

**Information Session: Opioid Crisis Innovation Challenge 2021**  
**June 9, 2021**  
**Webinar Questions and Answers**

**QUESTIONS:**

**Concept Note and Application Process**

1. What is the length limitation of the concept note? Are you looking for a program evaluation plan in the concept note? Outcome measures? Is the Concept Note like an abstract?

*The concept note is made up of five sections: need/problem being addressed (100 words), project goal (50 words), strategy and approach (150 words), expected outcomes (100 words), and organizational information and support (100 words). The purpose of this is to hear a brief and concise summary of your project idea so FORE can evaluate it and decide whether to move forward with requesting the full proposal or not. You can think of the concept note as a kind of abstract for the project.*

2. Is it a requirement that the program be a new program?

*The RFP hopes to target outside-the-box ideas in three target areas; Professional Education and Training, Timely and Actionable Data, and Supporting the Transition from Treatment to Recovery; the program does not necessarily have to be new but must demonstrate work tackling the opioid crisis in a new innovative way.*

3. What is the definition of "innovative" as it applies to this RFP?

*FORE defines "innovative" as projects that approach the complex issues highlighted in the RFP in new ways, bringing together approaches from several diverse fields, and engaging multidisciplinary, cross-sector teams. The COVID-19 Pandemic has demonstrated the ability for multidisciplinary teams from different sectors to work together and track multiple aspects of the pandemic. FORE is looking to harness similar cross-sector collaboration to accelerate new innovations and improvements towards tackling the opioid crisis.*

4. For the concept note, do I need to list my co-investigators?

*Yes, please list your co-investigators when submitting the concept note.*

5. Can we submit multiple concept notes to give the funder the opportunity to weigh different proposals and determine which proposal best aligns with the funder's priorities and interests?

*An organization may submit multiple concept notes, but they must be different projects with different primary investigators. The same PI should not be submitting different proposals.*

6. Does a project need to be "scalable," and does applicant need to explain how it could be scaled?

*The Foundation prioritizes projects that can contribute to long-lasting improvements in patient care and/or other aspects of the national opioid crisis. Competitive applications will demonstrate clear, immediate needs, as well as the potential to inform long-term, broader impact, and scalability.*

7. Is it possible to postpone the project start date to July 2022?

*The project start date is negotiable, but our expectation is that the work proposed would be started in the first quarter of 2022.*

8. Do proposed projects need to neatly fit into 1 target project bucket?

*The proposed project must focus on at least one of the target areas; Professional Education and Training, Timely and Actionable Data, and Supporting the Transition from Treatment to Recovery. Inclusion of more than one target area is acceptable.*

9. Is the focus on cross-sector collaboration meant to encourage professional education for not only healthcare providers but also legal, judicial, education, and others--all together?

*The focus on cross-sector collaboration is meant to encourage professional education and training addressing stigma for different professions and across different settings.*

### **Evaluation of Proposals**

1. Can you talk about the criteria you will use to evaluate a proposal?

*A good proposal will demonstrate an understanding of the RFP, with existing evidence to support the proposed project, planned outcomes that are feasible, a realistic proposed budget and timeline, organizational leadership support, and shows an adequate plan for learning opportunities and scalability beyond the grant period.*

2. Will proposals be evaluated on a rolling basis? If we are submitting a full proposal but some notifications will be October, others in February 2022, how do we plan for project start date?

*The Concept Notes will not be evaluated on a rolling basis; the last day possible to submit a Concept note is July 19, 2021. Following the closing of Concept Notes, FORE will be notifying PIs of projects with a notification for a request to a Full Proposal until July 30, 2021, as staff evaluates each Concept Note. Full proposals will be taken to our Board in Fall 2021 or Early 2022, as they are finalized.*

*Please select the project start date for your project based on the project's bandwidth and need, with the understanding that the start date may change.*

3. How many applications vs. awardees did you have last year? What is the average size of the grants you award?

*FORE announced its first round of grant awards, supporting **19 organizations** that are working to increase access to opioid use disorder treatment in diverse and innovative ways. The Access to Treatment RFP offered applicants to apply for a grant of up to \$300,000 a year for up to two years.*

*COVID-19 response, FORE announced grants to **6 organizations** responding to the increased risks individuals with opioid use disorder face during the pandemic as traditional models of treatment and recovery support are upended. In the second wave of COVID-19 response, FORE announced grants to **10 additional organizations** to support them in helping at-risk populations throughout the country reeling from alarming increases in opioid use and overdoses during the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 Response RFP offered applications offered grants up to \$75,000 for up to one year.*

*In the same vein, FORE announced grants to **7 organizations** that are working to assess the impact of regulatory relaxations and policy innovations made during the pandemic aimed at ensuring access to care while reducing in-person visits and inform future policies to improve access and promote equity for the treatment of opioid use disorder.*

4. What is the timeline for review of concept papers and proposals?

*Concept notes will be reviewed from July 20, 2021, to July 30, 2021, when FORE staff will send out the latest notification for the request for Full Proposals.*

*The Full Proposal process works as an iterative process, and FORE staff will work with the organization to get the project ready for Board review. The Board will review projects as they are finalized.*

5. Is there a preference for funding large national organizations and/or membership/accreditation/certification bodies to support professional education and training?

*FORE does not have a specific preference in funding larger national organizations. Applicants may look on FORE's [website](#) to see the range of organizations funded.*

### **Grantmaking Process and Advisors**

1. Among your experts, do you include people who use drugs, who are the primary agents of change in a harm reduction service framework?

*FORE has a breadth of expertise, including those in recovery, serving as FORE Board members, or serving on the Scientific Advisory Council.*

2. How often are reports required during the project if awarded?

*FORE requires a formal report with a financial update at the end of each project period, as defined by the grantee. Each grant period is 6 months, but adjustments are made based on the proposed project timeline and goals.*

3. When would the funding ultimately be available, and will that vary based on when the notifications are made?

*The funding will be available immediately following Board approval and signature of the grant agreement. We anticipate Board action on proposals in Fall 2021 and Early 2022.*

4. Do you have reporting requirements regarding individuals served/data to be provided, and would those requirements be provided upon notice of funds awarded?

*All grantees sign a grant agreement with FORE which includes reporting requirements (based on the project and the Milestones as set by the grantee).*

5. Does FORE anticipate future RFPs in this area (or other areas)? If so, would appreciate more info on topical areas and anticipated timing.

*More RFPs to come; please continue to check our [website](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) for updates.*

6. Do you anticipate a future RFP that focuses on policy?

Please continue to check our [website](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) for updates.

### **Budget/Financial**

1. Can some part of the money be spent with partners on the Mexican side of the border if we are looking for a cross-border collaboration?

*Partnerships with organizations in another country are eligible as long as the application is submitted by an organization located within the United States. At this time, FORE funds must be granted to and utilized in the United States.*

2. Is there any expectation of matching funds from the grantee?

*FORE does not require matching funds but welcomes co-funding partnerships.*

3. Is the budget number and length of time included in the concept note since that was not in the instructions, or will that be a separate entry when completing the online application?

*Applicants will be prompted to input budget amount and project length as part of [the online application](#).*

### **Eligibility**

1. Will you consider applications from a non-profit awaiting official 501(c)(3) status?

*Applicants who are awaiting 501(c)(3) status may submit a Concept Note. If selected to move on to Full Proposals, the applicant must have their 501(c)(3) status in order to proceed.*

2. Would an IPA qualify, or do you only award grants to direct service providers (i.e., certified OASAS/OMH clinics)?

*FORE will consider grants to tax-exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.*

3. Are applicants from Puerto Rico or other US Territories eligible?

*Yes, FORE welcomes applicants from all over the United States and US Territories.*

4. What are the limits on funding political advocacy?

*The Foundation will not consider grant requests for fundraising events, non-profit and school-sponsored athletic-related events, political advocacy including lobbying and election campaigning and related activities, and endowment funds.*

5. Are currently funded FORE grantees allowed to apply?

*Yes, current FORE grantees are welcome to apply, but FORE will be evaluating each proposal individually and through the lens of lifting up new and different approaches.*