

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Who is eligible to apply?**
  - Municipalities
  - Opioid Abatement Collaboratives
  - Nonprofits with Municipal Support
  - Coalitions with Municipal Support

Municipalities may apply directly or through a nonprofit partner. Municipalities may also apply in partnership with multiple municipalities as an Opioid Abatement Collaborative (OAC), pooling funding for a shared project. Coalitions that target the opioid crisis with documented support of matching funds from any of the cities/towns within the coalition may also apply.

Submitted Questions:

- **Can religious or faith-based organizations apply?**
  - Places of worship, including churches, mosques, synagogues, and faith-based organizations that qualify for 501(c)(3) status may apply. They must have "official" 501(c)(3) status, such as being listed in [IRS Publication 78](#) and having a 501(c)(3) determination letter on file. The program must also benefit the larger community beyond the organization's membership, and the proposed project must meet the grant criteria. The organization should ensure that their inherently religious activities, such as religious worship, instruction, or proselytization, are separate - in time or location - from the grant-funded services.
- **Are regional planning agencies eligible to apply on behalf of a municipality or OAC?**
  - Yes, as long as the project meets the criteria and the applicant provides evidence of the municipality's commitment.
- **We are an organization that supports recovery services for alcohol and substance use, not exclusively for opioid issues. Are we still eligible?**
  - Proposed projects and initiatives must align with the [Massachusetts State Sub-Division Agreement for Statewide Opioid Settlements](#) and advance non-punitive, health-centered approaches to substance use disorder-related harms and challenges.
- **Do we have to apply as an OAC to apply for the grant?**
  - No, a single municipality may apply alone or in collaboration with a nonprofit.

- **Can a municipality or OAC apply with multiple nonprofits?**

- Yes.

- **Who is not eligible to apply?**

We cannot accept applications from religious institutions that do not have 501c3 status, for-profit organizations, or individuals and families.

- **What is an OAC? (and questions about OACs)**

Opioid Abatement Collaborative (OAC): Any group of municipalities that have agreed to pool some or all of their opioid settlement funds. OAC is a general term that includes shared services arrangements, inter-municipal agreements, memorandums of understanding, and other agreements between municipalities.

**I am applying as an OAC. Do all municipalities involved need to provide proof that funds have been allocated to the project, or just one? Do all municipalities involved need to contribute funds to the project?**

All municipalities contributing funds to the proposed project must provide proof of commitment. However, a municipality may be included in an OAC even if it is not contributing funds to the pool.

**I am a community-based organization. How do I contact the right person in my municipality?**

Please check the [Care Mass Massachusetts Opioid Settlement Funding Expenditures Dashboard](#) for a contact in your city or town. You can also call or visit your city or town hall.

- **Can an OAC be just two towns?**

- Yes

- **Can a nonprofit apply with multiple municipalities without a collaborative OAC?**

- Yes. Nonprofits and coalitions must submit documented support of matching funds from the cities/towns that are contributing. The individual with the authority to earmark or allocate settlement funds for the match should sign the letter.

- **Can a coalition lead a collaborative proposal with multiple municipalities?**

- Yes. Nonprofits and coalitions must submit documented support of matching funds from the cities/towns that are contributing. The individual with the authority to earmark or allocate settlement funds for the match should sign the letter.

- **If a town is part of a PHE/SSA and the group applies, is that same town eligible to apply on its own as well? Or should it just be part of one application?**
  - A municipality may submit one application on its own and another in partnership with other municipalities, as long as the municipality has the settlement funds for both.
- **Can nonprofit organizations join together as an OAC?**
  - Groups of nonprofits are not considered OACs. Groups of municipalities are considered OACs. Nonprofit organizations can apply with the support of one or more municipalities.
- **If a current SSA does not pool its opioid settlement funds (due to town issues), are they still eligible to apply for Mosaic as a group? Or are only groups that already pool funds eligible?**
  - Newly formed OACs are eligible to apply.

- **I currently have a grant from RIZE or Mosaic or have received a grant from RIZE or Mosaic in the past. Am I eligible?**

Yes.

- **How do I apply?**

The application can be accessed [here](#). If you need assistance with the form, please email us at [grants@rizema.org](mailto:grants@rizema.org).

- **Can I/we submit more than one proposal?**

A municipality may submit one application on its own and another in partnership with other municipalities, as long as the municipality has settlement funds for both.

- **How much can I request? When do I have to spend the money? (Information about the Match)**

RIZE will match up to \$50,000 per municipality. Municipalities may apply directly or through a nonprofit partner. Municipalities participating in OACs can combine funds for a joint project and request up to \$150,000.

**Will the eligibility of municipalities and/or the grant amount they might receive depend on the size of the city/town's budget?**

No. Municipalities of any size that have received municipal settlement funds can apply for funding. RIZE will match up to \$50,000 per project or single municipality. If municipalities pool settlement funds to apply as an OAC, the grant can be matched up to \$150,000.

- **Will RIZE only match municipal settlement funds? If we add funds to our project from another source or use general funds, will RIZE match those, too?**

No, only municipal settlement funds qualify for a match.

**I am a coalition that gets state or county agency funding. Does that count as a match?**

No, only municipal settlement funds qualify for a match.

**What kind of proof do we need for the match?**

This can be a formal recorded budget discussion and/or a commitment letter. OACs must submit a joint letter signed by each participating municipality that contributes settlement funds. Nonprofits and coalitions must submit documented support of matching funds from the cities/towns that are contributing. The individual with the authority to earmark or allocate settlement funds for the match should sign the letter. The letter should be on municipal letterhead with the municipality's address. The following is example text for the body of the letter:

To Whom It May Concern,

The City/Town of XYZ confirms its commitment to allocate \$0.00 of its opioid abatement funds to the Mosaic Municipal Matching Grant Program.

**I am applying as an OAC. Do all municipalities involved need to provide proof that funds have been allocated to the project, or just one? Do all municipalities involved need to contribute funds to the project?**

All municipalities contributing funds to the proposed project must provide proof of commitment. However, a municipality may be included in an OAC even if it is not contributing funds to the pool.

- **What is the match requirement? Can the match be physical (building, land space?), or must it be cash?**
  - The match must be cash.
- **Can you clarify what you mean by matching? Does the organization need to come up with a 1:1 match, or is a different ratio required?**
  - The match is 1:1.
- **Can match funds be used within a given fiscal year, or can they be carried over?**
  - The grant period is March 1, 2025, to February 28, 2026. The funds should be spent during that time.

- **We were projected to receive approximately \$25,000 - \$35,000 annually, but in reality, we have received \$60,000 - \$80,000 in the last two years because companies have paid one bulk payment. I don't know how much money we receive annually.**
  - Please base it on your annual allocation. See [here](#) for more information.
- **Is one municipality working with a nonprofit allowed to apply for 150k as a collaborative - or is that not considered a collaborative, and 50k is the max?**
  - One municipality working with a nonprofit organization is eligible for up to \$50,000. OACs are comprised of more than one municipality.
- **Can an organization apply for reimbursements for monies already spent within the time frame?**
  - The grant period is from March 1, 2025, to February 28, 2026. The project activities should occur during that period. We cannot fund retroactively.
- **Can the funding be used for General Operating costs for nonprofit organizations whose services fall within the targeted goals? Or does it have to be a specific project to be completed within that funding year?**
  - This grant funds project-based activities and initiatives. Please see the grant guidelines for examples. The grant period is March 1, 2025, to February 28, 2026. The funds should be spent during that time.

- **Can the funds be used to cover funeral or burial costs?**

Yes, the funds can be used to address basic needs arising from opioid-related losses. For instance, funds may be allocated directly to a funeral home to cover expenses on behalf of the family. However, no direct payments can be made to individuals. It is important to have an equitable plan for the distribution of funds.

- **Can the funds be used for stipends, legal fees, transportation, and other expenses?**

Yes, the funds can be used to address basic needs related to the engagement and support of individuals with opioid use disorder, but not for direct payments to individuals. For example, funds may be allocated for scholarships, legal fees, transportation passes, or other transportation-related support. It is important to have an equitable plan for the distribution of funds.

- **I have a question about procurement laws.**

Please see this [link](#) to BSAS guidance on opioid abatement funds, which includes subsections on Chapter 30B and the Division of Local Services.

- **Do we need to request funds through our Town Meeting every time we need to replenish?**

- Please seek this information from your town.
- **What do we do if the municipalities in our area have already committed their funds to our organization for general operating expenses and expansion?**
  - The grant period is from March 1, 2025, to February 28, 2026. The project activities should occur during that period. We cannot fund retroactively.
- **May we apply for more than one activity/event/funds?**
  - Yes, although the activities must be included in one application.
- **What is the thinking behind the funding amounts?**

We established specific parameters to ensure a fair and efficient award process. We considered various factors, including best practices and equity considerations, such as the amount of money available for this round, the high volume of applications we expect, and our goal of funding as many projects as possible. Additionally, we want to ensure that communities that have been historically marginalized and have a high rate of fatal overdoses receive an equitable share of the funds.

- **How will the payments work?**

All awardees will receive their payment in full in March 2025. We'll ask you to submit a progress report during the grant period to ensure everything is going smoothly. Report templates and technical assistance will be available.

- **Which Massachusetts State Sub-Division Agreement and care continuum categories should I choose on the application?**

Please refer to the [Massachusetts State Sub-Division Agreement for Statewide Opioid Settlements](#) for an explanation of the state categories.

Please refer to the following examples for each care continuum category:

- Prevention (e.g., youth prevention, school-based programs, prevention-focused coalitions)
- Harm Reduction/Outreach (e.g., overdose prevention, naloxone distribution, drug checking, syringe access, street outreach)
- Treatment (e.g., medication treatment, co-occurring mental health treatment, withdrawal management, residential recovery program)
- Recovery Support Services (e.g., recovery coaching, recovery housing, peer support, wellness)
- Trauma, Grief and Family Supports (e.g., family-based organizations, grief groups)

- **What is Care Massachusetts?**

Care Massachusetts: The Opioid Abatement Partnership provides training and technical assistance to municipalities receiving opioid settlement funds. It is funded by

the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's (MDPH) Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) through a contract with JSI Research & Training Institute. Find more information [here](#).

- **Do I need to submit a budget?**

In the application, you are asked to describe in written form the budget for your proposed project. Be as specific as possible and include:

- The amount committed to the project in municipal abatement funds.
- The amount requested from RIZE.
- How you will spend the funds - include amounts allocated to staff/personnel, services provided, equipment and/or contracts, etc.

Awardees will be required to submit a detailed budget and realistic work plan for project implementation, including approximate dates and steps, with the grant agreement.

- **Can I apply again in years two and three?**

The Mosaic Municipal Matching grant program is a one-year grant. Awardees may reapply in years two and three, though they are not guaranteed a grant in subsequent years. Applicants not funded in year one are encouraged to apply in years two and three.

- **We know that overdoses are highly underreported. This is especially true in rural communities (smaller towns, overwhelmed police departments, deeper stigma). How will these communities be equitably evaluated when (documented) rates are substantially lower than actual rates?**

See "How will proposals be reviewed?"

- **How will proposals be reviewed?**

All proposals will undergo a fair, equitable, and timely review process:

- RIZE staff ensures applicants meet eligibility requirements.
- Proposals are reviewed and scored by community members, including people with lived experience/family members, subject expertise, and/or understanding of equity and inclusion who have received training on conflicts of interest, confidentiality, and bias.
- RIZE reviews the recommendations for equitable distribution by geography and continuum of care category and makes the final recommendations.
- Final recommendations are approved by the RIZE Board of Directors and our partners in state government.

- **How many grants will be awarded?**

The number of grants awarded depends on the number of applicants and the size of the grant requests.

- **Will feedback be provided on our application if we want it?**

While we would love to provide personalized feedback on individual grant proposals, we cannot due to the high volume of applications we expect to receive and our commitment to a fair and impartial review process.

- **When and how will we be notified of funding decisions?**

All applicants will be notified of decisions in January via email.

- **When do you expect the application guidance for the third round of Mosaic funding to be released?**

The dates for the third round of Mosaic funding are to be determined. Please check our website at [mosaic.rizema.org](http://mosaic.rizema.org) in the spring of 2025 for updates.