

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

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q: How many grants will be awarded?**

There is no expectation of any specific number of awards.

**Q: Is the \$300,000 the total amount for each year (e.g., direct plus indirects)?**

Applicants may request up to \$300,000 annually for up to two years. This amount includes both direct and indirect costs. 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.

**Q: Is it possible for an organization to apply for more than one grant?**

Yes, a single organization can certainly submit more than one Letter of Intent (LOI) if the proposed projects are unique to each other and substantially different from one another. However, it is unlikely that one organization will receive multiple awards in the same round of funding.

**Q: Is the submission deadline still August 25<sup>th</sup>, even though it is a Sunday?**

Yes, the deadline is Sunday August 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:59PM EST. We are providing extra time on the weekend for organizations to prepare and submit applications.

**Q: Can you detail the relationship between the RFP and the Areas of Priority?**

Descriptions of the types of projects within FORE's focus areas of priority in relation to this RFP can be found in the 'Letter of Intent Instructions' downloaded with the RFP. FORE's focus areas of priority are not listed in a specific order:

1. Provider education: educating health care providers about ways to provide evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder
2. Payer and provider strategies: developing sustainable models and payment strategies to improve access to treatment and recovery services
3. 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
4. Public awareness: raising public awareness about effective opioid use disorder treatment and recovery services

**Q: Can for profit companies apply for FORE funding?**

At this time, FORE funding is not available to for-profit companies.

**Q: Can government agencies apply for FORE funding?**

Yes, state and local government agencies or units, as well as Native American tribal governments, are eligible for FORE funding. Public benefit corporations are also eligible.

**Q: Can non-profit hospitals apply?**

Yes, non-profit hospitals are eligible for FORE funding.

**Q: Can a 501(c)(3) organization that has not yet received their IRS determination letter submit an LOI?**

Yes, you may submit an LOI without the IRS determination letter, however, we will require proof of 501(c)(3) status at Full Proposal stage.

**Q: Can FORE funding be used for direct patient care and treatment?**

Generally, no, FORE funds cannot be used for direct patient care and treatment. FORE is looking to fund innovative and creative projects that remove barriers to OUD treatment and recovery services for underserved populations that could credibly demonstrate the potential to be scaled and sustained to reach the largest number of patients and have the greatest impact.

**Q: What do you consider ‘indirect costs?’**

Guidance for indirect costs can be found in the ‘Brief Budget Form’ downloaded with the RFP. FORE’s approved rate for indirect costs is 10% of total ‘Personnel’ and ‘Other Direct Costs.’ FORE does NOT apply the indirect costs rate to ‘Purchased Services.’ Definitions for all budget categories are included in the ‘Brief Budget Form.’

**Q: Can funding be used for equipment?**

Funding can be used for equipment only if the organization can clearly justify why the equipment is necessary for the proposed project. The Foundation would also want to see a sustainability plan for that piece of equipment and what it will be used for at the end of the grant term. FORE funding can only be used for *specific charitable purposes*. General purpose and operating grants are not available.

**Q: Will there be additional funding rounds in the future? What will the focus be?**

Yes, FORE will periodically open other RFPs throughout the year that will be heavily informed by our Program Advisory meetings with experts and stakeholders in the field.

**Q: How are you defining ‘rural communities?’**

We are defining “rural” using the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) definition.

**Q: Would you recommend picking one underserved population to focus on or can our program include multiple underserved populations?**

We understand that there is overlap in the barriers many underserved populations face. If a proposed program can reach multiple underserved populations, that is great. However, we ask that as you write your proposal you keep in mind the award limitations and determine if resources are better used in a more focused or expansive way.

**Q: How important is sustainability for the new services developed in this grant going forward?**

Sustainability after the grant period is an important factor in FORE's evaluation. Strong applications should 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 and sustained to reach the largest number of patients and have the greatest impact.

**Q: What are the criteria for grant review?**

At LOI stage, applications will be evaluated for responsiveness to the RFP and if the proposal is aligned with the Foundation's mission and overall goals. At Full Proposal stage, all proposals will be reviewed by a panel of external, independent experts from a variety of backgrounds (healthcare providers, academic researchers, healthy policy experts, social services experts, etc.). Reviewers will evaluate several different criteria such as significance and impact on the field, feasibility, outcome measurements, and sustainability, among others. Applicants who are invited to submit a Full Proposal will be given further guidance on review criteria at that time.

**Q: Can you describe the length, sections, and format of the Full Proposal?**

The Full Proposal will resemble the LOI but will allow for more details. We will require a detailed line-item budget, curriculum vitae for principal investigators, letters of support from organizational leadership, letters of collaboration (if applicable), and organizational financial documents that prove an organization eligibility for FORE funding. The Full Proposal will be a maximum of eight pages (not including references, line item budget, and any additional documents described above).