

## **RFP: Improving Access to Opioid Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Services for Underserved Populations and Communities**

### **OVERVIEW**

The Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to help providers and communities develop methods for treating their most vulnerable and underserved populations with opioid use disorder (OUD). Proposals should create and/or evaluate innovative programs and policy proposals that improve access to appropriate addiction treatment and provide wraparound and recovery support services.

Through this RFP, FORE will provide awards of up to \$600,000 in total to eligible organizations who develop innovative projects that remove barriers to OUD treatment and recovery services for vulnerable populations. Such projects may include expanding the use of telehealth in rural settings, improving access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for individuals involved with the criminal justice system, and connecting patients with appropriate treatment and services, among others.

RFP documents are available for download [here](#). Letters of Intent are due on August 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **FUNDING**

FORE will provide awards of up to \$300,000 annually for up to two years through this RFP. Funding may not be used for direct patient care and treatment. Funding may be used to support the following:

- *Personnel* – salary and fringe benefits
- *Other Direct Costs* – office operations, communication, travel, meeting expenses, etc.
- *Purchased Services* – consultants and subcontractors
- *Indirect Costs* – administrative expenses related to overall operations

Indirect Costs may be up to 10% of total Personnel and Other Direct Costs. The Indirect Costs rate may not be applied to Purchased Services. Funding may be used for equipment if the applicant can clearly justify why the equipment is necessary for the proposed project and if the applicant includes a sustainability plan for the equipment costs after the conclusion of grant funding. General purpose and operating costs are not available for funding through this RFP.

### **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

In order to qualify for funding under this RFP, applicants must be not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organizations, government units/agencies, or public benefit corporations. Applicants may submit more than one Letter of Intent if the proposed projects are unique and substantially different from one another.

## TARGET POPULATIONS

FORE will provide awards to programs that focus on removing barriers and improving access to MAT underserved populations including, but not limited to:

- Rural communities;
- Urban and minority communities;
- Children and adolescents;
- Pregnant and parenting women;
- Veterans;
- LGBTQ community; and
- Native American and tribal communities.

## AREAS OF PRIORITY

Applicants must select which of the following FORE priority areas the proposed project addresses:

- *Provider education*: Educating health care providers about ways to provide evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder.
- *Payer and provider strategies*: Developing sustainable models and payment strategies to improve access to treatment and recovery services.
- *Policy initiatives*: Creating and evaluating innovative initiatives that could help inform state and federal policies that will ensure more people have access to treatment and recovery services.
- *Public awareness*: Raising public awareness about effective opioid use disorder treatment and recovery services.

## APPLICATIONS

Letters of Intent will be reviewed based on responsiveness to the RFP requirements and alignment with FORE's mission and overall goals. Full proposals will be reviewed by a panel of external, independent experts who will evaluate the proposal based on criteria including, but not limited to:

- Feasibility;
- Outcome Measurements; and
- Sustainability.

Applications should credibly demonstrate how programs could potentially be scaled and sustained to reach the largest number of patients and have the greatest impact.

## Timeline

Applicants must submit their Letter of Intent and Brief Budget Form by August 25<sup>th</sup> to [AccessRFP@ForeFdn.org](mailto:AccessRFP@ForeFdn.org). Applicants who receive a request to submit a full proposal will be notified by

the end of September and will have five weeks to submit a complete proposal. Final award decisions will be announced by the end of January 2020.

General inquiries may be submitted to [info@ForeFdn.org](mailto:info@ForeFdn.org). Programmatic questions should be submitted to Dr. Ken Shatzkes at [kshatzkes@ForeFdn.org](mailto:kshatzkes@ForeFdn.org). Technical questions should be submitted to Lydia Tschoe at [itschoe@ForeFdn.org](mailto:itschoe@ForeFdn.org).