

Baltimore County Opioid Abatement Fund Frequently Asked Questions

If you have additional questions that are not answered below, please send the question(s) to: opioidfund@baltimorecountymd.gov

General Questions

What type of funding is available?

The Baltimore County Opioid Abatement Fund is comprised of distributions to the County from the National Opioid Settlement to address harms associated with the opioid epidemic.

How will Baltimore County grant funds to community organizations?

A recipient of National Opioid Settlement funds, in this case Baltimore County Government, can provide funds to an organization for the purpose of remediating harms associated with the opioid epidemic. Applicants will be required to submit a project proposal to the County. Upon review of these proposals, standardized proposal evaluation criteria will be used to score proposals. Once awards are determined, there will be an announcement to awardees from the County.

If awarded funds, what reports will be required?

Organizations receiving funds will be required to submit quarterly program and expenditure reports on provided templates.

Eligibility Questions

What kind of organizations can submit applications?

An organization can be private or not-for profit and must propose to serve Baltimore County residents. A location in Baltimore County is preferred but not required. County agencies are also eligible to apply through a separate competitive process.

What kind of projects and programs are eligible for Baltimore County Opioid Abatement Funds?

Projects must align with the [Approved Uses](#) identified in the National Opioid Settlement, should address Baltimore County's Overdose Response Priorities and serve populations in greatest need of restitution due to harms associated with the overdose epidemic.

Can Opioid Abatement Funds be used to support capital projects?

Baltimore County generally does not fund requests for major capital projects.

Does my organization have to propose a completely new project, or can we apply for Opioid Abatement Funds for an existing project?

Supplanting is not explicitly disallowed by the National Opioid Settlement, however numerous national organizations and academic institutions have identified non-supplantation as a best practice, therefore the County will prioritize proposals that offer supplemental programs and services. This means that funds should not be requested to replace an existing funding source and should not take the place of funding that otherwise would be appropriated for the project. Proposals to expand the scope of work of an existing project would be considered supplemental. The Network for Public Health Law provides [further guidance](#) on this topic and Maryland statute establishing the Maryland Opioid Restitution Fund includes [language](#) indicating that “Money expended from the Fund for the programs and services described under subsection (f) of this section is supplemental to and is not intended to take the place of funding that otherwise would be appropriated for the programs and services.”

Can funds be used to hire a consultant?

If a proposed project requires the use of a consultant, it may be considered eligible if the project aligns with the Approved Uses identified in the National Opioid Settlement.

If an organization received Maryland Opioid Restitution Funds, can they still receive Baltimore County Opioid Abatement funding?

Yes, applicants can submit proposals requesting both state and county funding and receive funding from the state and the county for the same project, however the scope of work for funding received must be different. For example, if a project proposes to the state (and is funded) to add Peer Recovery Specialists to existing services for an underserved population and then proposes to the county to add case managers or patient navigators to supplement the peer work being funded by the state, that is an acceptable request to the county.

Another scenario could be that an organization requested funding from the state for a project but does not yet have a determination on the funding request. That organization can submit the same or a very similar request to the county with the understanding that the request will need to be withdrawn from the County if funding is received from the state. The County will coordinate with the state to ensure that projects are not double or duplicate funded for the same scope of work.

Financial Questions

Is there a minimum organizational operating budget required to apply?

No, there is no minimum operating budget requirement.

What is the minimum amount of funding an organization can apply for? What is the maximum?

The minimum grant request for an organization is \$25,000 per project. An organization may submit up to two (2) projects, for a potential minimum of \$50,000. The maximum grant request

for an organization is \$250,000 per project. If submitting two applications, the maximum is \$500,000. Baltimore County reserves the right to fund some, all, or none of an applicant's proposed project(s).

Application Questions

When are applications due?

Applications are due by 4:00 PM on November 8, 2024.

Can organizations submit multiple requests for funding?

Yes. An organization may submit up to two (2) projects when applying for funding. The projects should be submitted as two separate applications.

How are applications evaluated?

Applications will be evaluated by a cross-agency grants evaluation team that includes state and academic partners.

What are the evaluation criteria and how can my organization's application be considered competitive?

A Grants Evaluation Committee will evaluate the proposals based on the following criteria:

- Alignment with Baltimore County 2024 Overdose Response Priorities and National Opioid Settlement Approved Uses;
- Complete Description of Need and Project Description;
- Specific and Measurable Goals and Performance Measures;
- Reasonable Timeline, Budget and Spending Plan; and
- Submission of all required documents.

Timeline Questions

When will funding awards be announced?

In December of 2024.

When will funds be distributed to successful applicants?

Funds will be distributed on a reimbursement basis upon receipt of a signed grant agreement with Baltimore County.

When will reports for awarded funds be due?

The deadline for quarterly reporting and reimbursement requests is 30 days after the prior quarter. Late or missing reports or reimbursement requests will impact grant renewal.

Acceptance of fiscal reports and approval of requests for reimbursement will occur after financial staff review of invoices and supporting documentation. The Opioid Abatement Fund is subject to audit by the County and the state, therefore adequate invoice back-up is required.

Annual reports are required by the Baltimore County Council, the Maryland Office of Overdose Response and Directing Administrators of the Settlement. Successful applicants must comply with the County in preparing these reports.

Other Questions

For the online application, can you save and finish later or do you have to enter everything in one sitting?

According to the survey software, a user's answers can be saved locally as they progress through the survey. The user can resume the survey in the same browser at any time. Please note answers will not be saved in private browsing sessions.

Can a project fall under more than one Core Strategy or Approved Use of the National Opioid Settlement?

A project can fall under more than one Core Strategy and more than one Approved Use however applicants must choose only one Core Strategy and one Approved Use in the online application.

Is it required that the Board of Directors approve the application?

Individual organizational protocols should be referenced in terms of required parties to approve applications. One organizational point of contact must be identified in the application and certify the accuracy of the information contained in the application.

Are there audit requirements?

There are currently no specific audit requirements for grantees. Baltimore County Opioid Abatement Funds are subject to audit by the Baltimore County Auditor's Office and the Maryland Department of Health; therefore, grantees must provide all information requested as a part of those audit processes.

Is there an estimated time that the awards will be received if granted?

The initial period of performance is January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

How many awards are you expecting to make? And will the funding be continually available until 2038?

There is not a limit to the number of awards. Funding targets have been set for the first round of funding availability based on distributions made to the County by the National Opioid Settlement and the Maryland Targeted Abatement Grant. Additional rounds of funding have not been determined. Settlement amounts and distribution schedules have not been finalized by these sources, however there are distribution projections through 2038.

Is a Board of Directors required?

No, a Board of Directors is not required for an organization to receive this funding. If an organization has a Board of Directors, a list of members must be included in the Baltimore County Request for Financial Assistance.

Is data that is tracked from the grant funds shared with specific entities?

General data about service provision will be shared on a public-facing webpage to comply with recommended opioid restitution fund best practices. Annual reports are required by the Baltimore County Council, the Maryland Office of Overdose Response and Directing Administrators of the Settlement. Successful applicants must comply with the County in preparing these reports.

Is the Baltimore County Department of Health eligible under this grant?

County agencies as well as private and not-for profit organizations are eligible.

Can you send a copy of the Baltimore County 2024 Overdose Response Priorities as the link on the website is not working?

The link on the website prompts a download of the document. There is another link in the Application portal.

Assuming an applicant is awarded in this round of funding, would they be eligible to apply for a new project in the next round?

Future rounds of funding and the requirements for that funding have not been determined.

Can an organization include in the request a grant writer fee?

Grant writing fees are not listed in Exhibit E, Approved Uses for the National Opioid Settlement, so that expense is not eligible.

Will proposals with matching support in their budget be viewed more favorably than those without?

Matching funds are not required. A reasonable timeline, budget and spending plan will be considered as a part of the grant evaluation criteria.

We were thinking of purchasing Harm Reduction vending machines for the ED and in the community. Are you aware of these types of vending machines in the county? Will additional vending machine compliment county resources?

There are currently three naloxone/harm reduction vending machines in the County:

1. Drumcastle Government Center, main lobby
2. Baltimore County Detention Center, visitor lobby
3. Eastern Family Resource Center, outside main entrance

There are plans to expand naloxone dispensing receptacles (smaller than vending machines) to County Health Clinics, select Department of Social Services offices, select Senior Centers and County libraries. Proposals to expand naloxone dispensing receptacles should take existing locations into consideration. The Baltimore County Department of Health, Harm Reduction Program coordinates the data collection and restocking of these receptacles and could provide more detail about existing and future locations.

We had a meeting to review the list of priorities for the 2024 Baltimore County Priorities for Overdose Response and had a question about “Criminal Justice – implement diversion from incarceration”. Please explain what should be included in this section.

Please refer to the list of Resource and Best Practices on the Baltimore County Overdose Response [Grant Opportunities webpage](#). Diversion is referenced in Addressing the Opioid Epidemic in Baltimore County: Recommendations for Progress.