

**Questions and Answers From the
“Responding to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) FY 2019
Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP)
Solicitation” Webinar Held April 29, 2019**

Below are the questions that were asked during the COAP solicitation webinar held on April 29, 2019. A recording is available at <https://iir.adobeconnect.com/p4ee6e0xxlqk/>.

*As noted in the solicitation, if you have further questions, please contact the **National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) Response Center** at the following: toll-free at (800) 851-3420; via TTY at (301) 240-6310 (hearing impaired only); email grants@ncjrs.gov; fax to (301) 240-5830; or Web chat at <https://webcontact.ncjrs.gov/ncjchat/chat.jsp>. The NCJRS Response Center hours of operation are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., ET, Monday through Friday, and 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., ET, on the solicitation close date.*

To view the BJA FY 2019 COAP Solicitation, visit www.bja.gov/funding/coap19.pdf.

Q: When will grants be awarded?

A: Award announcements are made by the end of September.

Q: Who are the peer reviewers?

A: The peer reviewers are subject-matter experts in the field who have been assigned the task of reading and scoring the applications. They are familiar with the subject matter, but they may be less familiar with acronyms that are local- or state-specific, so please consider that in your drafting.

Q: How much time should be spent on each section? Or how many pages should be given to each section?

A: Allocate enough pages to cover the questions within each section. The scoring matrix is listed below:

- Statement of the problem (15% of scoring)
- Project design and implementation (35% of scoring)
- Capabilities and competencies (25% of scoring)
- Plan for collecting the data required for this solicitation’s performance measures (5% of scoring)
- Impact/Outcomes, Evaluation, and Sustainment (10% of scoring)

Q: What is meant by a “suburban” area? What is meant by “urban” and “rural” areas?

A: These categories are based on population:

- An urban area or large county is one with a population greater than 500,000.
- A suburban area or medium-size county is one with a population between 100,000 and 500,000.
- A rural area or small county is one with a population of fewer than 100,000 or a federally recognized Indian tribe.

Q: Can I buy Naloxone as part of a comprehensive project?

A: Yes, the purchase of Naloxone is allowed, but that activity must be part of a larger project.

Q: Can FY 2019 COAP funds be used to extend a project coordinator position hired on the FY 2018 COAP award?

A: Yes, but the FY 2019 COAP project for which the coordinator is being extended needs to be substantially different than the FY 2018 COAP project. In this scenario, sustaining the project coordinator is dependent on her/his involvement in the new application for a substantially different COAP project.

Q: We would like to integrate our current addiction recovery initiative into our behavioral health unit and also use the grant to fund, among other positions, an addiction health officer. To do so, we will add an additional spot to our sworn recruit class and assign an experienced officer as the addiction health officer. Our pre-service academy begins at the end of May (just under eight months after the award date), so that is when we would plan to implement that piece of the project. Would that timing work?

A: Each of the categories has a period of time during which the project needs to be implemented. The application narrative must describe how the project will be implemented within that required time frame. If your scenario is outside of the allotted time frame, that will be problematic. If there are other pieces of the project that can be implemented within the time frame, that is a better approach. Different components of your projects can be staggered in implementation.

Q: The announcement states “no more than 30% of grant funds to provide transitional or recovery housing.” Does this include a bed in a rehab treatment facility? Is recovery housing covered?

A: Recovery housing is allowable but it is subject to a 30% housing limitation. The 30% cap is not in reference to residential treatment, which is also an allowable expense and is not the same as transitional housing.

Q: Can subawardees that are universities with federally negotiated rate agreements include indirect costs in the proposal?

A: Yes. Universities with federally negotiated rate agreements may include indirect costs in their proposals.

Q: Does this grant fund existing programs or just new programs?

A: This grant funds both new programs and the enhancement of existing programs.

Q: Should the project coordinator be included in the budget or be paid outside of grant funds?

A: If the project coordinator can be paid for outside of the grant funds, do not include that expenditure in the budget.

Q: Do tribal governments need to comply with language referring to the State Administering Agency (SAA)? For example, the “Eligibility” section on page 1, Category 1 of the grant announcement states, “Jurisdictions without a county- or local government-based addiction service system may designate the State Administering Agency (SAA) to serve as the primary applicant and subgrant funds to providers at the county level.” Are tribes exempt from this, and are they eligible to apply without designating an SAA?

A: If you are a tribal government, SAA language is not applicable. Yes, tribes are exempt in your example.

- Q: Is there a budget minimum/lowest threshold that must be reached?
- A: There is no minimum threshold to apply. The application must be truly comprehensive in the dollar amounts that are requested and include all of the mandatory minimum components. All questions must be answered thoroughly and be based on the budget that is proposed.
- Q: The population of our city is 255,000, and our county is 550,000. Although our city police department will be the applicant, we will be serving the county (with our county partners). Are we eligible as Subcategory 1a (i.e., population over 500,000)?
- A: If the service area is the broader county and you are able to demonstrate that the county agency agrees with that statement, then yes: The population of the county will determine the dollar amount that you are eligible for.
- Q: Can drug detection equipment for law enforcement safety be purchased as part of a larger program?
- A: Yes.
- Q: For a 1B application, can any of the 36 months be used for planning? If so, how long?
- A: Applicants applying for funding under Category 1 must implement the proposed project within nine months of the award. The time up to that nine-month mark can be used for planning.
- Q: Does the grant cover the cost of medication (e.g., buprenorphine) for the provision of treatment in jails?
- A: Yes, you can cover the cost of medication.
- Q: I am working with a community that already has a police diversion program. We are hoping to support that existing effort by providing medication-assisted treatment (MAT) bridge services that provide a crisis/withdrawal/local landing spot for people that are diverted. Can we use funds to enhance or expand the existing police diversion program? And, if so, how do we “write” that?
- A: Yes. Funds can be used to do new projects. Your bridge program could be considered a new project or an enhancement project. Write it in just that way: “We are enhancing this existing program by adding this element that is essential to improving . . .” and fill in the blanks.
- Q: Do state agencies need to identify and include a specific program vendor in their applications for the drug takeback program funding? Will there be BJA requirements regarding which vendors state agencies can partner with to provide drug takeback kiosks and collection/destruction services?
- A: State agencies do not need to include a specific program vendor in the application.
- Q: Can we hire—with grant funds—an on-site researcher to provide comprehensive data analytics throughout the length of the project?
- A: Yes.
- Q: Category 2 applicants are limited to the SAA or the State Alcohol and Substance Abuse Agency and are not open to other state agencies such as the Department of Corrections, right?
- A: Yes, that is correct.
- Q: If applying under Category 2C, how much may be retained by the state for administrative and support purposes?
- A: The total that can be retained can be determined by calculating and combining the Category 2A and 2B amounts.

Q: Can Subcategory 2B be used to evaluate existing projects funded by the FY 2018 COAP grant?

A: Yes. That would be considered a new application, not a continuation project.

Q: Can COAP funds be used to enhance a drug court project?

A: Drug courts are not funded through COAP. There is an entirely separate drug court solicitation designed with the sole purpose of supporting drug courts. Please do not apply for drug court-related projects in the COAP solicitation.

Q: In Grants.gov, there are two different budget forms: one is an Excel spreadsheet, and the other is a Word document. Is there an either/or option?

A: There is one budget form: it is an Excel spreadsheet that combines the narrative and the actual budget itself into one form.

Q: Can this funding be used in collaboration with other federal funding?

A: Yes. Many communities blend COAP dollars, primarily from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA). In your application, you can explain that an initiative is currently funded by "X" agency and you would like to enhance the effort by using COAP dollars.

Q: Can a nonprofit partner with the government agency?

A: A nonprofit can partner with a government agency, but the government agency has to be the applicant.

Q: Can a local police or health department apply for a Category 2 state initiative?

A: A local community cannot apply for a Category 2. Applicants are limited to the SAA responsible for directing criminal justice planning or the State Alcohol and Substance Abuse Agency. A local community could reach out to the state and volunteer to be one of the subaward localities.

Q: Can 2B funding be used for evaluating an ongoing-SAMHSA-funded program, with no additional funding for implementation?

A: Yes, you can use Category 2B funding solely for evaluation.

Q: Is a formal partnership with law enforcement required? If a formal law enforcement partnership is required, does collaboration with the district attorney suffice?

A: Partners to be included should be shaped by what the project is proposing to accomplish.

Q: Is there a "floor" on the category funding amounts expected to be awarded?

A: No. Make sure that all of the mandatory budget elements are included.

Q: Are these grants available only to government agencies?

A: In general, the solicitation is limited to units of local government, tribal entities, and specific state agencies. That being said, each of the categories has different eligibility criteria. Reference the solicitation at <https://www.bja.gov/funding/COAP19.pdf> for complete eligibility requirements and allowable use of funds.

Q: Can this funding be used by a police department to expand an existing local program to a regional program?

A: Yes.

- Q: If one of our primary goals is for a recovery house, can this grant cover the purchase of land?
- A: No, purchasing land is not an allowable expense. The project can lease land. A complete answer on leasing can be found in the *DOJ Grants Financial Guide* at https://ojp.gov/financialguide/doj/pdfs/DOJ_FinancialGuide.pdf
- Q: For recovery housing, can those with other addictions be eligible or only those with opioid addictions?
- A: The focus of COAP (and the mandate from Congress) is related to opioids. That being said, we know that many communities are experiencing a transition from a primarily opioid-based drug environment to a more mixed-drug environment; for example, Fentanyl mixed with stimulants. If you can articulate and explain the context of your current drug environment, make the case and let the reviewers decide.
- Q: If 50% of a child victim advocate will be paid by Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding and the remaining 50% by COAP, should I indicate the entire 100% in the budget? Just the 50%?
- A: Submit the entire amount in the budget but have different line items: i.e., indicate 50% for victim services and 50% for nonvictim services. Delineate to clearly show the victim-oriented services spelled out in as its own line item.
- Q: Is there a match requirement?
- A: No. There is no match requirement.
- Q: Can funds be used to train and assist recovery coaches in obtaining certification?
- A: Yes. Funds can be used to train and assist with certification.
- Q: As a Category 2 applicant, can a state competitively subaward funds to sites, or do all sites need to be named as part of the application?
- A: You can competitively make the awards. Instead of naming the sites in the application, articulate the approach you plan to take/the criteria you will use to select sites.
- Q: If we have a significant substance abuse problem in our community but cannot quantify it, can we include evaluation of the opioid use in our application?
- A: Yes. Not every community has data on its issue. In fact, part of the intent of the program is to help better understand a community's drug environment. The first section requests that the applicant define the problem. In the absence of data, you can be creative in presenting the challenges your community faces. Tell your story without the data. And include in your application the need to identify more raw data about the nature of the drug environment in your community.