



Foundation *for*
Opioid Response Efforts

8/01/2019

INSPIRE AND ACCELERATE:

An Introduction to the Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE) and the Inaugural 'Access to Treatment' Request for Proposal

Karen A. Scott, MD, MPH, President

Ken Shatzkes, PhD, Senior Program Officer

Outline

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4. **Question and Answer Session**



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Introduction to the **Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE)**

Karen A. Scott, MD, MPH
President



A Brief History of the Foundation's Origins

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Founded in 2018, the Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE) is a 501(c)(3) private, national, grantmaking foundation focused solely on one urgent public health crisis – the *opioid epidemic*.

FORE was started with an initial **\$100 million** donation from the McKesson Corporation, with the sole goal of supporting solutions to end the opioid epidemic.

The Foundation has since been established and incorporated as a **stand-alone public charity and private foundation**.

Decisions about programmatic direction and funding will be made by the Foundation staff and Board of Directors.

Foundation's Leadership, Staff, and Goals

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Our Board of Directors is chaired by **Dr. Andrea Barthwell**, Addiction Medicine Specialist and past President of ASAM.

Leadership and staff have significant expertise and passion for applying innovation and evidence-based science to significant public health challenges, through biomedical research, public policy, healthcare delivery, and health philanthropy positions.

Now more than ever, it is critical to think creatively, test new approaches, and enhance and expand activities proven to prevent and treat opioid use disorder.

We welcome the opportunity to explore partnerships and collaborations with all who are dedicated to furthering our goal of accelerating solutions to end the opioid epidemic.

The Foundation's Vision, Mission, and Focus

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Vision

- To inspire and accelerate action to end the opioid epidemic

Mission

- To convene and support partners advancing patient-centered, evidence-based solutions addressing the opioid epidemic

Focus

- With **patients at the center**, our focus includes:



Provider education



Payer strategies



Policy initiatives



Public awareness

FORE to Address the Opioid Crisis through Grant Support

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FORE is committed to funding a diversity of projects that contribute solutions to the epidemic at national, state, and community levels

Will consider grant requests from U.S.-based public charities that are tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as well as from non-profit, tax-exempt universities and state, local, and Native American tribal government units or agencies.

Programs intended to:

- Inspire and broaden activities to address the opioid crisis
- Be centered around patient needs
 - Patients with pain
 - Full spectrum of patients with opioid use
- Explore and pilot new innovative solutions and programs
- Build on previous successes, look for approaches that have been successful, and determine how those approaches can be better coordinated and used in other spaces

Approach to Programs, Partnerships, & Grantmaking

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Starts with listening, learning, and creating opportunities to be open to ideas and people working on the opioid epidemic from many different perspectives

FORE will explore a range of activities, including **research, community outreach, trainings, convenings, and information dissemination.**

- We convene Program Advisory meetings with leading experts to advise on:
 - What is currently being done?
 - Where are the greatest needs?
 - How can FORE make the greatest impact?
- Request for Proposal (RFP) announcements are heavily informed by Program Advisory meetings

By partnering and supporting exceptional efforts in the U.S., we strive to make a meaningful impact on the epidemic.



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

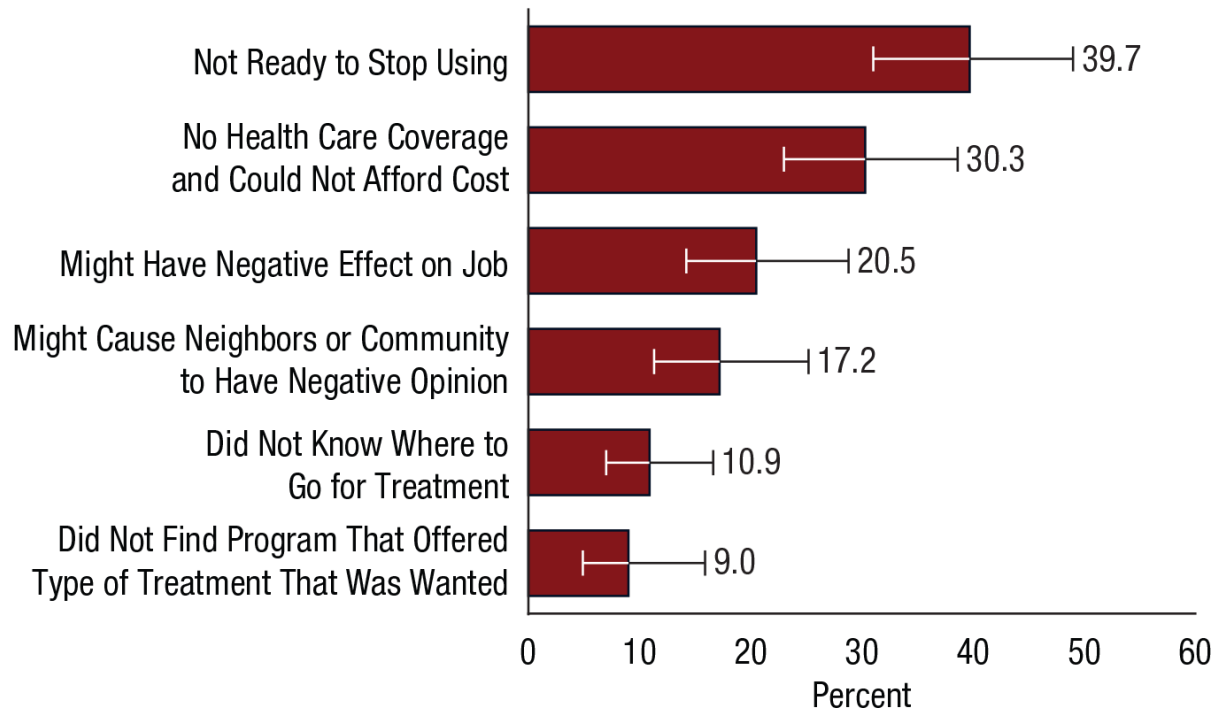
Ken Shatzkes, PhD
Senior Program Officer



Gap Between Treatment and People in Need of Care

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Estimated 2.1 million people in the U.S. have an opioid use disorder (OUD). But only ~25% receive specialty treatment for their OUD. Why?



What We Learned: Barriers to Treatment

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Participants highlighted **barriers that limit access to evidence-based care for individuals with OUD**, including (but not limited to):

- Social and cultural stigmas around addiction
- Shortage of physicians who offer medication-assisted treatment (MAT)
- Lack of wraparound social services necessary for a continuum of care
- Financial constraints
- Health insurance coverage issues
- Regulatory and legal limitations
- Limited or no data on the quality of addiction treatment services
- Employers not understanding the importance of addiction treatment options for their employees

What We Learned: Underserved Populations

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This public health crisis cuts across all demographics, geographies, and does not discriminate against one type of community. **It is recognized that certain populations, less likely to be connected with MAT and ongoing care, have higher mortality rates.** Examples include:

- Fatal overdoses in rural areas outpace rates in urban settings, yet most buprenorphine prescribers are in urban locations
- Access to treatment for adolescents is limited overall, and even more so for youth of color: white youth are nearly 2x more likely to receive treatment for their SUD than their counterparts among people of color
- Post-partum women with OUD have highest risk of overdose 6-12 months after giving birth
- Women are less likely than men to be in treatment
- Individuals involved with the criminal justice system are over 40x more likely to die from an opioid overdose within two-weeks post-release

Funding Opportunity: Request for Proposal

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Improving Access to Opioid Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Services for Underserved Populations and Communities

Purpose: “Improving access to evidence-based addiction treatment and recovery support services requires a multi-faceted approach. The purpose of this RFP is to **help providers and communities develop ways to treat their most vulnerable and underserved populations with OUD by creating and/or evaluating innovative programs and policy proposals that improve access to a continuum of care of appropriate addiction treatment, including wraparound and recovery supportive services, or that expand upon existing promising models.**”

Funding Opportunity: Target Populations

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FORE is committed to improving access to evidence-based OUD treatment and recovery services for vulnerable and high-risk populations. FORE will award grants to programs focused on removing barriers and improving access to and quality of MAT for the following (but not limited to) underserved populations:

- Rural communities;
- Urban and minority communities;
- Children and adolescents;
- Pregnant and parenting women;
- Veterans;
- Justice-involved individuals;
- LGBT community; and
- Native American and tribal communities.

Funding Opportunity: Programs and Services

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FORE is interested in projects that aim to improve and reform the continuum of care, provide wraparound social services, and address other areas that are necessary to facilitate access to high-quality, patient-centered treatment and improve outcomes. Examples of such projects include:

- Community-based programs that include services that “treat the whole patient;”
- Programs for underserved populations that offer MAT “within the gaps” or in novel healthcare settings to meet patients “where they are;”
- Expanding the use of telehealth in rural settings to increase access to MAT and behavioral health services;
- Delivery systems that provide a “no wrong door” policy to connect patients with appropriate treatment and services;
- Working with the criminal justice system to implement programs and policies to improve access to MAT and behavioral health services to individuals while they are incarcerated and/or post-release; and
- Policy and education initiatives around health insurance and payer strategies.

Funding Opportunity: Target Projects

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As a national foundation, **FORE is committed to funding a diverse cohort of projects across the United States.**

Competitive applications will demonstrate **innovative and creative ways to remove barriers to OUD treatment and recovery services for underserved populations that could credibly demonstrate the potential to be scaled to a national level to reach the largest number of patients and have the greatest impact.**

Applicants must also demonstrate a commitment to and support for the proposed project from their organizational leadership.

Funding Opportunity: Award Amount and Length

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Applicants may request up to \$300,000 annually for up to two years.

Award amounts and project duration must align with the scope of work and the capabilities of the applying organization.

Projects may be proposed for less than \$300,000 annually and for less than two years in duration but may not exceed these limits.

Funding Opportunity: Eligibility

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FORE will consider grant requests for *specific charitable purposes* from:

- U.S.-based 501(c)(3) public charities and organizations;
- Nonprofit institutions of higher education (public and private)
- State governments and agencies
- Local governments and agencies
- City or township governments
- Native American tribal governments

Funding Opportunity: Key Dates

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- Jul. 17, 2019:** RFP released
- Aug. 1, 2019:** Open webinar about FORE and RFP at 2:00 PM EST
- Aug. 25, 2019:** Letter of Intent (LOI) due by 11:59 PM EST
- End Sep. 2019:** Latest notification for request for Full Proposal
- End Jan. 2020:** Latest notification of final decisions (subject to change)

Funding Opportunity: Application Requirements

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All applications must be submitted by email to AccessRFP@ForeFdn.org by 11:59 PM EST on August 25, 2019.

Guidelines for structuring the LOI can be found in the 'LOI Instructions' document (available at www.ForeFdn.org).

The initial application consists of a:

- Letter of Intent; and
- Brief Budget Form

The formatting and component requirements, including page limits, will be strictly enforced by the review team.

Any submitted materials that exceed the page limits or do not follow the requirements will not be considered during the application review process.

Funding Opportunity: Selection Process

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1. Submit Letter of Intent (LOI) to FORE
2. FORE will evaluate all LOIs for responsiveness to the RFP and seek independent expert review as needed
3. Selected projects will be invited to submit a Full Proposal
 - Applicants will be given 5 weeks from notification to submit a complete proposal
4. All received proposals will be reviewed by a panel of external, independent experts
 - May include feedback to selected applicants on draft proposals and recommended revisions
5. Funding recommendations for selected proposals will be prepared by FORE program staff and presented to the FORE Board of Directors for final approval
6. Approved proposals will then be the subject of a grant award agreement between the Foundation and the grantee organization

Contact Information

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