portal to submit proposals. Applicants will compile their application by submitting the requried documents listed on Page 20 of the RFA. All documents should be submitted as one PDF file to [rfa.responses@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:rfa.responses@dhhs.nc.gov)

1. **Question:** Page 25 of the RFA notes “A description of how the Grantee will staff the project, including the name, resume and qualifications of each of the proposed team members (including subcontractors. (Note: This may need to go in the Appendix.” Please clarify what documents are to be included in the application’s Appendices.

**Answer:** As stated in the RFA, many sections have page limits and/or restrictions. We recognize that if you have a large project or organization, you would not be able to submit a huge number of resumes or qualifications. Thus, feel free to include any information you deem relevant to your application.

1. **Question:** Page 28 of the RFA, Item 6 describes requirements regarding subcontractors/subgrantees and the requirement to include information in the project’s budget/budget narrative. Regarding the bold text: should we complete this and submit it with the application or is this submitted if awarded the contract?

**Answer:** Please complete the information requested when submitting the application.

1. **Question:** Page 19 of RFA provides a table with evaluation criteria and scoring: How are points assigned to sections A-I on pages 23-25 of the RFA?

**Answer:** Items on page 23-25 encompass the majority of the items in the Rubric, outside of supporting documentation.

1. **Question:** Are letters of support required from every partner who will be receiving grant funding? Are LOS needed from others in the community?

**Answer:** Section VII.7 provides guidance on MOUs and Statement of Support.

1. **Question:** Is a Unique Entity Identifier required for this grant application?

**Answer:** Yes, a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) is required for organizations applying for federal grants and cooperative agreements, as well as for subgrantees and sub-awardees. This requirement is in accordance with 2 CFR Part 25.

1. **Question:** We are interested in sending an application in for RFA DMH25-005, Community Based Substance Use Disorders Service Access, and would like to know if we can apply for operational funding for a program that is not open yet but is likely to be operating prior to 7/1/2026.  Can the funding be used for a program that is already open or is it only to be used to open a new program?

**Answer:** Funds can be used for a program that is already open as long as those funds are used to address some of the gaps in access highlighted in the RFA.

1. **Question:** We are a small organization and I wanted to know if we have to partner with a government entity or non-profit to apply for this grant?

**Answer:** Non-profit organizations or not-for-profit organizations are not required to partner with a government entity or another non-profit organization in order to apply for this grant.

1. **Question:** Is rural or isolated given higher priority for funding?

**Answer:** Each proposal' will be evaluated based on the demonstration of the need in the submission.

1. **Question:** Do you require literature citations? If yes, can we put in the Appendix?

**Answer:** A bibliography in the Appendix is appropriate.

1. **Question:** Will awardees be required to complete GPRA surveys?

**Answer:** At this time, there are no requirements to complete the GPRA surveys for this funding source.

1. **Question:** Page Limit & Formatting – Does the project narrative have a page limit and specific formatting (font size, spacing, margins, file type)?

**Answer:** Page 24, section E states that there is a 10 page limit for "A description of how the Grantee will meet each of the requirements and deliverable described in the scope of work." For accessibility purposes, please use a widely accessible font at an 11pt font size.

1. **Question:** Submission Method – Is email to rfa.responses@dhhs.nc.gov the only required submission, or is a hard copy/portal upload also required?

**Answer:** A hard copy is not required for submission. All grants should be sumbitted via the rfa.responses@dhhs.nc.gov email address.

1. **Question:** Are faith-based nonprofits eligible if services are non-proselytizing and compliant with all requirements?

**Answer:** Yes, faith-based organizations are eligible to apply given services are compliant with the RFA's requirements.

1. **Question:** Do resumes, MOUs/Letters of Commitment, and IRS 501(c)(3) letters count toward the narrative page limit?

**Answer:** No, required and additional documentation does not count towards a page limit.

1. **Question:** Can letters of commitment or support from government entities be submitted for a proposed project by an applicant?

**Answer:** Yes, LOCs can be submitted from a government entity by an applicant.

1. **Question:** On Page 4 under the Eligibility section; #5 states, "Preference will be given to projects that: e) Are designed and implemented by North Carolina based organizations." Can you please confirm if it is an eligibility requirement to be based in North Carolina?

**Answer:** All services funded by this grant must be provided in North Carolina. An organization that is headquartered out of state, but operates programming in the state of North Carolina, is eligble to apply.

1. **Question:** Please provide an example of an innovative, intersectional partnership.

**Answer:** As one example: an innovative, intersectional partnership could be between a community based organization that works with a population that has a documented gap in services and a clinical service provider that administers MOUD but has had a difficult time serving individuals from the CBO's targeted population. If the CBO and clinical service provider form a partnership to address the barriers to that population receiving services, that would constitute and innovative and intersectional partnership.

1. **Question:** Can you please share the makeup of the review committee?

**Answer:** The review committee will be comprised of a minimum of three subject matter experts on every application.

1. **Question:** If an organization is currently receiving SAMSHA funding, are they eligible to apply?

**Answer:** Yes, organizations that are currently receiving funds directly from SAMSHA are eligble to apply.

1. **Question:** Where can applicants source data on gaps?

**Answer:** Gaps can be identified by examining an organization's own performance data or by using relevant and credible reporting data (i.e. NC DHHS's Injury & Violence Prevention Branch's "Monthly Overdose Data" : <https://www.dph.ncdhhs.gov/programs/chronic-disease-and-injury/injury-and-violence-prevention-branch/north-carolina-overdose-epidemic-data#monthly-reports>).

1. **Question:** The RFA identifies 2 populations, Male NA, Male Black, and also indicates that some counties may have grater needs as evidenced by er visits for overdose. What counties are those in more need?

**Answer:** You can find some general information about county data and ED visits here by clicking on "Monthly Overdose Data Reports": <https://www.dph.ncdhhs.gov/programs/chronic-disease-and-injury/injury-and-violence-prevention-branch/north-carolina-overdose-epidemic-data#monthly-reports>

1. **Question:** Is there a required format and/or required components for the Work Plan? Timeline?

**Answer:** There is no required format for the Work Plan or the Timeline. Both elements should describe the work necessary to achieve a proposal and the estimated length of time it will take to achieve those steps.

1. **Question:** Page 25 of the RFA references “transition plans.” Please clarify what a transition plan is.

**Answer:** A transition plan details how an organization will incorporate the new project or program within its current operations.

1. **Question:** Page 25 of the RFA states “A description of how the Grantee will staff the project, including the name, resume….” Are resumes included in the “Applicant Response” section or are they an appendix?

**Answer:** Please include them in the Appendix.

1. **Question:** If we have charts/tables, does the font have to be Arial 11 or can we use a smaller font (e.g., Arial 10)?

**Answer:** For accessability purposes, please try to make sure no font goes below 11.

1. **Question:** Do you accept fiscal sponsorships?

**Answer:** No, we do not accept fiscal sponsorships.

1. **Question:** Will larger organizations that have received funding from the state be considered if they want to expand services?

**Answer:** Yes, larger organizations that already receive state funds are eligible to apply.

1. **Question:** Can you provide nominal funds to clients for wraparound services access? Such as participant assistance to help purchase clothing for a job, fill a prescription (until insurance is connected/applied for), purchase a driver's license, provide first months

**Answer:** All budget expenditures and allowances should align with the guidelines stated in the RFA on pages 16-18, and align with SAMSHA's Budget Guidance found here: <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/grants/budget-guidance.pdf>

1. **Question:** What assurances are required of organizations?

**Answer:** If awarded, organizations will be asked to provide (p. 31) federal and state certifications and Conflict of Interest documentation included in the RFA starting p. 32.

1. **Question:** Can two non-profit organizations collaborate for this grant? Is so, is only one application needed?

**Answer:** One organization needs to be the fiscal entity. One application is required, with an MOA or MOU between partnering organizations. One applicant and one subcontracting.

1. **Question:** Can for-profit organizations in good standing and licensed in NC apply for funds?

**Answer:** No, only pubic agencies and non-profits can apply.

1. **Question:** I see many questions about past experiences with government contracts. The nonprofit is represent is very large national organization that engages in many government contracts not directly related ot the instant matter. Do we really have to provide information on all past government contracts?

**Answer:** Only contracts with the state of North Carolina are of interest.

1. **Question:** What is considered as a public entity?

**Answer:** Local government, state entity, state agency, publicly funded university, municipalities, community college systems. Any entity that serves the public and is subject to oversight by an elected or appointed body.

1. **Question:** If our CBO has multiple programs across multiple counties but they all differ from each other, can the org submit more than 1 application?

**Answer:** An organization can submit a proposal for multiple, distinct projects.

1. **Question:** Can you describe the audit requirements for grantees? If our FY24 revenue reports less than $500,000, then an audit is not required? What if we exceed this threshold by the end of the grant period- would an audit be required in grant reporting?

**Answer:** As stated on pages 12-13, there are two reporting levels established for recipients and subrecipients receiving grants. Reporting levels are based on the allocated funds from all grants disbursed through the State of North Carolina during the entity’s fiscal year. The reporting levels are:

1) Level I – A recipient or subrecipient that receives, holds, uses, or expends grants in an amount less than the dollar amount requiring audit as listed in the Code of Federal Regulations 2 CFR 200.501(a) within its fiscal year.

2) Level II - A recipient or subrecipient that receives, holds, uses, or expends grants in an amount of equal to or greater than the dollar amount requiring audit as listed in 2 CFR 200.501(a) within its fiscal year. /// Pages 17-18 describe the limit between a Level I and Level II recipient. If an organization crosses from a Level I to Level II recipient during a designated fiscal year, they will be required to complete an audit in order to be eligible for renewed funding.

1. **Question:** For budget compliance, are there specific cost categories or caps that applicants should be especially cautious about?

**Answer:** All budget expenditures and allowances should align with the guidelines stated in the RFA on pages 16-18, and align with SAMSHA's Budget Guidance found here: <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/grants/budget-guidance.pdf>

1. **Question:** For a non-profit, is there a length of time restriction that it has to be operating?

**Answer:** No, there are no length of time restrictions for an operating agency with SUPTRS block grant funds.

1. **Question:** Can an organization that serves all 100 counties of North Carolina but has local chapters within communities and regions apply as a statewide organization?

**Answer:** Yes, a statewide agency with local chapters is eligible to apply.

1. **Question:** This may have been answered but is this an up front grant or you have to spend and be reimbursed?

**Answer:** Funds are distributed as a reimbursement for expenses incurred for the purposes of the project.

1. **Question:** How long is funding designed for? One Year, etc?

**Answer:** Funding will continue for 3 years based on fund availability from the federal government.

1. **Question:** This is not the organization I am applying on behalf of, but let's use the Catholic Church as an example. If the nonprofit is a large national group with many business endeavors and government contracts, do we need to detail all past contracts, as long as we are not delinquent or have litigation pending?

**Answer:** Only contracts with the state of North Carolina are of interest.

1. **Question:** Can funding be used for IT needs, such as electronic health record licenses?

**Answer:** For more details about allowable and unallowable expenses, please refer to pages 16-18 of the RFA and SAMSHA's Budget Guidance found here: <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/grants/budget-guidance.pdf>

1. **Question:** Is it $500K each year or $500K over 3 years?

**Answer:** As stated on p. 5 of the RFA, "Project Budgets up to $500,000 annually will be considered. Awardees may be asked to reduce their budgets if multiple projects are selected for funding within the proposed populations and/or funding availability."

1. **Question:** Can the funds be used to purchase or lease a mobile health unit?

**Answer:** SAMHSA's approval is needed on any vehicle purchase. SAMHSA strongly encourages applicants to lease any vehicles. For more details about allowable and unallowable expenses, please refer to pages 16-18 of the RFA and SAMSHA's Budget Guidance found here: <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/grants/budget-guidance.pdf>

1. **Question:** On page 23, Section B Organizational Background, #4, you ask for a brief overview of all services provided by the Grantee within the last five years...and then details of those contracts. Our organization is a health department with too many contracts to list them all in the page limit provided. Would you recommend that we only detail the contracts related to the services proposed in the application?

**Answer:** Yes, please list contracts related to the services proposed in the application.

1. **Question:** Are there cost sharing/fund matching requirements?

**Answer:** No, there are no cost sharing or fund matching requirements for this RFA.

1. **Question:** The table on page 19 assigns 5 points for “Supporting Documentation”. What documents/items are considered Supporting Documentation (i.e., are the Indirect Cost Rate Approval Letter, SubGrantee/SubContractor Information, IRS Determination Letter Regarding Org’s 501(c)(3) Tax-exempt Status, and Verification of 501(c)(3) Status Form items considered Supporting Documentation? If not, what is)?

**Answer:** Yes, the items listed in the question are considered supporting documentation.

1. **Question:** Clarify what is a subcontractor/subgrantee, specifically, are other organizations who are partnering on the grant and will be receiving funding as key components of the grant, are they a subcontractor or subgrantee?

**Answer:** NCDHHS considers any contractor a subgrantee and any organizations that receive the funding through the subgrantee in the executed contract is identified as a subcontractor.

1. **Question:** Is only the first year's budget and budget narrative provided in the application or is a budget and budget narrative for years 2 and 3 also required?

**Answer:** A budget and budget narrative is needed for Years 1, 2 and 3.

1. **Question:** Just to be clear, no completed certifications and assurances are to be included in the application, correct?

**Answer:** Yes, that is correct.

1. **Question:** Will naloxone, xylazine test strips, and fentanyl test strips be allowable costs? Any caps?

**Answer:** Yes, they are allowable costs. There are no caps.

1. **Question:** Expectations for Medicaid billing versus grant coverage (e.g., sliding fee, uninsured).

**Answer:** SUPTRS funds provide for treatment and recovery services for individuals without insurance or for whom coverage is terminated for short periods of time. These funds cannot be used to cover the cost of services covered by other payor sources, such as Medicaid, Medicare or private insurance.

1. **Question:** Indirect cost rate: use federally negotiated, state default cap, or fixed?

**Answer:** As stated on page 18, "Where the applicant has a Federal Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate (FNICR), the applicant agency may request up to the federally negotiated rate. The total modified direct cost identified in the applicant’s FNICR shall be applied. A copy of the FNICR must be included with the applicant’s budget.

If the applicant does not have an FNICR, then the applicant may claim the de minimis indirect cost rate of 15%, with no additional documentation required, per the federal Uniform Guidance."

1. **Question:** Match requirement (if any), and treatment of subawards to CBOs.

**Answer:** There are no match requirements for this RFA.

1. **Question:** Are NC public universities eligible to apply as "public entities or non-profit/not-for-profit entities"? Any clarification would be helpful.

**Answer:** North Carolina public universities are considered public entities.

1. **Question:** If awarded would I be able to use the funding to start and operate a transitional home with in the Raleigh area?

**Answer:** Please see pages 16-18 for more information on allowable expenses and refer to SAMSHA's Budget Guidance found here: <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/grants/budget-guidance.pdf>

1. **Question:** Does the funding renew for up to 3 years?

**Answer:** Funding will continue for 3 years based on funding availability from the federal government.

1. **Question:** Are privately owned, independent, for profit integrated primary care practices eligible to apply?

**Answer:** No, only public agencies and non-profits are eligible for this RFA.

1. **Question:** Is the IRS Determination Letter Regarding the Agency’s 501(c)(3) Tax-exempt Status (RFA pages 13, 20, 30) the same as the Verification of 501(c)(3) Status Form/IRS Tax Exemption Verification Form (RFA page 31).

**Answer:** Yes - that is the correct form.

1. **Question:** May we subcontract portions (e.g., licensed counseling) and, if so, what documentation is required (MOUs vs. subrecipient agreements, monitoring expectations)?

**Answer:** Yes. The agency needs to implement their own contract with a subcontractor and would provide a copy to the state. The agency would need to monitor the subcontractor.

1. **Question:** Does the RFA prioritize or require formal linkages to MAT (buprenorphine/methadone) providers, and can we budget for those coordination activities?

**Answer:** Applications that propose to address the treatment needs of individuals with opioid use disorder should include evidence-based practices for such, including medications for opioid use disorder, either directly or through formal linkages/subcontracting. Care coordination, navigation, etc. are allowable expenses.

1. **Question:** Are signed LOCs from treatment partners (e.g., LME/MCO, OTP/MAT clinic, FQHC) required at submission, or acceptable post-award?

**Answer:** LOCs with treatment partners that are critical to achieving the scope of the proposal should be submitted at the time of application.

1. **Question:** Regarding DMH25-005, can funds be spent on:

a. MOUD

b. Naloxone

c. Clinic Supplies

d. Medical visits for uninsured

**Answer:** Yes. For more information on allowable expenses, please refer to pages 16-18 in the RFA and refer to SAMSHA's Budget Guidance found here: <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/grants/budget-guidance.pdf>

1. **Question:** Please clarify if the grants we are to provide information on from the last 5 years are grants from the State or also the Federal Government

**Answer:** Applicant can list all state and federal funding

1. **Question:** I know that SUPTRS BG funds primary prevention work. Will this funding from block grant also fund primary prevention initiatives and if so, do we need to make sure that those initiatives are on the list of the NC Approved Prevention Strategies?

**Answer:** This RFA is focused on increasing access to treatment and recovery services.

1. **Question:** Can funds be used for studies to identify gaps and needs?

**Answer:** No. This RFA is intended to fund services to address gaps, not identify gaps.

1. **Question:** Is MAT an allowable expense?

**Answer:** Yes, MAT is an allowable expense. For more details about allowable and unallowable expenses, please refer to pages 16-18 of the RFA and SAMSHA's Budget Guidance found here: <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/grants/budget-guidance.pdf>

1. **Question:** Page 23, item 3.B.6, requires substantial information about the criminal convictions of officers, directors, employees, agents, or subcontractors. Some peer-led agencies have numerous employees with past criminal convictions. What would be the best way to address the information requested in this item for such an agency?

**Answer:** Page 23, item 3.B.6 has been revised and updated in Addendum 1.

1. **Question:** Is there a concern about losing funding or punishment for naming priority populations in light of the Administration's EO on DEI?

**Answer:** This RFA is federally funded by SAMHSA. Applicants are encouraged to review funding guidance issued by the federal government in formulating their applications.

1. **Question:** LME/MCOs address many of the key areas listed, but it isn't clear on the eligibility requirements if LME/MCOs are excluded. Can you please clarify? Thanks!

**Answer:** LME/MCO's are not eligible for this funding opportunity.

1. **Question:** Does co-locating SUD services within a DV transitional housing program meet the intent of this RFA (with formal referral/MOU pathways to licensed treatment providers)?

**Answer:** Yes, as long as two or more of the key areas under Section III Scope of Work in the RFA are addressed.

1. **Question:** Are there specific counties you are looking to provide the services for?

**Answer:** There are no specific counties identified as priority for this RFA opportunity.

1. **Question:** Are there age-specific restrictions on programs within proposals?

**Answer:** No, there are no age-specific restrictions.

1. **Question:** From my understanding, this application looks pretty broad since it will be defined what the applicant proposes its needs/gaps are. Will this include purchasing MAT for individuals with substance use disorders? And is there a limit on the type/form of MAT that may be purchased?

**Answer:** Funding to support the purchase of any or all FDA-approved medications for opioid use disorders is allowed.

1. **Question:** Is there a preference among priority populations (e.g., justice involved, transitional age youth, rural, racial/ethnic minorities) or are all equally weighted if the need is documented?

**Answer:** Proposals should document needs in the targeted community.

1. **Question:** Does the funding renew for up to 3 years

Do we need to have a FT program manager who only works on this project?

The RFA identifies 2 populations, Male NA, Male Black, and also indicates that some counties may have grater needs as evidenced by er visits for overdose. What counties are those in more need?

Is rural or isolated given higher priority for funding?

**Answer:** Funding is available for 1 year at this time (07.01.26 - 06.30.27). While similar funding is anticipated, Years 2 and 3 of this RFA are dependent upon receipt of future federal funding. Applicants should utilize available data to determine which communities or counties have greatest need in developing a proposal.

1. Will programs seeking incentives for employers to hire individuals in recovery an option? Also, we are expanding our peer workforce and need to find funds to pay them to execute program expansion, e.g. serve as youth peer support specialists. Basically, funds to expand capacity for certified peer supports.

**Answer:** Funds may be utilized to support staffing to implement proposed projects.

1. **Question:** Can an applicant request funding for multiple staff positions within the same organization that support different key areas, even if those positions are not tied to a single program?

**Answer:** There are no specific staffing requirements in this RFA. Funding to support multiple staff must be substantiated within the description of the proposed project.

1. **Question:** We are a legal services organization serving Appalachia. We work with many substance abuse clients on things like Expunction and Drivers License Restoration, health care access and income security through public benefits, medical-legal partnerships, and a variety of other things. Are you looking for specific SUD providers or would orgs like us be appropriate for this funding opportunity.

**Answer:** Applicant agencies must address 2 or more areas in Section III Scope of Work in the RFA.

1. **Question:** Are prevention services also funded through this grant, for example community support groups? Or is it treatment focused?

**Answer:** This RFA is focused on increasing access to treatment and recovery services.

1. **Question:** Is the funding targeted for adults, or may we propose a program for children, adolescents, and/or young adults?

**Answer:** Proposals addressing needs of children, adolescents and/or young adults are welcome.

1. **Question:** Can you give any more assistance with understanding "communities disproportionately impacted..."? Is there a rubric the decision-makers will use for this?

**Answer:** Each proposal’s Needs Assessment will be evaluated with the data provided by the applicant and widely available data about overdose rates in North Carolina.

1. **Question:** Can funds be used to work with special populations such as the LGBTQ community?

**Answer:** Yes, all qualified organizations are eligible to apply. Those focusing on populations should supply sufficient data justifying their selection.

1. **Question:** If we aren't direct service providers but our role is to convene these groups and have other organizations listed in budget line item, do we still qualify?

**Answer:** Agencies may propose to subcontract portions of work, provided that their applications indicate the scope of work to be contracted and to whom. See #13, Section IV of the RFA, for additional details.

1. **Question:** Would a mentoring and wrap-around services supportive program for juvenile justice youth with substance use disorder be allowable to apply for, if using evidence-based mentoring/education methods and there is a gap in service for this population?

**Answer:** Applicant agencies must address 2 or more areas in Section III Scope of Work in the RFA.

1. **Question:** We are looking into doing reentry programs, if we submitted a proposal, would we only focus on people with SUD or would we be able to open our program for all people that could benefit from the reentry program?

**Answer:** This RFA is funded through the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services block grant, individuals served must have substance misuse or substance use disorders.

1. **Question:** Would this cover expanding of already established programs such as staff retention or additional training to build on skills?

**Answer:** Applicant agencies must address 2 or more areas in Section III Scope of Work in the RFA.

1. **Question:** How will faith-based organizations be perceived? Are spiritual or faith-based organizations encouraged to apply as outsider service providers?

**Answer:** Any non-profit or public entity, including faith-based organizations, are encouraged to apply.

1. **Question:** Do you perceive adventure/outdoor/experiential recovery to be addressing a gap in services?

**Answer:** Applicants are welcome to address gaps in services through proven and evidence-based practices.

1. **Question:** Will organizations that do not allow their recipients to utilize all evidence-based treatments be ineligible.

**Answer:** More specific information is needed here. There are many evidence-based practices, and it would be difficult for a program to utilize every single EBP. If, however, this question refers to the utilization of medications for opioid use disorder and not allowing participants access to these life-saving medications, it is unlikely such a proposal would be supported.

1. **Question:** Are there particular substances prioritized for this RFA (alcohol, stimulants, opioids, etc.)?

**Answer:** There are no particular substances prioritized under this RFA.

1. **Question:** Required data reporting platform and frequency? Any incentives for using CORE-NC metrics?

**Answer:** There is no required data platform, frequency of reporting detailed in the RFA.

1. **Question:** Do we need to have a FT program manager who only works on this project?

**Answer:** There are no specific staffing requirements in this RFA.

1. **Question:** When are treatment services for clients expected to begin? At project start date? Is there a 3-month start up period?

**Answer:** A start up period may be allowed for new projects. The length of the start-up period should be described and justified in the application.

1. **Question:** Are DV survivors and veterans explicitly eligible target populations if the focus is on SUD access and engagement? Are there geographic or equity priorities we should address (e.g., overdose hotspots, rural/underserved ZIP codes)?

**Answer:** Yes, if there is documented and established need for a population, including DV survivors and veterans, then that would justify designating those populations as a "priority population" for the purposes of this RFA. Addressing those populations, particularly in a geographic region that has a higher rate of overdoes occurrences or that has a gap in services, will be prioritized.

1. **Question:** What outcome measures will be required (e.g., screenings completed, successful referrals, treatment initiation/retention, ED utilization, overdose reversals)? What data system or format will DHHS require?

**Answer:** Relevant outcome measures will be determined based off of the goals of the proposal. Screenings completed, successful referrals, and treatment initiation may all be relevant data points, depending on the nature of the project. Other projects may have other relevant data points.

1. **Question:** For clients receiving SUD-related services within a DV program, what are DHHS expectations for HIPAA and 42 CFR Part 2 compliance and data sharing in QPRs?

**Answer:** Entities and individuals providing diagnosis, treatment, prevention or referral for substance use disorders (SUDs) in federally assisted programs must adhere to 42 CFR Part 2.

1. **Question:** Are NCPRSS (or equivalent) credentials required for Peer Specialists, and are background checks/registry checks specified?

**Answer:** Page 23, item 3.B.6 has been revised and updated in Addendum 1 to address these concerns.

1. **Question:** What is the start date and length of the initial award, and are renewals/multi-year options anticipated?

**Answer:** The project start date is July 1, 2026, with a 12-month initial performance period. Projects will be funded for up to three years if funding is available.

1. **Question:** Is it permissible for an applicant to declare government clients (e.g., municipalities or county departments) for any aspect of the proposed project?

**Answer:** Yes, applicants may partner with government agencies. Please refer to Section IV, # 13 Subcontracting for additional information.

1. **Question:** Are all substance abuse treatment protocols (including those which do not require the administration of drugs) regarded as potentially submittable and fundable as they relate to a proposed applicant project?

**Answer:** SUPTRS block grant funds must be utilized to support those priority treatment and recovery services that demonstrate success in improving outcomes and/or supporting recovery.

1. **Question:** Which data sets are specifically referenced and are listing priority counties? What are the counties and is Buncombe County one of the counties that is listed?

**Answer:** Interested agencies should select data relevant to the needs and gaps they wish to address in their selected communities and/or counties. An example of a relevant data set is NC DHHS's Injury & Violence Prevention Branch. Monthly reports on each county's overdose rates can be found by clicking "Monthly Overdose Data Reports" here: <https://www.dph.ncdhhs.gov/programs/chronic-disease-and-injury/injury-and-violence-prevention-branch/north-carolina-overdose-epidemic-data#monthly-reports>

1. **Question:** Behavioral Health Treatment Court in Pitt County. Our treatment court participants have a mental health diagnosis, and a co-occurring substance use disorder. We partner with a local treatment provider who provides therapy and counseling to our participants. Would we be eligible to apply for the grant?

**Answer:** Eligible entities are non-profit and public agencies.

1. **Question:** Are start-ups welcome to apply?

**Answer:** Yes, there are no length of time restrictions for an operating agency to be funded with SUPTRS block grant funds.

1. **Question:** Can the funds be used to purchase a mobile unit for substance abuse treatment services in rural areas? OR… can funding be used to renovate an existing mobile unit to use for the same? If so, how much of the grant can be. used for the unit?

**Answer:** It is possible. Please refer to SAMSHA's Budget Guidance on vehicle expenditures beginning on page 10 here: <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/grants/budget-guidance.pdf>

1. **Question:** Are public universities eligible?

**Answer:** Yes. They are considered public agencies.

1. **Question:** Can the grant support transportation like Uber health, phones and minutes?

**Answer:** Funds can be used for transportation that is necessary for the fulfillment of the proposal, however guidelines must be met. Please refer to pages 16-18 of the RFA and see SAMSHA's Budget Guidance for more details: <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/grants/budget-guidance.pdf>

1. **Question:** Would capital expenses be allowed to include construction and/or purchase and or lease of vehicle?

**Answer:** Construction costs are not allowable under the SUPTRS block grant. Leasing a vehicle is allowed if it is utilized to provide services to individuals participating in the program. Please refer to pages 16-18 of the RFA and see SAMSHA's Budget Guidance for more details: <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/grants/budget-guidance.pdf>

1. **Question:** Are FQHCs eligible?

**Answer:** Yes, as long as the FQHC is a nonprofit or operated as a public entity.

1. **Question:** Are expenditures allowable for operational funding for a program that is not open yet but is most likely to be operating prior to 7/1/26?

**Answer:** Yes. The performance period for this grant begins on 07/01/26 and a start-up period may be allowed for award recipients.

1. **Question:** Contingency Management is a proven model typically used in in-patient settings. Our model uses Contingency management in an out-patient setting to incentive participation. Are gift cards a reimbursable expense?

**Answer:** Please refer to pages 16-18 of the RFA and see SAMSHA's Budget Guidance for more details: <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/grants/budget-guidance.pdf>

1. **Question:** I see on the budget form about vehicle renting, but vehicle purchase would increase sustainability… is this allowed?

**Answer:** Please refer to SAMSHA's requirements for vehicle purchases on page 10 of their Budget Guidance document found here: <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/grants/budget-guidance.pdf>

1. **Question:** Can this funding be used for emergency housing assistance? Transportation assistance (especially for travel to and from treatment appointments)?

**Answer:** Transportation assistance is allowable under specific restrictions. For a complete list of allowable and unallowable expenses, please refer to pages 16-18 of the RFA and SAMSHA's Budget Guidance found here: <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/grants/budget-guidance.pdf>

1. **Question:** What about purchase of property to use for the new program?

**Answer:** No, property purchases violate SAMSHA's restrictions on Major Alteration and Renovation, found on page 5 of SAMSHA's Budget Guidance here: <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/grants/budget-guidance.pdf>

1. **Question:** Can funds be used to assist with housing placement?

**Answer:** For a complete list of allowable and unallowable expenses, please refer to pages 16-18 of the RFA and SAMSHA's Budget Guidance found here: <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/grants/budget-guidance.pdf>

1. **Question:** What are the unallowable expenses?

**Answer:** For a complete list of unallowable expenses, please refer to pages 16-18 of the RFA and SAMSHA's Budget Guidance found here: <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/grants/budget-guidance.pdf>

1. **Question:** Are the following allowable:

• Peer Recovery Specialists (salaries, training, supervision)

• Screening tools and brief interventions (e.g., SBIRT)

• Transportation for treatment appointments (bus passes, mileage, ride share)

• Care coordination and warm handoffs to treatment/MAT

• Telehealth enablement (HIPAA-compliant platforms, devices/hotspots for clients)

• Harm reduction supplies (education materials, naloxone) where appropriate

• Limited supportive services directly tied to SUD engagement (e.g., childcare during sessions)

**Answer:** Yes, these are allowable expenses. For a complete list of allowable and unallowable expenses, please refer to pages 16-18 of the RFA and SAMSHA's Budget Guidance found here: <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/grants/budget-guidance.pdf>

1. **Question:** We have a lot of people with both mental health and SUD diagnoses. Can we serve them with this grant focusing on their SUD?

**Answer:** Yes, this grant allows for services for individuals with dual/co-occurring diagnoses.