

# Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority Overview of Distribution for Cooperative Projects Involving Multiple Cities and/or Counties

1. Beginning in 2022, opioid-related settlement funds are expected to be distributed to the Commonwealth of Virginia by the settlement administrator(s) each year until at least 2038. As explained in the overview document, each settlement is divided with 30% sent directly to cities & counties, 15% directly to the Commonwealth, and 55% to the Opioid Abatement Fund which is distributed in accordance with *Code of Virginia §2.2-2374*.
  - a. As these revenues are received each year and credited to the OAA's "Opioid Abatement Fund," 35% of the Fund will be allocated for awards for cooperative projects involving multiple cities and counties.
  - b. These awards are competitive and awards will be prioritized based on:
    - i. Programs or organizations with an established record of success (expansion of existing program or implementation in a new city or county);
    - ii. Programs in communities with a high incidence of opioid use disorder or opioid death rate, relative to population;
    - iii. Programs in historically economically disadvantaged communities; and,
    - iv. Applications that include a monetary match from or on behalf of the applicant, with higher priority given to an effort with a larger matching amount
    - v. Equitable distribution across the Commonwealth
  - c. Once a project is approved, the cooperative partnership project may continue for up to four, one-year renewals, provided the project remains in compliance with the [terms and conditions](#) required by the OAA and the fiscal agent submits an annual renewal application for the program.
  - d. The city or county selected as the fiscal agent must be able to separately account for the use of the cooperative distribution from the Opioid Abatement Fund for the cooperative partnership project(s).
2. The application for the cooperative project(s) accomplishes the following:
  - a. Explains how the cooperative partnership plans to use the funds, to include listing out the details of each proposed cooperative project(s);
  - b. Provides estimated performance measures for each proposed project(s); and,
  - c. Confirms the cooperative partnership agree to the [terms and conditions](#) that are attached to the use of the funds.

## Overview of the Grant Process for the OAA Distribution for Cooperative Projects Involving Multiple Cities and/or Counties (35% of OAA Funds)

There will be an annual grant process that governs the award of grants for cooperative projects involving multiple cities and counties.

The OAA follows the Commonwealth's fiscal year (July 1 through June 30).

1. In its inception year, the OAA will accept grant applications for Cooperative Project Awards between January 19, 2023, and May 5, 2023, that accomplish the following:
    - a. Identify the participating cities and/or counties
    - b. Identify the city or county selected as the fiscal agent
    - c. Provide a copy of the cooperative partnership agreement
    - d. Provide information about the project(s) requesting to be funded
    - e. Confirm the cooperative partnership agreement complies with the OAA's terms and conditions
  2. Beginning on October 1, 2023, and continuing thereafter for each subsequent fiscal year, the OAA grant application period will occur between October 1 and April 1. Each year this application process will:
    - a. Allow for the renewal (up to four after the first year) of an approved project:
      - i. Confirm that the plans approved by the OAA for the cooperative project are being implemented;
      - ii. Provide updated actual and projected performance measures; and
      - iii. Identify any amendments that may be needed to the current year plan.
- OR**
- b. Allow for the application for a new project (this would include those projects that have exhausted the 4 renewal years).

## General Considerations

1. Once a cooperative partnership of cities and/or counties has received approval on a project, the group may continue the same project(s) for up to four subsequent years, as long as the city or county remains in compliance with the [terms and conditions](#) required by the OAA. This will allow each group to make long-term plans for considerations such as staffing and ongoing operational costs.
2. It is possible, especially during the first year of this process, that a cooperative partnership of cities and/or counties intends to utilize the fiscal agent's procurement process and needs to complete that process in order to provide an expected budget in order to submit a proposal to the OAA. In that event, the group may submit a funding request with the expected total amount for the project, and if the actual cost of the contract or service requires that budget be amended, the OAA will work with the fiscal agent to make that amendment (see the amendment process section below).

3. Beginning in FY2025, the OAA will require the fiscal agent to repay any unencumbered balances to the OAA by September 1 of the following fiscal year, unless a carryover request is submitted meeting the following conditions:
  - a. The carry-over was planned and submitted as part of the approved project budget; or
  - b. The cooperative partnership is making reasonable and measurable progress to implement its project(s) as described in the approved proposal; and
    - The “project timeline” workbook will be used to document reasonable and measurable progress.
  - c. The cooperative partnership remains in compliance with the terms and conditions of the OAA.

## **Amendment Process**

Once a cooperative project has been awarded by the OAA, amendments will be handled as follows:

1. At all times, regardless of any amendment, the cooperative partnership must remain in compliance with the OAA's [terms and conditions](#).
2. A cooperative partnership of cities and/or counties may appropriate additional revenue that it receives for any approved project. In this event the OAA shall be notified of the change using forms approved by the OAA.
3. A cooperative partnership of cities and/or counties may initiate line-item budget transfers within a project without seeking approval from the OAA.

## **Use of OAA Individual Distribution to Cities and Counties for Cooperative Projects Involving Multiple Cities and/or Counties**

Cities and counties have the option to appropriate a portion of their OAA Individual Distribution to a cooperative partnership project. Cities and counties do not have to submit an Individual Distribution application to appropriate the OAA Distribution to a cooperative project. The Cooperative Partnership Agreement should document the commitment and amount any cities and or counties that elect to apply the OAA Individual Distribution to the cooperative project.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

Applications will be evaluated on how they meet the following criteria:

1. The [terms and conditions](#) of this funding opportunity
2. The conditions, restrictions, and priorities enumerated in *Code of Virginia §2.2-2370*
  - a. Specifically, grant applications that accomplish the following:
    - i. Collaborate with an existing program or organization that has an established record of success treating, preventing, or reducing opioid use disorder or the misuse of opioids;

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- ii. Treat, prevent, or reduce opioid use disorder or the misuse of opioids in a community with a high incidence of opioid use disorder or opioid death rate, relative to population;
  - iii. Treat, prevent, or reduce opioid use disorder or the misuse of opioids in a historically economically disadvantaged community; or
  - iv. Include a monetary match from or on behalf of the applicant, with higher priority given to an effort with a larger matching amount.
3. The allowable uses under each settlement agreement
  - a. Example: [Exhibit E from Distributors and Janssen Settlements](#)
4. Extent to which the proposed cooperative project identifies and addresses specific gaps;
5. Projects that remove barriers to access or make services more accessible to high-risk or difficult to serve individuals;
6. Projects that specifically serve the needs of pregnant and nursing mothers and children;
7. The prospective return on financial investment offered by the cooperative project;
8. Cooperative projects will be awarded in a manner that distributes funds equitably among all community service board regions of the Commonwealth