

Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority Overview of Planning Grants for Cooperative Partnerships Involving Multiple Cities and/or Counties

The Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) recognizes that providing abatement services is a new service area for many cities and counties. In accordance with the approved usages outlined in the settlement agreements specifically for “...*statewide, regional, local or community regional planning to identify root causes of addiction and overdose, goals for reducing harms related to the opioid epidemic, and [identify] areas and populations with the greatest needs for treatment intervention services...*”, the OAA is offering Planning Grants for Cooperative Partnerships Involving Multiple Cities and/or Counties.

1. Planning Grants may be used to pay for the actual direct costs associated with planning for a cooperative partnership to expand or launch new abatement projects. Examples of actual direct costs may include the following:
 - a. Cost of direct and measurable staff time and effort to conduct the planning.
 - b. Cost of a contractor hired by the recipient to assist the recipient with planning and developing local and regional abatement efforts.
 - c. Actual operating costs associated with planning and developing the city or county’s efforts.
2. Indirect costs are not allowed.
 - a. Indirect costs would include arbitrary amounts or percentages charged to the grant for un-measurable support functions.
3. The Cooperative Partnership must include at least two cities and/or counties from the same [Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services region](#) and designate one of the participating cities or counties as the fiscal agent for the Planning Grant.
4. The fiscal agent must maintain separate accounting for the Planning Grant funds from its Direct Distribution, Individual Distribution, and any Cooperative Project funds it may receive as a designated fiscal agent for a Cooperative Partnership Grant separate from this Planning Grant.
5. Each participating city and/or county must submit a letter of support from the city or county executive for participation in the Cooperative Partnership Planning Grant. The letter outlines the city or county’s commitment, the appointed fiscal agent, support to implement the resulting plan, and any monetary match the city or county is providing.
6. Planning Grants may only be used to for the development of new or expanded abatement efforts and must result in a plan for a project/effort that meets the statutory requirements of the *Code of Virginia §2.2-2370*.
 - a. Failure to achieve this result may result in a requirement for the recipient to repay the amount of the grant to the OAA.

7. *Per Code of Virginia §2.2-2370 (B) (4), The Authority shall give priority to applications for financial support for efforts that include a monetary match from or on behalf of the applicant, with higher priority given to an effort with a larger matching amount.*
 - a. Since these grants are competitive, cities and counties are strongly encouraged to provide a monetary match using Direct Distributions from the settlement administrator, Individual Distribution from the OAA, and/or general funds.
 - i. If a participating city or county elects to use a portion of its Individual Distribution as a monetary match for a Planning Grant, the city or county does not have to submit an Individual Distribution application. The Planning Grant application and its supporting documentation will serve this function.

Overview of the Grant Process for Planning Grants for Cooperative Projects

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

1. In its inception year, the OAA will accept applications for Planning Grants between February 1, 2023, and May 5, 2023.
2. Beginning on October 1, 2023 and continuing there after for each subsequent fiscal year the Planning Grants are offered, the Planning Grant application period will occur between October 1 and April 1.
3. The performance period for a Planning Grant will be 24 months from the date of distribution. All funds awarded will be distributed up front. Any funds remaining at the end of the performance period must be repaid to the OAA.
4. Applicant must agree to and maintain compliance with [OAA's Planning Grant Terms and Conditions](#).
5. **The results of the Planning Grant must include a report and a plan** to implement an abatement project/effort that meets the statutory requirements of the *Code of Virginia* §2.2-2370 including the following elements and will be shared with the OAA and placed on the OAA's website:
 - a. Describes the objective of the project
 - b. Describes how the need was determined and how that need relates to abatement
 - c. Describes any organization the cooperative project would partner and/or contract with including the roles of each in the project
 - d. Describe the targeted beneficiaries and how many persons are expected to participate each year
 - e. Determine if the project is one or more of the following and provide supporting documentation:
 - i. Evidence-based
 - ii. Evidence-informed
 - iii. Certified or credentialed by a state/federal government agency, or other organization/non-profit (if modeled from an existing program)
 - iv. The recipient of any awards or recognition (if modeled from an existing program)
 - f. Determine if the project has components other than opioid-related abatement and if not 100% related to opioid abatement, determine the approximate percentage that covers opioid-related abatement.
 - g. Determine the projected budget for the project
 - h. Determine the project timeline
 - i. Determine the performance measures for the project

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated on how the plan will result in a project that meets the criteria in *Code of Virginia §2.2-2370 (A)* as well as:

1. 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;
2. 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;
3. Treat, prevent, or reduce opioid use disorder or the misuse of opioids in a historically economically disadvantaged community; or
4. Include a monetary match from or on behalf of the applicant, with higher priority given to an effort with a larger matching amount

For any applications not meeting the established requirements, the OAA will assist the applicant to revise the application to facilitate compliance. For any applications where the OAA Grants Committee recommends denial, the applicant will have the opportunity to present its appeal to the OAA Board of Director before a final decision is made.