

**ATTACHMENT C**  
**FY25 Statewide Opioid Settlement Grants Program Request for Proposals**  
**Deadline for Written Inquiries: May 6, 2024, BY 4 PM**  
**Deadline for Proposals: May 15, 2024**

Please be mindful of the deadlines for this RFP. It is key to get your proposal submitted well before the 3:59 PM deadline so GEMS run through a series of validation checks on your application.

This attachment answers all questions received since the first posted amendment (see Attachment B) on May 3, 2024.

**Questions and Answers from additional written questions:**

**Question 1:** To follow up briefly though, the State's response on the intended meaning of "backfill" addresses supplanting existing funding sources, but not replacing time-limited funding sources that are ending. The response is, "We can support new efforts, or the expansion of existing efforts, but we cannot supplant current funds." Am I correct in understanding that if the existing source of funding used to provide SUD-related behavioral health services in the community is ending, this would not be considered backfill?

**Answer 1:** No, that would not be considered backfilling. That is seen as an extension of an existing project/pilot project that has lost funding. We recommend that you include any previous evaluation results of programs you are proposing to expand.

**Question 2:** A new question regarding Attachment A Page 8:

9. Syringe service programs and other evidence-informed programs to reduce harms associated with intravenous drug use, **including supplies**, staffing, space, peer support services, referrals to treatment, fentanyl checking, connections to care, and the full range of harm reduction and treatment services provided by these programs.

Based on the language, I would conclude that all Harm Reduction supplies are included - syringes and safer smoking and snorting devices.

As these are usually excluded from government grants, I want to make sure that these essential harm reduction supplies for active drug users to reduce their risk of disease and death and also to connect them with an agency that can connect them to treatment and other supports when they are ready. People get Narcan when they come in for syringes. In those exchanges, they get critical information and support to change their lives.

Let me know if my conclusion that syringes and other drug delivery devices are included in "supplies" identified in attachment A, Page 8, number 9 is correct.

**Answer 2:** In order to allow for applicants to identify the needs within their communities, supplies are not defined. Nothing is excluded, within state and federal law. Public health recognizes harm reduction as a disease and overdose prevention strategy as well as a strategy for linking people to care. We

cannot guarantee this activity will be funded as all proposals are reviewed and discussed and decided within the PEC.

**Question 3:** How do we access the State Grant Assurances form?

**Answer 3:** Once you hit apply, a response application will be created and the State Grant Assurances are attached as an electronic document/agreement that is signed electronically within that criterion, Section 4.02.5. Once signed, mark complete.

**Question 4:** Is the section on a federally-negotiated indirect cost rate agreement relevant to this grant? We don't have one.

**Answer 4:** See last sentence in the Indirect Costs section of 1.06 of the RFP.

**Question 5:** We will be using job descriptions rather than resumes to show that staffing levels will support the project because the staff has not yet been hired. Is that OK?

**Answer 5:** Yes.

**Question 6:** Lived experience of addiction and recovery will be important staff qualifications. How does the state recognize lived experience in this circumstance?

**Answer 6:** We recognize that the voice of those with lived experience is important when addressing the overdose crisis.

**Question 7:** This project requires that grantees evaluate their work. Does that mean we should check the Evaluation approved use category?

**Answer 7:** If you are using funds to support additional evaluation, yes. But the state will use the grant reports and performance measures agreed upon as is relevant to the activities selected.

**Question 8:** The proposal asks us to identify "agency resources" available to this project. How do you define "agency resources"? Are they the resources of the applicant? Its partners? Other entities?

**Answer 8:** We have left this broad so that applicants can identify what may be resources to them – it could be that a strong coalition is a resource, it could be that a resource is there is already staff and funding to build on, community readiness, whatever your agency defines as a resource to support and implement the project.