

# FAQs

## Basic Requirements

- **What are the basic requirements to apply for funding?**

Projects must benefit communities and individuals in South Dakota and demonstrate strong alignment with the Opioid Settlement Memorandum of Understanding and its Approved Uses. Funds are to be used for the purposes of abating and alleviating the opioid crisis. Funds may address co-occurring substance use in South Dakota but must still be for the primary purpose of addressing the opioid crisis.
- **Who is eligible to apply for funding?**

Applicants are limited to South Dakota-based organizations. Awards resulting from this process cannot be given to individuals. Applicants that do not have a tax identification number may apply for funding through a fiscal agent.
- **Is collaboration with applicable Participating Local Government(s) required?**

Yes; partnering with a participating local government is required for applications to this program. This partnership can be evidenced by a Letter of Commitment or Support from Participating Local Government(s) in the target service area for the proposed project. If the proposed project is statewide in its approach, and not targeted to a specific community, applicants are encouraged to seek support or partnership from applicable organizations working with or on behalf of the target audience being served by the project to encourage collaboration and avoid duplication of efforts.
- **Who are the Participating Local Governments?**

The South Dakota Opioid Settlement Memorandum of Agreement defines Participating Local Governments as a) South Dakota counties who have signed on to both the Janssen Participation Agreement and the Distributors Participation Agreement, and b) South Dakota cities and towns with a population over 10,000 based on the 2019 U.S. Census Bureau population who also signed on to both of the afore-mentioned agreements. *Not all cities or counties eligible to participate elected to participate. If your project exclusively falls within a county or city that did not participate, you are exempt from this requirement.* A list of the Participating Local Government(s) is available [here](#).
- **How do I know if a county has opted in or out of participating in the Opioid Settlement?**

There were several counties that opted not to participate in the National Opioid Settlement Agreement. The counties that opted not to participate include: Bennett, Buffalo, Day, Douglas, Haakon, Hamlin, Hyde, Kingsbury, Lyman, Marshall, Miner, Moody, and Stanley.

**Should our project target those areas?** Yes. Projects that aim to impact individuals in any of these counties are encouraged.

.
- **Are matching funds required?**

No matching funds are required for this program, however it is strongly recommended that applicants have planful conversation with applicable Participating Local Governments to assure that the project being proposed is complementary to and not duplicative of any efforts they may be pursuing with their localized share of funding.

Application, Review & Award Process

- **What are the minimum or maximum awards to be made through this program?**

Minimum = \$5,000

Maximum = \$35,000

The Scoring Committee reserves the right to assess the appropriateness of the requested funding in alignment with the projected impact of the project and may consider higher award amounts than the range stated. The Committee also reserves the right to make awards in alignment with other requests made and available budget through the opioid settlement fund at any given time.

- **Can my organization submit more than one application?**

Yes, as long as the scope of each is distinctly different in its alignment with the Opioid Settlement Memorandum of Understanding and its Approved Uses. Multiple applications from the same organization seeking funding for components of one large initiative will be reviewed as one application.

- **What is the timeline to apply for a grant?**

Applications will be accepted and reviewed per the schedule below. Resulting grant awards/contracts will be in alignment with the state fiscal year.

	<b>Spring Cycle</b>
Applications Open	March 1
Deadline for Submission of Questions	March 15
Responses to Questions Posted By	March 20
Applications Close (5 pm Central Time)	April 1
Applications Under Review	April
Award Announcement	May
Budget Period	<i>Project period can be up to twelve months with an <b>earliest start date of June 1, 2024 and a latest end date of May 31, 2025</b></i>

- **What if I have questions about the application, or can I request a meeting to discuss my project before I prepare and submit an application?**

A form is available for you to submit questions to the Department of Social Services (administrative agency for the Opioid Settlement Funds). This form is available [here](#). We will make every effort to answer all questions but may group common questions together for clarity in our response. Questions submitted by the deadline noted above will be responded to. Due to the volume of requests received, one-on-one meetings to discuss individual projects are not possible.

- **What is the review process, and when will I know if my application is funded?**

Applications will be reviewed by a sub-group of the South Dakota Opioid Abuse Advisory Committee on a biannual basis. The sub-group will present the approved awards to the full Opioid Abuse Advisory Committee as a standing agenda item at each of its meetings.

## Application Priorities

- **Should efforts target any specific subpopulation?**  
Targeting a specific subpopulation in South Dakota is not required, but applicants should describe how the opioid crisis is affecting the community of focus, describe the community's abatement needs, and how the funding request will address those needs.
- **Should efforts target a specific geographic area?**  
Projects should be realistic in their approach when compared with the funding requested. Projects that impact counties or cities that did not participate in the Opioid Settlement Agreement may be prioritized over those that serve areas of the state that did elect to participate. The counties that opted not to participate include: Bennett, Buffalo, Day, Douglas, Haakon, Hamlin, Hyde, Kingsbury, Lyman, Marshall, Miner, Moody, and Stanley.
- **What level of organizational experience is expected?**  
Ideal applicants will be able to demonstrate a proven history of success in implementing similar activities for which they're applying.
- **How long should my project timeline be?**  
The project timeline is at the discretion of the applicant based on what is needed to accomplish the proposed activities. The timeline cannot exceed 12 months with the soonest start date of June 1, 2024 and must be complete by May 31, 2025. If continuing funding for an initiative or project is desired, applicants will be asked to submit a new application at the next applicable funding period. There is no guarantee for continuing awards beyond the initial grant period.
- **What data should be used to describe the supporting evidence or basis for your project?**  
Data included in the application attesting to need should be from the community or surrounding county/counties to be served; avoid using only national data in these cases.

## Budget & Allowable Costs

- **Are there any unallowable costs or uses of funding?**  
If the expenses are necessary to the applicant's ability to effectively abate the needs of the community(ies) proposed and are in alignment with the Approved Uses for opioid settlement funds, they can be included in the budget for consideration. No pre-payment of expenses or any pre-award costs will be allowed.
- **My organization incurred expenses recently related to our proposed scope; are those eligible for reimbursement?**  
No. Eligible expenses must occur after the start date and before the end date of the agreement established post-notice of grant award.
- **Can our budget be edited after it is submitted?**  
Yes. Any material can be resubmitted prior to the application close date; please contact [grants@sageprojectconsultants.com](mailto:grants@sageprojectconsultants.com) for assistance with that request. In the event your project is selected for funding, the budget will be reviewed and opportunity given during contract negotiations to adjust what was originally submitted.
- **Is there a max administrative / indirect cost rate allowed?**  
Indirect costs are allowed but may not exceed 10% of the total award.