Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts

Community-Driven Responses to Opioid Use Disorder and Overdose Mortality

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

According to a recent U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report, overall overdose fatalities increased by more than 30% from 2019 to 2020. Rates increased to an even greater extent for African Americans (by 44%) and for American Indian and Alaska Native people (39%), while rates among people who are White, Hispanic, Asian or Pacific Islander all increased by about 22%. And for the first time in modern history, yearly overdose fatalities surpassed 108,000 during the 12-month period ending in February 2022.

While policy and practice efforts have led to some improvements, the level of need continues to grow, and services are failing to keep up with demand. To better understand the challenges affecting OUD prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery services, FORE has been engaged in advisory discussions with a range of experts around the country for insights on strategies to strengthen delivery of OUD and overdose-related services, as well as services addressing social determinants of health, particularly within the hardest hit communities. One of the most compelling ideas to emerge was funding community-driven OUD initiatives through community-based organizations (CBOs). CBOs often best understand the gaps that act as barriers in their communities and what needs to be addressed to reduce overdoses and engage community members in treatment and recovery initiatives. Whether it's capacity-related issues such as staffing, or establishing multi-sector/community-based partnerships, flexible funding was a recommended approach to strengthening the delivery of services at levels needed by communities.

III. Funding Opportunity

This RFP will focus on supporting CBOs' capacity to address OUD and overdose mortality through work such as organizational strengthening, skills development, and community partnerships. FORE will provide support for explorations of strategic partnerships and capacity building requests that lead to greater capacity for, improved productivity of, and expected sustainability of OUD mitigation initiatives. Funding is for specific activities or projects designed to strengthen an organization's operations, leadership, technology, programmatic, and administrative capacity to achieve sustainable OUD mitigation initiatives. Applicants will advocate for what they need to be successful and the results they

aim to achieve. Requests may actualize one or more of the following, or may propose other activities:

- Conduct Organizational Assessments to identify needs and design a plan to increase organizational effectiveness that will help meet current challenges, overcome barriers, and result in intentional and productive enhancements in OUD service delivery.
- Enhance Operational Effectiveness to improve productivity and organizational functioning in areas such as administration, finance, human resources, and technology.
- Strengthen Communication efforts to raise awareness about an organization's mission and attract attention and resources to the organization.
- Expand and Stabilize Resources to develop financial stability by increasing the CBO's ability to develop necessary resources and plan for longer-term sustainability, including the ability to apply for foundation, corporate support and/or government funding streams.
- Strengthen and Evaluate Programming to enhance access and delivery of OUD services to more individuals and families in their communities.
- Foster Collaborations with a broader range of allies – i.e., child welfare, women and families, education, workforce, law enforcement, criminal justice, and primary and behavioral health entities – to strengthen community engagement that results in stronger and expanded services.

Competitive applications will demonstrate how the funding will result in long-lasting improvements in delivering OUD mitigation initiatives in their community. Applicants must present the case for the link between proposed activities and their ability to attain specific outcomes addressing OUD and/or overdose. Through this funding, it is expected CBOs will enhance their ability to lead and deliver services addressing the opioid and drug overdose crisis, particularly in communities with high-risk populations. FORE envisions a national cohort of CBO grantees and anticipates opportunities to provide technical assistance to the group.

Applicants may apply for a grant of up to $75,000 per year for up to two years. Award amounts and project duration must align with the scope of work and the capabilities of the applying organization.

IV.   Eligibility

This funding opportunity is limited to Community-Based Organizations. Academic institutions, healthcare systems, and national organizations are ineligible, though may partner with a CBO as long as the CBO is the lead applicant and recipient of the majority of requested funds. CBOs include organizations providing a range of social- and/or health-related services within a given geographic area, Recovery Community Organizations, and Community Coalitions/Partnerships. Applicant organizations must be a 501(c)3 organization (or non-profit with appropriate 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor).

Complete information regarding organizational and project eligibility for a FORE grant can be found on our website's Grant Guidelines and Eligibility page. If you have further questions regarding eligibility for a FORE grant, please contact info@ForeFdn.org.

Foundation *for* Opioid Response Efforts

V.   Key Dates

Applications (see Section VI below) will be accepted until 11:59 PM EST on October 21, 2022, and grants will be awarded in early 2023.

August 24, 2022:   RFP released on FORE website

September 9, 2022:   [RFP Informational Webinar](#), 2-3 PM ET

October 21, 2022:   Last possible day to submit application

January 31, 2023:   Earliest 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](#). This will be a one stage application process.

Proposals should include a clear articulation of need, with a focus on serving high-risk populations; a clear articulation of opportunity, goals, timelines, objectives, and measurable outcomes (i.e., what success will look like); a brief line-item budget, as well as required organizational documents; and demonstration of how the organization/project will be better positioned to be financially and programmatically sustainable after a FORE grant.

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 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 proposals upon request.

VII. Contact

Programmatic questions about this funding opportunity should be addressed to Senior Program Officer Brian Byrd, MPA at bbyrd@ForeFdn.org.

Technical questions regarding the application process should be emailed to Operations Associate Kat Hamilton, MA at khamilton@ForeFdn.org.