# Strengthening Access to Care for Opioid Use Disorder Patients During the COVID-19 National Public Health Emergency: Recovery Support Services

## Request for Proposal

## I.   About the Foundation

The [Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts](#) (FORE) was founded in 2018 as a private 501(c)(3) national, grant-making foundation focused on addressing the nation's opioid crisis. FORE is committed to funding a diversity of projects contributing solutions to the crisis at national, state, and community levels. FORE's mission is to convene and support partners advancing patient-centered, innovative, evidence-based solutions impacting people experiencing opioid use disorder (OUD), their families, and their communities.

## II.   Introduction

As the nation rapidly evolves its efforts to contain the coronavirus pandemic, FORE has been in contact with those on the frontlines to identify the most pressing challenges in maintaining access to OUD treatment and recovery services, particularly for people at high risk for complications of COVID-19. For example, many of those with OUD are incarcerated and are thus vulnerable to the high coronavirus transmission rates seen in some jails and prisons. Many others with OUD are low income and/or unstably housed, and thus may not have access to safe shelters, nor to the telehealth tools now being widely used to provide routine care due to recent emergency regulatory changes. We also know that the isolation that comes from sheltering in place can negatively affect those in OUD treatment or recovery, many of whom depend on group meetings and other recovery supports, increasing the risk that those in recovery will return to substance use.

## III.   Funding Opportunity

FORE will initiate rapid response grant support for specific projects that aim to strengthen access to evidence-based OUD recovery services for vulnerable and high-risk populations during the COVID-19 national emergency. This RFP targets projects which can provide recovery support services in the context of social distancing and infection control, including promotion of remote, digital, and virtual forms of recovery support to reach vulnerable and broader populations, such as (but not limited to):

- Rural communities;
- Urban and minority communities;
- Children and adolescents;
- Pregnant and parenting women;
- Veterans;
- Justice-involved individuals;
- Homeless population;

- LGBT community; and
- Native American and tribal communities.

Areas of special interest include strategies that link individuals to recovery supports at transition points, such as release from jail or discharge from an inpatient or residential program.

The impact of the pandemic is likely to be felt for a significant amount of time, especially among those with OUD and those working to maintain connection to and treatment for them. It is important that innovative solutions that emerge from this pandemic are identified and spread to produce long-lasting improvements. Competitive applications will demonstrate clear, immediate, short-term needs, as well as the potential for lessons learned to inform long-term, broader impact and scalability. Applicants must also demonstrate a commitment to and support for the proposed project from their organizational leadership.

Applicants may apply for a small grant of up to $25,000, or a larger grant of up to $75,000. FORE anticipates awarding a mix of different size grants within this range. Grant timelines are for up to one year. 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 one year in duration but may not exceed these limits. These are one-time grants.

## IV.　Eligibility

For information regarding your organization's eligibility for a FORE grant, please visit the Grants & Funding page on our website. If you have further questions regarding eligibility for a FORE grant, please contact info@ForeFdn.org.

## V.　Key Dates

Applications will be accepted and reviewed, and grants will be awarded, on a rolling-basis. This RFP may be closed to further submissions earlier than July 31, 2020 if all funds allocated to this opportunity are awarded before then.

May 22, 2020:　　　　　　RFP released on FORE website

July 31, 2020:　　　　　　Last possible day to submit Concept Note (see Section VI below)

September 15, 2020:　　　Latest notification of final decisions (subject to change)

## VI.　Application Requirements and Selection Process

All applications must be submitted through FORE's online grants management system. You can access the application here.

The first step in the application process is to submit a short, structured Concept Note. FORE will evaluate all submitted Concept Notes for responsiveness to the RFP and alignment with FORE's mission and interests. Selected projects will be invited to submit a Full Proposal, which consists of a brief proposal, line-item budget, as well as required organizational documents. Applicants will have up to two weeks from notification to submit the Full Proposal.

FORE will evaluate all submitted proposals and seek independent expert review as needed. The review process may include feedback to selected applicants on proposals and recommended revisions. Funding recommendations for selected proposals will be prepared

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by FORE program staff and presented to the FORE Board of Directors for final approval. All approved proposals will then be the subject of a grant agreement between FORE and the grantee organization which will specify the grant period, payment schedule, specific deliverable requirements, and reporting timeline.

There is no expectation of any specific number of awards, and FORE reserves the sole right to not recommend the funding of any applications. FORE is not obligated to provide feedback on unfunded proposals, but may, to the extent possible, provide summarized feedback on Full Proposals upon request.

## VII. Contact

Programmatic questions about this funding opportunity should be addressed to Senior Program Officer Ken Shatzkes, Ph.D. at kshatzkes@ForeFdn.org.

Technical questions regarding the application process should be emailed to Program Associate Lydia Tschoe, MHA at ltschoe@ForeFdn.org.