

RFP: Improving Access to Overdose Treatment Program

OVERVIEW

On April 5th, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the 2018 Improving Access to Overdose Treatment program. A total of up to \$940,000 will be awarded over five years to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Opioid Treatment Programs, or practitioners who will collaborate with other providers in the community to develop and implement best practices for prescribing overdose reversal drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), such as naloxone injections or nasal sprays. Awarded applicants will also be expected to establish protocols to connect patients who have experienced a drug overdose with appropriate treatment, including medication-assisted treatment, counseling, and behavioral therapies.

The full RFP is available [here](#). Applications are due on June 4th.

FUNDING

Up to \$200,000 will be awarded annually through this RFP to up to five organizations. Funding limitations are as follows:

- No more than 10 percent of the award may be used for recipient administrative costs;
- No more than 20 percent of the award may be used for data collection, performance measurement, and performance assessment, including incentives for participating in the required data collection follow-up;
- No more than 20 percent of the award may be used for the purchase of FDA-approved emergency opioid overdose drugs or devices for distribution through the program; and
- No more than 20 percent of the award may be used to offset co-payments or other cost sharing associated with FDA-approved emergency opioid overdose drugs or devices.

Contracts are expected to last for five years beginning on September 30th.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

In order to qualify for funding under this RFP, applicants must be one of the following entities:

- FQHC;
- Opioid Treatment Program; or
- Practitioner dispensing narcotic drugs.

Organizations must hire a Project Director and Lead Evaluator for the program and both positions will require prior approval by SAMHSA.

PROGRAM SERVICES

Awarded organizations must use program funding allocated through this RFP for the following required activities:

- Establish a program for prescribing an FDA-approved opioid overdose drug or device;

- Train and provide resources for health care providers and pharmacists on the prescribing of FDA-approved opioid overdose drugs or devices;
- Establish protocols to connect patients who have experienced a drug overdose with appropriate treatment, including medication-assisted treatment and appropriate counseling and behavioral therapies;
- Develop a plan for sustaining the program after Federal support for the program has ended;
- Use SAMHSA’s Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit as a guide to develop and implement a comprehensive prevention program to reduce the number of prescription drug/opioid overdose-related deaths and adverse events among cases of known or suspected opioid overdose; and
- Address overdose by patients on prescribed opioids. Attention should be given to potential drug interactions, reduction in dose, and evaluation for other substance issues such as alcohol use disorders.

Other allowable activities include the following:

- Collaboration with healthcare providers and pharmacists to educate them on overdose dangers and standing orders for FDA-approved overdose reversal drugs to patients and individuals who support persons at high-risk for overdose;
- Collaboration with pharmacies to distribute FDA-approved opioid overdose drugs or devices, if permitted by state law; and
- Public education on the state’s “Good Samaritan” laws related to a drug overdose, if applicable, such as those that permit bystanders to alert emergency responders to an overdose or to administer FDA-approved opioid overdose drugs or devices.

APPLICATION

Applicants must submit a narrative, budget and budget justification and must be registered with the NIH’s eRA Commons, which may take up to six weeks. New registrants with eRA Commons should begin the process well before submitting a proposal.

Registration Proposals will be scored based on the following criteria:

- Statement of Need (30 points)
- Proposed Implementation Approach (35 points)
- Staff and Organizational Experience (15 points)
- Data Collection and Performance Measurement (20 points)

Awards will be distributed based on the above criteria, the availability of funds, and an equitable distribution of funding by geographic area, population need, and program size.

Timeline

Proposals must be submitted by June 4th. Questions should be submitted to Tonia Gray at tonia.gray@samhsa.hhs.gov or Kim Nesbitt at kim.nesbitt@samhsa.hhs.gov for program issues and Eileen Bermudez at FOACSAP@samhsa.hhs.gov for grants management and budget issues.