

# **FY 2020 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-based Program (COSSAP)**

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) – Updated April 2020**

The following FAQs were developed to assist applicants wishing to apply for the FY 2020 COSSAP grant. The FAQs were developed in response to the change in authorization language reflected in the FY 2020 solicitation. A link to the solicitation can be found at: <https://bj.a.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/bja-2020-17023.pdf>

**Q: If a jurisdiction currently has a FY 2017 – FY 2019 Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP) award, can it apply for a new FY 2020 COSSAP award?**

A: Yes. If the applicant organization meets the eligibility criteria in the FY 2020 solicitation, it may apply for a FY 2020 COSSAP award to address new activities or activities beyond any currently being implemented. A description of the new or expanded activities must respond to the solicitation criteria and include a strong statement of the problem and clear data justifying the new request. The jurisdiction also must have systems in place to maintain separate awards and records, without the commingling of funds, and must have the ability to report separately for each award if selected for funding. All applications will be peer reviewed and scored.

**Q: Can a jurisdiction either (a) apply to enhance a program by adding new components to it or (b) expand a program by increasing the capacity served by the existing award?**

A: If a current grantee would like to make changes to its existing award, and the changes will not require the need for additional funds or additional time that cannot be accommodated through a no-cost extension, it may request a Project Scope Change as follows:

- BJA encourages grantees to discuss their proposed changes with their BJA Program Managers or Policy Advisors in advance of submitting a Project Scope Change Grant Adjustment Notice (GAN) in the Office of Justice Programs Grants Management System (GMS).
- The Project Scope Change GAN should include a justification for the change and document how the change is in line with, and will allow the grantee to meet, the original goals and objectives of the approved application. If this change also requires a budget modification that will shift funds by more than 10 percent, add or delete any funding category, or change the costs charged for indirect costs, a Budget Modification GAN will also must be submitted.

**Q: If COAP grant funds are expiring in September 2020, can a grantee apply to supplement the existing award with FY 2020 funding?**

A: Any application under the FY 2020 COSSAP solicitation would be for a new award and not a supplemental award. For a current award expiring in September 2020, a one-time, no-cost extension of up to 12 months can be requested, but this extension cannot request additional funds. The request must be supported by a narrative that justifies that the extension is for the benefit of the federal government and contains a plan and timeline for completion within the period of the no-cost extension. The award cannot have any significant performance or compliance issues.

An award that has already received one extension would only be eligible for another because of extenuating circumstances such as:

- Natural disasters or catastrophic events
- Litigation or state/local legislative or regulatory schedules
- Research and statistics projects that are delayed due to institutional review board actions or Office of Management and Budget reviews, data collection and analysis, disclosure review, presentation of findings, archiving of data, and dissemination of findings
- Other extraordinary matters beyond the award recipient's control

**Q: Can COSSAP funds be used to purchase medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and telemedicine services?**

A: Telemedicine and evidence-based treatment, such as the three FDA-approved MATs, are allowable uses of funding.

**Q: If a jurisdiction wishes to broaden its grant program coverage area (city) to include a larger part of the county, can that be done?**

A: If the geographic expansion request is for a FY 2017 – FY 2019 award, please see the above question regarding making changes to an existing award. If the request is for a new award under the FY 2020 COSSAP grant, please see the information above regarding new applications.

**Q: If a jurisdiction is focusing only on opioids with the current award, what must it do to add stimulants or other drugs, and can the jurisdiction tailor the program to support only stimulants and methamphetamines? (What is the process for making this change if allowed?)**

A: Changes to the project scope are not automatically approved; the change would be requested via a Project Scope Change GAN in GMS. As noted above, any such requests should include information on how the original goals and objectives of the approved application will still be met. The requests will be reviewed and the final decision documented via the GAN in GMS.

**Q: Can funds be used by forensic science laboratories, crime scene units, and medical examiners' or coroners' offices to purchase or upgrade data management systems or instrumentation (including portable instrumentation) or to employ or train personnel to support forensic data-driven analysis (such as a forensic epidemiologist)?**

A: Yes, so long as the applicant demonstrates that the proposed activity will directly support stakeholders with timely and accurate data that supports project deliverables. Any proposed activity or purchase must include a strong justification to demonstrate how the activity will directly support the timely collection of data or information that supports a comprehensive view of the drug abuse environment and enhance the public safety, public health, and behavioral health partnership and data sets.

**Q: Can funds be used for forensic toxicology examinations, for example, to mine toxicology data from suspected drug-related deaths?**

A: Yes, so long as the applicant demonstrates that the proposed activity will directly support law enforcement, forensic analysis, and public health.

**Q: Can a coroner's office or medical examiner's office be an applicant? Can a forensic crime laboratory or crime scene unit be an applicant?**

A: These offices can be applicants if they meet the eligibility criteria of being units of government. Otherwise, they would need to be subgrantees.

**Q: Can the state agency apply for a COSSAP grant prior to identifying the subrecipients who will receive the pass-through funds?**

A: Yes; however, the state agency must run a solicitation and award all subrecipients within nine months of receiving the award.

**Q: If a client does not have health insurance, can grant funds be used to cover the cost of telemedicine and treatment?**

A: Grant funds may be used to support telemedicine and treatment services; however, no more than 10 percent of the entire grant may be used for software and hardware (treatment apps, smartphones, audiovisual equipment, etc.) when funding telemedicine. There is no cap on the distance-based treatment and cost of treatment services.