

FY23 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Site-based Program *Frequently Asked Questions*

Below are questions submitted during the February 21, 2023, informational webinar—and associated answers—related to the FY23 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Site-based Program solicitation. The solicitation and additional information are accessible at <https://bjaojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2023-171527>.

Please note the following deadlines:

Grants.gov Deadline: March 21, 2023

JustGrants Deadline: March 28, 2023

Q: How many applications do you intend to fund in each category?

A: BJA intends to make approximately 25 awards in each category 1 subcategory and approximately 5 awards in category 2. However, we will consider the number and quality of the applications received when making awards.

Q: How many awards do you intend to make in total?

A: BJA anticipates making a minimum of 83 awards for varying amounts under the FY 2023 COSSUP solicitation.

Q: Can you confirm that the budget detail worksheet and narrative are due on March 28 in JustGrants? I believe a budget-related item due on March 21 in Grants.gov was referenced. What budget document is due on March 21, if any?

A: The SF-424 that Wendy Rose in Programs referred to.

Q: Should charts and tables be embedded in the narrative and count toward the 20-page limit, or can they be included as attachments that are not counted within the total page limit?

A: It has been seen both ways. Please use your discretion. We do not want 20 pages of charts and graphs as attachments. If you are showing data and it is easier for you to include that in one attachment, that is okay. Most often we see a small chart embedded.

Q: Do my charts and tables have to be double-spaced?

A: No, charts and tables do not need to be double-spaced.

Q: Are additional attachments allowed (position descriptions, resumes, cited references, etc.)?

A: Yes.

Q: When should my workplan timeline start?

A: October 1, 2023.

Q: Where can I find examples of current and/or previously funded COAP or COSSAP projects?

A: Brief descriptions of projects can be accessed at <https://www.cossapresources.org/Program/SiteGrants/Projects>. Examples of successful grant application project narratives are available at <https://www.cossapresources.org/Program/Applying#ApplicantResources>.

Q: Can I apply for a new COSSUP grant if I am a current COSSAP or COAP grantee?

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. The purpose of these solicitations is not to be the sustainability plan for your previous projects.

Q: Are local governments eligible to apply (pending all the other qualifying factors)?

A: Yes, in category 1.

Q: Are nonprofit organizations eligible to apply?

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

Q: Can an LLC or an S Corporation apply?

A: No, applicants have to be units of government. An LLC or an S Corporation could be a subawardee of an eligible applicant.

Q: May I confirm that local units of government will not be competing with their home state?

A: Correct. category 1 is reviewed separately from category 2, with one exception—if the state and the local jurisdiction are doing the same thing. A locality cannot receive funds to do the same thing twice.

Q: Should applicants budget for three meetings in Washington, D.C.?

A: Yes, one event for each of the three years of the project.

Q: Can applicants include hotel expenses in the budget (for example, if a homeless individual with SUD has housing set up for them but they need a bed for one night)?

A: The plan is to look at any intervention that provides support on a temporary basis. A hotel for an emergency situation lasting one or two nights is allowable. If the situation would be paying for people to stay in a hotel long-term without specific connection to intervention or detox stabilization, then no.

Q: Can a sub-grantee charge indirect costs to the grant?

A: A subgrantee can budget indirect costs; the prime recipient is responsible for approving the rates for all subrecipients. If the subrecipient has a negotiated rate with a federal agency, then that rate would apply. More information can be found in the DOJ Financial Guide, located at https://ojp.gov/financialguide/doj/pdfs/DOJ_FinancialGuide.pdf.

Q: For the \$1,600,000 administrative cap, does this include the mandatory researcher/academic partner for category 2?

A: Category 1 is for local units of gov and tribal. That has a cap of a percentage of the total budget you can use for a researcher. Category 2 is for states. It is not \$1,600,000 that you can move where you like. \$800,000 may be used for administrative and support services. You do not have to retain it, but you can. An additional \$800,000 must be used to support an independent researcher. We are looking for someone who does not just collect data. We want robust research and evaluation. If you do not use all of it, the balance has to be subawarded to the field.

Q: Are category 1 researchers identified by the applicant, or are they assigned by BJA. Is this research role distinct from the BJA evaluator that is referenced in the solicitation that may do site-specific or cross-site evaluations?

A: BJA does not tell sites who a researcher should be and does not make researcher recommendations. That decision is up to the applicant.

Q: Can the researcher be within the applying agency or should this be an independent person?

A: The researcher should be an independent researcher. There is an attachment to complete that has information on what this means.

Q: Do applications for COSSUP allow for grant funded social workers/peer specialists to assist with mental health initiatives along with persons that have substance use disorders?

A: It is possible, but it depends on how you design your program. The nexus for funding through COSSUP is the substance use piece. We know some individuals with SUD have co-occurring mental health disorders. We would not say you cannot provide co-occurring mental health services.

Q: Can funds be used for professional development/training opportunities?

A: It depends. It cannot be the focus of the project and has to be reasonable in terms of the percentage of your budget, and it has to be tied to the goals and objectives of your project. COSSUP offers webinars, peer-to-peer learning opportunities, publications, etc., centered around training and professional development at no charge. BJA envisions that reduces the need for grant funding to go toward professional development.

Q: Can transitional/recovery housing funds be used for individuals who have been involved in the criminal justice system?

A: Yes, that is our target population.

Q: Does this grant fund existing medication-assisted treatment (MAT) programs?

A: Yes, but it cannot be existing already. It has to be an expansion or enhancement of an MAT program.

Q: I read that food is not an allowable expense. Would this include snack items used as outreach supplies, like granola bars or water bottles?

A: Correct, no funds may be used for food.

Q: Are the medications included in an MAT program an allowable expense during the implementation of said program?

A: Yes.

Q: What is considered short-term housing?

A: Every community is uniquely different, so BJA offers no specific definition for short-term housing.

Q: Could someone describe the difference between deflection and diversion?

A: Diversion is not only law enforcement-related, while deflection is typically first responder-related. There are a number of resources on the [COSSAP Resource Center](#) that offer additional information on diversion and deflection.

Q: We are a rural Appalachian community in Ohio. We are 97 percent white. How do we handle the diversity issue, and can our newly formed Overdose and Suicide Fatality Review Committee apply?

A: There is often a disproportionate percentage of non-white people who are justice-involved. It is an examination of your system and who is being encountered in the system, and there needs to be some level of programming to address that disproportionality. We are not excluding anyone because their population is not underserved.

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