

FY21 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-based Program *Frequently Asked Questions*

Below are questions submitted during the May 18, 2021, informational webinar—and associated answers related to the FY21 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-based Program solicitation. The solicitation and additional information are accessible at [FY 2021 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-Based Program \(COSSAP\)](#).

Please note the following deadlines:

Grants.gov Deadline: June 21, 2021

JustGrants Deadline: July 6, 2021

Q: What does “other substances” include?

A: “Other substances” is meant to include any other substances that are abused in a manner known to be harmful.

Q: Does the allowable use, “identifiable and accessible take-back programs. . .” include at-home deactivation and disposal pouches along with the more traditional take-back program models?

A: All forms of take-back programs will be considered.

Q: Does funding category 1, #7 (take-back programs) also include illegal substances individuals may have with them when they present to the emergency department with an overdose?

A: Yes.

Q: Can you define “local applicant”? And further clarify eligibility?

A: “Local applicant” refers to units of local government (category 1) as opposed to states (category 2).

Q: Does there need to be level funding each year (meaning for a \$900,000 grant, up to \$300,000 per year)? Or could it be, for example, \$450,000 in year 1; \$300,000 in year 2; and \$250,000 in year 3? This is just an example.

A: Funding does not have to be level or equal during the three-year performance period.

Q: I see that funds may be used for MAT therapy, as well as recovery support services. Does the individual receiving MAT need to have been justice-involved in order to have grant funds pay for his or her treatment? If the answer to that question is yes, does the individual have to be currently justice-involved (have a case open) to receive treatment, or could it be a past involvement?

A: No. Justice involvement is not a requirement to receive services.

Q: Do wraparound/pathway services qualify for this type of funding if we are working with clients who have been impacted by substance abuse as opposed to actual substance abusers or victims?

A: Clients who have been indirectly impacted may receive services so long as the services are provided under the auspices of a program that meets one of the nine allowable uses.

Q: Is it safe to assume that no other adult courts can be used (e.g., domestic violence or human trafficking)?

A: COSSAP funding can be used for a wide range of services that involve courts regardless of court type or circumstances of individual cases. COSSAP funding cannot, however, be used to establish drug courts. BJA offers separate funding for that purpose.

Q: I work with a county public defense law office that operates a mental health unit. Would COSSAP category 1/funding #8 cover client screening/referral services? To clarify, we screen/refer clients for drug treatment. We are not a direct drug treatment provider.

A: Yes, depending on how the project was structured and so long as it fits within the chosen purpose area.

Q: Among the offered allowable use activities described in the RFA is “embedding social services with law enforcement agencies in order to rapidly respond to drug overdoses where children are involved.” Is it possible for social services to respond to calls where ALL substances are involved and children are involved? For example, a law enforcement call about a domestic dispute where alcohol and children are involved? Does it have to be an overdose, or can social services be deployed in cases with any level of use?

A: The controlling legislation is specific to situations involving overdoses.

Q: Could a grantee use funds to pay the salaries of sheriffs’ officers for a co-responder program, even though the officers would not be directly employed by the grantee?

A: Funding may be used to pay personnel costs but cannot be used to supplant current salaries/benefits.

Q: I am working with a federal Indian tribe that is establishing a public safety department while members go through the procedures for applying as a tribal law enforcement agency. Are we eligible to apply under our current public safety department? The chief running the public safety

program has all his POST credentials currently; however, we are not yet an official law enforcement department.

A: Federally recognized tribes (not just tribes with law enforcement agencies) are eligible to apply for up to \$600,000 in funding.

Q: What if the communities that we are looking to bring this grant to do not trust law enforcement? Do we have to partner with the local police department, sheriff's office, or law enforcement to receive funding?

A: It is not necessary to partner with law enforcement. Any unit of local government can apply.

Q: Can a state program apply on behalf of its four local program branches (in four separate cities/municipalities within one state) under funding category 1, with funding divided among the four local programs?

A: States must apply under category 2.

Q: Can you clarify state agencies that can apply?

A: State applicants are limited to the SAA responsible for directing criminal justice planning, the State Alcohol and Substance Abuse Agency, or another state agency appropriate for the scope of the project.

Q: Can you clarify whether we upload a budget form or complete the budget in the online system? Also, please discuss evaluation requirements. Is it fine to use a BJA evaluator, or does the applicant have to conduct its own evaluation of the program?

A: The budget detail worksheet is completely online and part of the JustGrants system. Applicants must plan for collecting the data required for this solicitation's performance measures.

Q: If you are a 501c3 partnering with a county health department, can the 501c3 be the lead applicant?

A: A nonprofit agency must partner with an eligible entity to apply. Under this scenario, the nonprofit agency would be a subgrantee.

Q: Is the District of Columbia treated as an urban area or a state for purposes of this grant?

A: For the purposes of the COSSAP solicitation, the District of Columbia is considered a state and is eligible to apply for funding under category 2. We are aware that the requirement to address six geographically distinct regions is one that does not optimally fit DC. Even so, the District should be advised to do the best it can to ensure that the proposed activities are distributed among six locations (or more) across the District and not concentrated in a few locations.

Q: Can a law enforcement agency hire nonsworn victim advocates?

A: Yes, so long as the work of the victim advocate falls within one of the nine allowable use areas.

Q: So if you stated "next year," is this same/similar funding available for a more developed proposal at this time next year?

A: We do anticipate offering a COSSAP solicitation next year for FY2022. But all programs and funding are contingent on congressional appropriations.

Q: Is a 501c3 eligible to apply in partnership with a contracted partner or on behalf of the partner that would be the grant recipient (the county jail)?

A: The lead applicant must be a unit of local government, a federally recognized tribe, or a state. Nongovernmental entities (including 501c3) can participate as subawardees.

Q: Can safe in-home drug disposal and kiosks be used in these grants, not take-back?

A: All forms of take-back and disposal programs will be considered.

Q: How will grant applications be scored? Especially given the mix and match approach whereby applications may focus on different allowable funding projects?

A: All applications undergo objective reviews by peer reviewers and BJA staff members. Please refer to the solicitation for more details.

Q: Are applicants required to propose a program that involves law enforcement/prosecutors? As a public defense office, we have strict guidelines regarding how we can work with both groups because of conflict of interest.

A: No, it is not necessary to involve law enforcement in your project.

Q: Can a county apply as category 1 and also be a project county within a category 2 application?

A: Perhaps, so long as there is no duplication of services.

Q: Are nonprofits able to apply without local or state government as a partner?

A: No. The lead applicant must be a unit of local government, a federally recognized tribe, or a state. Nongovernmental entities (including 501c3) can participate as subawardees.

Q: If your city's population is 110,000 but your COUNTY population is over 500,000, does this mean you are eligible to apply for the \$1.2 million?

A: Population eligibility thresholds apply to your specific jurisdiction. A city with a population of 110,000 would be eligible for up to \$900,000 in funding, regardless of the countywide population.

Q: I am working with a nonprofit agency currently receiving BJA funds for the Rural Response to the Opioid Epidemic project. I just wanted to clarify the eligibility requirements. As a not-for-profit organization unaffiliated with local or state government, are we eligible to apply?

A: A nonprofit agency must partner with an eligible entity to apply. Under this scenario, the nonprofit agency would be a subgrantee.

Q: Can you clarify the maximum award for category 2? The RFP states that the maximum award for category 2 is \$3 million. This says \$6 million.

A: The \$3 million was an error. Category 2 applications may request up to \$6 million in funding.

Q: If we were funded by COSSAP in October 2020, are we eligible to apply?

A: Yes, but your new application should reflect a project that is substantively different than your current COSSAP or COAP grant-funded project. Priority is given to new applicants, but this does not prohibit awards to current COSSAP or COAP grantees.

Q: Is it allowable for an entity (i.e., a county) to apply for more than one grant? Our District Attorney's Department applied and was awarded a grant for this funding. Now, our Criminal Justice Department would like to apply.

A: If you have a current COSSAP grant, another entity could apply, but the project would have to be substantively different. If there is no current grant, there is no rule that two entities within the same county cannot submit, but they might consider working together to have a stronger application.

Q: Are local health departments eligible to apply for this opportunity?

A: Yes, as long as the local health department is a unit of local government and the local unit applies.

Q: This grant opportunity came to us with less than 6 weeks' turnaround, which is too tight for our upper management to process approvals. My question is whether this grant with similar requirements is likely to be seen in the future.

A: Future funding is difficult to predict. We urge you to try to submit an application this year if at all possible.

Q: Are community-based organizations eligible?

A: No, only units of government or states are eligible. If you are a community-based organization, talk to your county commissioner's office and indicate that you are willing to help. If the county commissioner's office is willing to apply, your organization could receive a subaward.

Q: Does the application have to incorporate all four objectives?

A: No, but make sure the approach you take is comprehensive.

Q: Would MAT in detention centers be appropriate?

A: It would depend on the circumstances. Any proposal for a project that focuses on the use of MAT will be considered.

Q: Can the funds be used to actually pay for MAT?

A: It would depend on the narrative and the need and whether the cost is reasonable within the whole of the grant project, etc.

Q: Is it really \$900,000 for local? I thought I saw \$1 million.

A: There is a tiered system based on the population. There are subcategories under category 1.

Q: Is there a template for the Budget Narrative to work offline?

A: Yes, please visit the [OJP Grant Application Resource Guide](#) for detailed information.

If you have further questions, please contact the Institute for Intergovernmental Research at COSSAP@iir.com.