

**Information Session: Engaging and Empowering Vulnerable Families and  
Communities to Prevent Opioid Use Disorder and Overdose  
August 12, 2021  
Webinar Questions and Answers**

**GENERAL FORE FUNDING 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. Can you discuss the policy initiatives and public awareness focus areas in more detail?

*FORE understands that no single solution will solve this crisis. For this reason, we support patient-centered efforts that collectively aim to achieve the following:*

*Professional Education: Educate healthcare and other professionals about prevention and evidence-based treatment options*

*Payer & Provider Strategies: Develop sustainable prevention, treatment, and recovery models, as well as payment and provider approaches*

*Policy Initiatives: Inform State and Federal policies to ensure access to care*

*Public Awareness: Raise public awareness of effective strategies for curtailing the crisis*

*While we welcome ideas which address more than one of these goals within the same project, it is not required; we are not expecting projects to address all of these goals in the same effort.*

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

*Yes, please list your co-investigators when submitting the concept note. Any additions and/or adjustments of co-investigators will be allowed at the full proposal stage.*

4. Can an organization submit more than one concept note?

*FORE would prefer a limit of one Concept Note per organization OR academic/hospital/government department.*

5. Can an organization apply to more than one RFP per year?

*Organizations are welcome to apply to all open RFPs throughout the year.*

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.*

### **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, align with at least one of the priority areas listed in 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. 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.*

3. Is there a preference for funding large national organizations, local (community level) or regional projects? Does organizational size matter?

*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 input from a breadth of experts, 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 typically 6 months, but adjustments are made based on the proposed project timeline and goals.*

3. 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).*

1. Does FORE anticipate future RFPs in this area (or other areas)? Do you anticipate a future RFP that focuses on policy? If so, would appreciate more info on topical areas and anticipated timing.

*We anticipate additional RFPs to be released in the coming year; 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. Can a portion of budget be allocated towards incentives to program participants?

*Yes, FORE allows a portion of the budget to be allocated towards incentives to encourage program participants.*

4. If PI's switch institutions during the funding cycle can the funding be transferred to a different institution as within the same scope of work?

*If the PI switches institutions once the grant starts, we will work with the grantee to move the award to a different institution on a case by case basis.*

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

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

3. 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.*

4. 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.*

**PREVENTION RFP QUESTIONS:**

1. 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: Mitigating the impact of ACEs on families, Developing models for racial and cultural minorities and addressing inequities, and Addressing and managing pain, emotional distress, and trauma. Inclusion of more than one target area is acceptable.*

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

*Concept notes will be reviewed from September 20, 2021, to October 8, 2021, when FORE staff will send out notifications for the request for Full Proposals.*

*The Full Proposals will be due 4 weeks from request; reviews of full proposals and any further development will occur as an iterative process once received.*

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 Early- Mid 2022.*

4. Will proposals be evaluated on a rolling basis?

*The Concept Notes will not be evaluated on a rolling basis; the last day possible to submit a Concept note is September 20, 2021. Following the closing of Concept Notes, FORE will evaluate all submissions, and notify PIs with a request to a Full Proposal or notification that concept note has been declined. The target date for all notifications is October 8, 2021. Successful final proposals will be taken to our Board in Early- Mid 2022, as they are finalized.*

*Please select the project start date for your project based on the project's bandwidth and need.*

5. 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](#).*

6. What types of outcome measures are you hoping the projects to show in the project period?

*Outcomes measures will be specific to projects, however we are looking to advance work and outcomes related to the three priority areas described in the RFP.*

7. Can the project focus on other substance use in addition to opioid use disorder?

*While FORE understands the evolving nature of the substance use crisis in America, the foundation's mandate is to work on the opioid crisis; proposals must include or be focused on opioids*

8. Could you expand on what is meant by evidence-based models?

*FORE is looking to improve, expand, and/or scale evidence-based services. The goal of utilizing an evidence-base is to eliminate unsound or outdated practices in favor of more-effective ones by shifting the basis for decision making from tradition, intuition, and unsystematic experience to firmly grounded data driven scientific research.*

9. Does this funding cover expenses for administrative oversight? Would the salary/benefits for a child therapist be covered?

*FORE will cover the salary of personnel who are necessary for the proposed project. Additionally, FORE permits 10% indirect on direct expenses.*

10. RFP refers to "evaluation" -- how rigorous do you expect the evaluation to be?

*FORE will look for every proposal to have considered expected outcomes and have a strategy for measuring and assessing if those outcomes are achieved. Specifics of an evaluation plan will depend on the project. FORE's process once at the full proposal stage is an iterative one, which may include discussions with applicant on how to strengthen the evaluation or other aspects of the proposal.*