

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 |
|---------------------|----------------|--|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Smyth County | Shawn Utt | 121 Bagley Circle, Suite 100, Marion, Va 24354 | 276-783-3298 | sutt@smythcounty.org |
| Wythe County | Stephen Bear | 340 South Sixth Street, Wytheville, VA 24382 | 276-223-4500 | sdbear@wytheco.org |
| Bland County | Cameron Burton | 612 Main Street, Suite 201, Bland, VA 24315 | 276-688-4622 | cburton@bland.org |
| Carroll County | Michael Watson | 605-1 Pine Street, Hillsville, VA 24343 | 276-730-3001 | michael.watson@carrollcountyva.gov |
| City of Galax | Gavin Blevins | 111 E. Grayson St., Galax, VA 24333 | 276-236-5773 | citymanager@galaxva.com |
| Grayson County | Stephen Boyer | 129 Davis St., Independence, VA 24348 | 276-773-2471 | SBoyer@graysoncova.gov |
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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 Smyth County city county
- c. Physical address: 121 Bagley Circle, Suite 100, Marion, VA 24354
- d. Mailing address: Same as above
(if different than physical address)
- e. Contact Person for this application
 - i. Name: Shawn Utt
 - ii. Job Title: County Administrator
 - iii. Office Phone: 276-783-3298 Cell Phone: _____
 - iv. Email: sutt@smythcounty.org

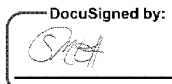
3. Agreements

- 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  _____
57BF34156A484CC...

Print Name Shawn Utt

Title County Administrator

Date 5/5/2023

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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? _____

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 Mount Rogers Regional Opioid Abatement Partnership Project will bring all six localities in the Mount Rogers DBHDS behavioral health region into a collective partnership with Mount Rogers Community Services to address opioid use disorder (OUD) prevention, treatment, and recovery needs in the region. Specifically, the project will expand access and availability of office-based opioid treatment (OBOT) services, increasing access to evidence-based Medication Addition Treatment, and develop transitional recovery housing for individuals with opioid use disorder. This fiscal year, we request \$1,000,000 in OAA funds, with a \$200,000 match provided by Mount Rogers Community Services (MRCS), for a project total of \$1,200,000. We also request project continuation for an additional 4 years at a total of \$1,200,000 each year.

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c. Describe the objectives of this project

The proposed project seeks to expand access to medication-assisted treatment services to adults with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD), with an emphasis on expanding the capacity of MAT/OBOT services and care coordination for marginalized communities and individuals who are under or uninsured with OUD. The project also proposes to develop recovery housing infrastructure to further supports individuals with OUD in need of safe, stable housing. The expansion and development of treatment and recovery-oriented services is necessary in order to reduce the need for higher intensity, more costly levels of care.

Goal 1: Expand MAT service capacity to serve 300 individuals, decreasing use of illicit opioid drug and prescription opioid misuse by September 30, 2028.

Objective: Expand MAT service to 60 additional MAT slots by September 29, 2024. Serve an additional 60 individuals annually, year 2-4.

Goal 2: Develop Recovery-oriented transitional housing for individuals with OUD.

Objective: Partners will work with 2 community partners (Mount Rogers Community Services and Helping Overcome Poverty's Existence, Inc. (HOPE, Inc.)) in the development of recovery oriented housing for individuals with OUD in the region by September 29, 2024, and yearly thereafter.

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

The need for OBOT/MAT services and recovery-oriented housing in the region is determined by data compiled from state and national data sources, local community needs assessments, as well as qualitative feedback from focus groups, community coalitions, and county administrators and city managers.

For individuals receiving behavioral health services, the rate of use by individuals of opiate/synthetic drugs 30.47 per 10,000 far exceeds the rate for the State 13.79 per 10,000 (Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services). Among CSB areas in Virginia, Mount Rogers had the 4th highest rate in the State of both fatal prescription opioid overdose and fatal opiates-combination overdose (Office of Chief Medical Examiner of Virginia). These issues have been exacerbated by the pandemic, evident by an increase in overdose deaths and an increase in substance abuse as a coping mechanism. The rate of fatal opioid overdose per 100,000 population in 2021 for the region was 12.9, compared to Virginia (25.9), with the rate of fatal overdoses increasing in several localities (see attached data chart). The rate of each locality in 2021 are as follows: Smyth- 10, Wythe- 14, Bland- 0, Carroll- 23.3, Galax- 15.9, and Grayson- 12.9.

Since the onset of the pandemic, MRCS has seen a spike in service utilization as more people begin to report the negative impact the pandemic has had on their mental health and well-being. In the last month, 111 individuals participated in OBOT/MAT services. Services that typically have 30-50 slots available are now running at maximum capacity, with a wait-list of over 30 people. In addition, one of the local providers in the catchment area with a current caseload of 45 individuals is leaving the practice, exacerbating the need for increasing OBOT/MAT programming capacity. At this time individuals are traveling over 1.5 hours outside of the service area to our neighboring states of North Carolina, West Virginia, and Tennessee to seek services. We anticipates the need for OUD services and supports, such as safe and affordable recovery housing, to increase in the next 5 years. This project will allow localities to partner with MRCS, the region's behavioral health provider with a successful history in developing and implementing prevention, treatment, and recovery services, in developing supports that address the opioid crisis in rural southwest Virginia.

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

The target beneficiaries of the Mount Rogers Regional Opioid Abatement Partnership Project will be to adults with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD), with an emphasis on expanding the capacity of MAT/OBOT services and care coordination for marginalized communities and under or uninsured individuals with OUD in the region. The project will serve 60 individuals annually, reaching a total of 300 over the 5-year grant period.

- 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.

The localities will partner with Mount Rogers Community Services (MRCS) to implement all prevention, treatment, and recovery services in relation to this \$1,200,000 proposal. Mount Rogers Community Services (MRCS) is the public, not for profit provider of behavioral health and developmental disability services for the Mount Rogers region of southwest Virginia. MRCS has a long record of achievement in developing and implementing service delivery systems, and is a Center of Excellence in the delivery and cultural philosophy of person-centered practices and a Certified Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC).

MRCS will be responsible for the expansion of OBAT/MAT services to include the recruitment and hiring of staff, program implementation and evaluation of the program, recruitment and retention of individuals in services. MRCS will partner with HOPE, Inc. in the development of recovery housing, working alongside localities on zoning and housing development plans and procedures.

MRCS will work with each partner in increasing availability and access to services within their locality, share data and resources as needed, and assist Smyth County in the reporting of project timeline, measurements, and program outcomes to OAA.

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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)?

N/A

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- 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.



Mount Rogers

COMMUNITY SERVICES

770 West Ridge Rd
Wytheville, VA 24382

276-223-3200

mountrogers.org

May 5, 2023

Shawn Utt
Smyth County Administrator
121 Bagley Circle, Suite 100
Marion, VA 24354

Re:

Mr. Utt,

On behalf of Mount Rogers Community Services, I am pleased to offer our support and partnership with our localities on the Mount Rogers Regional Opioid Abatement Partnership Project to address opioid use disorder (OUD) prevention, treatment, and recovery needs in the region. Mount Rogers is one of 40 community services boards (CSBs) in the state of Virginia. Serving the Counties of Bland, Carroll, Grayson, Smyth, and Wythe, and the City of Galax, we provide a wide array of community services for individuals with mental health, substance use, intellectual and developmental disabilities.

As an essential partner on the project, Mount Rogers will assist the Counties of Smyth, Wythe, Bland, Carroll, and Grayson, and the City of Galax in writing the application for OAA Cooperative Partnership funds. If awarded, MRCS will commit via MOU to providing OBOT/MAT services in the region, collaborate with Hope, Inc. in the development of recovery houses, and provide a match in the amount of \$200,000 towards the project. We will also report on the timeline, measurements, and outcomes, as well as complete necessary project reports on behalf of Smyth County and the partnering localities.

Mount Rogers Community Services is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with mental, physical, and substance use intervention needs. We fully support the Mount Rogers Regional Opioid Abatement Partnership Project application, and each localities efforts towards addressing the opioid crisis in the service area.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Sandy Bryant

Sandy Bryant, RN, LPC, LMFT
Chief Executive Officer
Mount Rogers Community Services

Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority Cooperative Agreement

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;

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, the cities and/or counties listed below have committed to work together to develop and jointly submit an application for regional cooperative partnership funding from the OAA; and



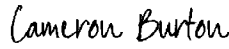
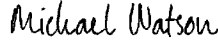
WHEREAS, at least two of the cities and/or counties and other organizations listed below are located within the same region of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, and

WHEREAS, the cities and/or counties and other organizations listed below agree they will execute a legally binding agreement formalizing the cooperating partnership if the application for financial assistance is approved; and

WHEREAS, the cities and/or counties and other organizations listed below agree that SMYTH COUNTY will serve as the fiscal agent for the cooperative partnership if it is awarded; and

WHEREAS, the cities and/or counties and other organizations listed below seek total of \$1,200,000 in grant funding from the OAA for Fiscal Year 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the cities and/or counties and other organizations listed below hereby authorize SMYTH COUNTY to execute the cooperative partnership grant application to the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority and to execute all documents in connection therewith.

| Name of City, County, or Organization | Printed Name of Authorized Signor | Title of Authorized Signor | Signature |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Smyth County | Shawn Utt | County Administrator | DocuSigned by:  |
| Wythe County | Stephen Bear | County Administrator | 57BF34156A484CC... DocuSigned by:  |
| Bland County | Cameron Burton | County Administrator | 10B624E480A7437... DocuSigned by:  |
| Carroll County | Michael Watson | County Administrator | 03BB763A09394F8... DocuSigned by:  |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---|
| City of Galax | Gavin Blevins | City Manager | DocuSigned by: <i>Gavin N. Blevins</i> 701D2E7A4B90450... |
| Grayson County | Stephen Boyer | County Administrator | DocuSigned by: <i>S. Boyer</i> 04F3D5904E45432... |
| Mount Rogers Community Services | Sandy Bryant | Chief Executive Officer | DocuSigned by: <i>Sandy Bryant</i> 2003F4C959AF493... |