

Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority Application for Awards for Cooperative Projects Involving Cities and Counties

1. Contact Information

This application is for cooperative projects consisting of a cooperative partnership between at least two cities and/or counties within the same Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) region.

Complete this table for all cities and/or counties involved in the cooperative partnership.

Name of City/County	Contact Person	Mailing Address	Phone #	Email
Rockingham County	Trish Davidson	20 E Gay Street Harrisonburg, VA 22802	540-564-3010	tdavidson@rockinghamcountyva.gov
Rockingham County	Ann Marie Ritchie	20 E Gay Street Harrisonburg, VA 22802	540-564-3010	amritchie@rockinghamcountyva.gov
Harrisonburg City	Luke Morgan	409 S Main Street Harrisonburg, VA 22801	540-432-7739	luke.morgan@harrisonburgva.gov

Application for Awards for Cooperative
Projects Involving Cities and Counties

2. Fiscal Agent

- a. One of the participating cities or counties must serve as the fiscal agent for the cooperative project. The fiscal agent will be responsible to ensuring compliance with both financial and programmatic reporting requirements on behalf of the cooperative partnership.
- b. City/County Serving as Fiscal Agent Rockingham County city county
- c. Physical address: 20 E Gay Street, Harrisonburg VA 22802
- d. Mailing address: 20 E Gay Street, Harrisonburg VA 22802
(if different than physical address)
- e. Contact Person for this application
 - i. Name: Trish Davidson
 - ii. Job Title: Assistant County Administrator
 - iii. Office Phone: 540-564-3010 Cell Phone: 540-578-6712
 - iv. Email: tdavidson@rockinghamcountyva.gov

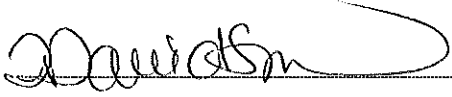
3. Agreements

- a. Attach a copy of the cooperative partnership agreement between the participating cities and/or counties for the project. The agreement should also designate the city or county selected as fiscal agent for the cooperative project. A SAMPLE agreement is available here.
 - i. If any participating city and/or county elects to allocate a portion of its Individual Distribution from the OAA to this regional project, the Cooperative Partnership Agreement should clearly document the commitment and amount.

4. Signature

Signature section must be completed by a person designated with signatory authority in the MOU/MOA noted in Part 3.a of this application.

"I swear or affirm that all information contained in and attached to this application is true to the best of my knowledge."

Signature 
Print Name Trish Davidson
Title Assistant County Administrator
Date May 5, 2023

Application for Awards for Cooperative
Projects Involving Cities and Counties

5. Project Proposal

Complete the information below for the project the cooperative partnership is requesting to be funded.

a. Is this project:

A new effort for the participating cities/counties.

A proposed supplement or enhancement to a project or effort that is already in place.

How long has the project existed? 2015

A combination of enhancing an existing project/effort with new components.

How long has the project existed? _____

b. Provide a brief narrative description of the proposed project including the requested term (1-5 years).

The proposed project will enhance and expand the capacity of the regional mental health crisis assessment center (CITAC) by increasing law enforcement presence at the CITAC. The CITAC serves both Harrisonburg and Rockingham County, and provides emergency crisis assessment for individuals who are brought in by law enforcement under emergency custody orders (ECOs) and temporary detention orders (TDOs), as well as individuals who come in voluntarily. The Rockingham County Sheriff's Office (RCSO) currently staffs the CITAC Monday through Friday from 4pm - midnight. Rockingham County has submitted applications for federal funding to hire two additional officers for full-time weekday coverage. OAA funds will be used to support overtime for law enforcement officers on the weekend to bring coverage to 24/7. Research has shown that limited availability of emergency crisis receiving centers, like CITAC, reduces the effectiveness of Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) as a criminal justice diversion for individuals with mental health disorders (MHDs) and co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders (SUMHDs) (Compton et al. 2010). Expanding the hours of operation will better align the CITAC with best practices recommendations for 24/7 crisis assessment center operations. CITAC officers will also expand screening and tracking for substance use (including opioid use), and distribute material on treatment and harm reduction outreach efforts (e.g., medically assisted treatment (MAT), Naloxone, fentanyl test strips, etc.).

Application for Awards for Cooperative
Projects Involving Cities and Counties

c. Describe the objectives of this project

Project objectives include:

1. Expand hours of law enforcement coverage at the CITAC to increase the capacity to provide warm hand-offs for individuals with MHDs and SUMHDs.
2. Reduce officer wait time at the CITAC and allow them to return to the field more quickly.
3. Expand information and referrals provided to individuals and their families about community-based MH and SUD/OD treatment services.
4. Expand harm reduction outreach.
5. Increase distribution of naloxone kits and fentanyl test strips to at-risk individuals.
6. Increase data tracking for crisis response planning and evaluation.

d. How was the need determined and how does that need relate to abatement?

There is a high prevalence of mental illness among individuals with opioid use disorders (OUD), increasing their risk of engagement with the criminal justice system. Recent research estimates that among individuals with OUD, 64.3% reported mental illness in the previous year, while 26.9% had a serious mental illness (SMI) (Jones & McCance-Katz, 2019). Limited treatment options and over reliance on the criminal justice system have resulted in disproportionate rates of incarcerations among individuals with OUD and MHDs. For example, a recent report by the Virginia State Compensation Board (2022) on mental illness in local and regional jails revealed that in June 2022, more than two thirds (78.8%) of the 679 inmates at Middle River Regional Jail (MRRJ) had been diagnosed with mental illness, with 319 identified as having a serious mental illness (SMI).

Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) is an evidence-based practice for diverting individuals with MHDs and SUMHDs from incarceration. A core element of effective CIT programs is "a designated psychiatric emergency receiving facility with a "no-refusal" policy and minimal turnaround time for police officers" (Compton et al., 2010). In Harrisonburg and Rockingham County, the CITAC, which is located in the Sentara RHM emergency department serves this function. Officers responding to mental health-related calls for service bring all individuals subject to emergency custody orders (ECOs) and temporary detention orders (TDOs) to the CITAC for assessment, which they can transfer custody to the CITAC officer on duty and then return to the field. Local research has shown that officers also take most voluntary transports to CITAC as well (87% in 2021-22). However, the CITAC is only consistently staffed from 4pm - midnight, five days a week. When there is no CITAC officer on duty, the responding officer must wait with individuals in custody until admitted or released.

Limited hours have been exacerbated by increasing mental health calls for service in the region. As a result, the capacity of the region's crisis assessment center (CITAC) is inadequate to meet the growing volume of mental health crises. A recent analysis of 911 calls showed that mental health-related calls for service (MH CFS) in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County have increased by 10% over the past three years, from 2,510 unique CFS in 2019-20 to 3,040 in 2021-22. Rural townships in the county experienced the greatest growth, with an increase of 47.6%.

**Application for Awards for Cooperative
Projects Involving Cities and Counties**

- e. Who are the targeted beneficiaries, and how many persons are expected to participate per year?

The direct target beneficiaries are individuals with mental health and co-occurring disorders, including opioid use disorders, who are the subjects of mental health-related calls for service. Citizens of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County may also benefit indirectly through increased public safety and reduced criminal justice costs. In 2021-22, there were more than 3,000 mental health related calls for service in the region. Individuals brought to the CITAC are screened for prior substance use, including opioid use. Emergency Services estimates that 35-45% of individuals screened at the CITAC have a history of substance use and 15-20% a history of opioid use.

- f. Briefly describe (name or organization, description of role, budget, etc.) the organization(s), including any sub-recipients or contractors (if known) that will be involved in this project. Attach any contracts and/or memoranda of understanding/agreement. If not fully executed, a draft or a narrative describing the scope of services may suffice.

Harrisonburg-Rockingham Court Services Unit, a department shared between the County and the City will be the manager of the project. No sub recipients of contractors are proposed to be used.

**Application for Awards for Cooperative
Projects Involving Cities and Counties**

g. Is the project classified as evidence-based?

Yes

No

If yes, attach supporting information to this application.

h. Is the project classified as evidence-informed?

Yes

No

If yes, attach supporting information to this application.

i. Has this project been certified or credentialed by a state/federal government agency, or other organization/non-profit?

Yes

No

If yes, attach supporting information to this application.

j. Has this project received any awards or recognition?

Yes

No

If yes, attach supporting information to this application.

k. Does this project have components other than opioid-related treatment as defined?

No, it is 100% related to opioid treatment

Yes, there are other substances involved

If yes, what is the approximate percentage of the project that covers opioid-related abatement (i.e., 20% of the patients who seek services have opioid-related disorders)?

An estimated 15%-20% of individuals brought to the CITAC screen with opioid use (45%-50% screen with substance use). 100% of individuals will be provided with material on treatment and harm reduction strategies. (Medically assisted treatment, Naloxone, Fentanyl Test Strips, etc.)

**Application for Awards for Cooperative
Projects Involving Cities and Counties**

- l. Attach a budget for that minimally includes FY2024 with line-item details for the project. If carry-over of OAA funds from FY2024 into FY2025 is expected, include this in the line-item budget. If there is intention to renew the funding (maximum of 4 renewals), include the projected budget for each subsequent fiscal year.
 - i. If a city or county in the cooperative partnership is allocating any of its Direct Distributions and/or any of its Individual Distributions from the OAA to this cooperative project, include line items for each as funding sources for the project.
- m. Complete and attach the project timeline workbook for the project minimally for FY2024. If there is intention to renew the funding (maximum of 4 renewals), complete the timeline for each subsequent fiscal year.
- n. Complete and attach the performance measurement workbook for the project minimally for FY2024. If there is intention to renew the funding (maximum of 4 renewals), include the complete the performance measures for each subsequent fiscal year.
- o. *(Optional)* Attach any additional narrative materials explaining the project, along with any research, data, plans, letters of support, articles, or other items that may assist the OAA Board of Directors in making an award decision for this project.



STEPHEN G. KING
County Administrator



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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Election District No. 4
MICHAEL A. BREEDEN
Election District No. 5

RESOLUTION FOR SUPPORT AND AUTHORIZATION FOR VIRGINIA OPIOID AUTHORITY COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIP APPLICATIONS

WHEREAS, the mission of the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) is to abate and remediate the opioid epidemic in the Commonwealth through financial support in the form of grants, donations, or other assistance; and

WHEREAS, the OAA operates a financial assistance program to support certain cooperative partnerships of cities and/or counties in Virginia that implement regional efforts to treat, prevent, and reduce opioid use disorder and the misuse of opioids; and

WHEREAS, Rockingham County and the City of Harrisonburg have committed to work together to develop and jointly submit applications for regional cooperative partnership funding from the OAA for the following projects:

- Enhance and expand the capacity of the regional mental health Crisis Intervention Team Assessment Center (CITAC); and
- Maintain and enhance the regional Crisis Response Unit (CRU) consisting of a certified mental health clinician and a Rockingham County Sheriff's Deputy; and

WHEREAS, Rockingham County agrees it will execute a legally binding agreement formalizing the cooperating partnership with the City of Harrisonburg if the application for financial assistance is approved; and

WHEREAS, Rockingham County agrees that it will serve as the fiscal agent for the cooperative partnership if it is awarded; and

WHEREAS, the City of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County seek a total of \$85,000 for the CITAC project and \$150,000 for the CRU project in cooperative partnership grant funding from the OAA for Fiscal Year 2024.

WHEREAS, the City of Harrisonburg has committed to allocate \$19,632 of its Individual Distribution from the OAA to the CITAC project and \$39,264 of its Individual Distribution from the OAA to the CRU project for Fiscal Year 2024.

WHEREAS, the County of Rockingham has committed to allocate \$19,632 of its Direct Distribution to the CITAC project and \$39,264 of its Direct Distribution to the CRU project for Fiscal Year 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes Rockingham County to act as fiscal agent and to execute the cooperative partnership grant application to the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority and to execute all documents in connection therewith.

ADOPTED this 26th day of April, 2023.

Chairman Dewey L. Ritchie

ATTEST:

County Clerk

**RESOLUTION FOR SUPPORT AND AUTHORIZATION FOR VIRGINIA OPIOID AUTHORITY
COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIP APPLICATIONS**

WHEREAS, the mission of the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) is to abate and remediate the opioid epidemic in the Commonwealth through financial support in the form of grants, donations, or other assistance; and

WHEREAS, the OAA operates a financial assistance program to support certain cooperative partnerships of cities and/or counties in Virginia that implement regional efforts to treat, prevent, and reduce opioid use disorder and the misuse of opioids; and

WHEREAS, Rockingham County and the City of Harrisonburg have committed to work together to develop and jointly submit applications for regional cooperative partnership funding from the OAA for the following projects:

- Enhance and expand the capacity of the regional mental health Crisis Intervention Team Assessment Center (CITAC); and
- Maintain and enhance the regional Crisis Response Unit (CRU) consisting of a certified mental health clinician and a Rockingham County Sheriff's Deputy; and

WHEREAS, the City of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County are located within the same region of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services; and

WHEREAS, the City of Harrisonburg agrees it will execute a legally binding agreement formalizing the cooperating partnership with Rockingham County if the application for financial assistance is approved; and

WHEREAS, the City of Harrisonburg agrees that Rockingham County will serve as the fiscal agent for the cooperative partnership if it is awarded; and

WHEREAS, the City of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County seek a total of \$85,000 for the CITAC project and \$150,000 for the CRU project in cooperative partnership grant funding from the OAA for Fiscal Year 2024.

WHEREAS, the City of Harrisonburg has committed to allocate \$19,632 of its Individual Distribution from the OAA to the CITAC project and \$39,264 of its Individual Distribution from the OAA to the CRU project for Fiscal Year 2024.

WHEREAS, the Rockingham County has committed to allocate \$19,632 of its Direct Distribution to the CITAC project and \$39,264 of its Direct Distribution to the CRU project for Fiscal Year 2024.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Harrisonburg City Council hereby authorizes Rockingham County acting as fiscal agent to execute the cooperative partnership grant application to the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority and to execute all documents in connection therewith.

ADOPTED this 25th day of April, 2023.



Deanna R. Reed, Mayor

ATTEST:



Pam Ulmer, City Clerk