



Family Resilience Grant: Supporting Children and Families Impacted by the Opioid Crisis

Grant Program Guidelines

Background: The Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund & Mosaic Opioid Recovery Partnership

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts participated in historic legal efforts to hold private companies accountable for the harms caused by the opioid epidemic. Through settlements with those companies, our state will receive more than \$900 million over 18 years for substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery support. For certain settlements, Massachusetts will dedicate 40% of the funds to municipalities and 60% to the statewide Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund (ORRF) to mitigate the impacts of the opioid overdose epidemic.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration selected [RIZE Massachusetts Foundation \(RIZE\)](#) to create and manage [Mosaic Opioid Recovery Partnership \(Mosaic\)](#), funded by ORRF and the MA Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Addiction Services, through a unique public-private partnership that will allow small, community-based organizations and municipalities to apply for a portion of the settlement funds. It is specifically designed to support communities and populations that have been historically underserved and have experienced a higher rate of opioid-related overdose deaths. The grants will be community-led and culturally responsive, aimed at reaching individuals and families affected by the opioid overdose epidemic. The goal of Mosaic is to fund community-led initiatives that propose promising ideas to address the opioid crisis. The grants will strengthen prevention, harm reduction, access to care, recovery, trauma, grief, and family support programs. Through Mosaic, RIZE will distribute approximately \$5 million annually.



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RIZE Massachusetts Foundation

RIZE is the only public-private partnership solely dedicated to funding solutions to end the overdose crisis. RIZE's goal is to ensure that people suffering from substance use disorder have access to care and experience better quality of life and overall health. Guided by individuals with lived experience and unafraid of new ideas, RIZE is building networks, creating programming, and supporting community partners using novel approaches to preventing overdose. RIZE seeks to increase visibility, expand the evidence base, and inform policy to elevate programs with promise. At the same time, RIZE is amplifying the voices of its community partners to bring greater awareness and urgency to the devastating impact of the overdose crisis. We envision a Massachusetts with zero stigma and zero deaths.

The Family Resilience Grant Program

The opioid crisis continues to inflict a significant and enduring toll on families across Massachusetts. In 2023, the Commonwealth reported 2,125 opioid-related overdose deaths, leaving behind children, parents, grandparents, and extended family members in crisis.ⁱ Parental substance misuse is one of the most common factors that brings families to the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF) attention.ⁱⁱ In Massachusetts qualitative studies, pregnant and/or parenting women with opioid use disorder (OUD) describe concern about accessing treatment due to fear of child protective services involvement and report feeling punished or surveilled rather than supported.^{iii,iv} A systemic burden is also placed on relatives who often step in as informal caregivers.^v For example, many grandparent caregivers lack formal custody, which limits their ability to access essential services such as schooling, medical care, and public assistance. Grandparents may face significant legal expenses to secure guardianship, often out of reach for retired or low-income caregivers.^{vi} Moreover, Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities disproportionately bear the harms of these systems, necessitating equitable solutions that are rooted in racial justice and systemic change.

Moreover, research findings suggest caregivers with more family support, community resources, educational training on naloxone administration, and coping strategies are more resilient.^{vii,viii,ix} Programs that layer family support with recovery services have demonstrated success in national and state contexts^{x,xi,xii}, highlighting a critical opportunity to fund scalable, family-centered interventions that promote resilience and stability within the community and across systems.

To address these challenges, RIZE is launching a three-year demonstration grant that supports children and families affected by this epidemic. This grant program will provide funding for



comprehensive support services to enhance family stability, improve child well-being, and strengthen community resources. Specifically, the objectives include:

- Empowering families through education, trauma-informed care, and navigation of social systems
- Improving housing stability for families and youth to cultivate healthier communities
- Enhancing developmental, educational, and emotional support systems for children and families
- Promoting the well-being of families by providing comprehensive peer recovery support and harm reduction education, ultimately fostering a healthy environment for reunification and healing

This is an unprecedented opportunity to build holistic and scalable solutions that effectively address the devastating impacts of the overdose crisis on children and families. The challenges resulting from OUD—which include housing instability, lack of caregiver support, increased child welfare involvement, and numerous adverse effects—demand urgent attention.

RIZE will award \$7,500,000 over three years to organizations leading local initiatives to address critical gaps in care for children and families impacted by the opioid crisis. The maximum request is \$500,000 annually. Specific attention will be paid to the applicant's budget to ensure alignment with the organization's size and scope.

We anticipate the funding will support 5 to 10 organizations. Projects should embed a family-centered approach, emphasizing the collective well-being of the family rather than focusing solely on the individual. This perspective recognizes that challenges one family member faces can impact the entire family unit and that family support can be crucial for success. Projects may include support for grandparents raising grandchildren, parent(s) with lived and living experience, other caregivers impacted by substance use, and/or direct support for children.

For the purposes of this grant, "family" is defined broadly to encompass various structures that include traditional nuclear families, extended families (such as grandparents, aunts, uncles), chosen families, and guardians or caregivers who play a significant role in a child's life. The key focus is on those who provide emotional, physical, and social support, regardless of legal guardianship or formal custody arrangements. This inclusive definition aims to recognize the diverse ways in which caregiving and familial relationships manifest in the context of recovery and support.



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Funding Priorities

Applicants should propose projects designed to impact one or more of the following priority areas. Please note that the bulleted items below are **examples** and are not intended to be exhaustive.

1. Comprehensive Family Support Services

Support Parents & Caregivers

- Support for families after a loss due to overdose
- Community education groups for caregivers raising children (e.g., grandparents, foster parents)
- Reentry navigation, housing placement, and individual and family peer support for individuals transitioning back to the community after incarceration

Provide Trauma-Informed Support for Children

- Traditional therapeutic or holistic interventions (e.g., play therapy, art therapy)
- Support programs for children with a sibling impacted by OUD
- Services and support for adolescents dealing with the effects of family substance use and overdose, such as youth peer support and school-based interventions

Help Families Navigate Systems & Services

- Case management and care coordination to connect families with health care, legal services, child welfare services, and other services and supports
- Legal advocacy for families navigating custody, foster care, or reunification processes
- Programs that assign family peer navigators or case managers to help parents access needed services

2. Housing and Stability Support

Offer Emergency Housing for Families in Crisis

- Short-term housing for families affected by OUD-related emergencies (e.g., parental incarceration, overdose)
- Housing assistance for caregivers who assume custody of children due to parental overdose and OUD

Connect to Transitional & Supportive Housing

- Wraparound services for families, including recovery housing, MOUD access, and harm reduction interventions integrated into housing settings.
- Legal aid, mediation services, and tenant rights education
- Case management and financial assistance to help families secure stable housing
- Development, renovation, or startup of recovery housing support

Prevent Homelessness Among At-Risk Youth

- Services for adolescents impacted by familial OUD who are aging out of foster care or experiencing housing instability
- Safe housing for youth who have been displaced due to familial substance use

3. Early Childhood and Educational Support

Promote Early Childhood Interventions

- Programs that provide care for pregnant women with OUD and their infants from conception through early childhood
- Early childhood screenings and developmental support for children affected by prenatal substance exposure

Support for Foster & Kinship Care Families

- Educational support for children placed in foster care or kinship care due to parental OUD
- Resources for grandparents or other relatives raising children affected by OUD

4. Community-Based Harm Reduction & Recovery Support

Offer Peer Recovery & Psychoeducational Support for Families

- Programs that connect parents and caregivers with peers who have lived experience
- Family support groups that provide education on addiction and healing
- Services that help parents and other caregivers build healthy relationships with their children

Deploy Harm Reduction & Overdose Prevention for Families

- Education and resources for caregivers and families on harm reduction strategies, including overdose prevention, recognizing the signs of overdose, and response



- Promoting harm reduction interventions in the community and increasing access to supplies and services

How Funds Can be Used

Proposed projects and initiatives must adhere to [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.

The funds can support projects and initiatives developed with input from people with lived and living experience, public health experts, municipal leaders, and families affected by the opioid crisis.

We recognize that families may have urgent needs that require attention. Therefore, funds can also be utilized for incentives or assistance with basic needs (non-cash), such as transportation, emergency housing support, childcare, etc.

In addition to grant funding, RIZE will provide technical assistance and learning opportunities tailored to specific needs identified by the grantees. This comprehensive support is designed to facilitate the effective implementation of initiatives, strengthen organizations, and build more resilient communities.

How Funds Cannot be Used

- Care or costs reimbursed by the state, including MassHealth and MA DPH Bureau of Substance Addiction Services, unless they strengthen and supplement these services but not supplant them
- Fundraising pursuits
- Endowments or annual appeals
- Clinical or drug trials
- Direct payments to individuals
- Lobbying or legislative activity

Who Should Apply

RIZE seeks to fund nonprofit organizations that work with any aspect of the care continuum from prevention to recovery and that serve diverse communities and populations that are historically underserved and have experienced a higher rate of opioid-related overdose deaths. For this grant program, this includes nonprofit organizations that have a **total annual operating budget of \$20 million or less** and are:



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- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations (fiscal sponsorship models are acceptable)
- Multi-service agencies
- Minority-Led and minority-serving community-based organizations
- Tribal entities or community-led initiatives
- Organizations that conduct their proposed activities within Massachusetts
- In good standing and current with state and federal reporting requirements

Application Process & Timeline

If your project meets the [guidelines](#), we invite you to complete an [application](#) and submit it by 11:59 pm EST on June 17, 2025. The application questions are for review at the end of this document. Questions are highly encouraged and should be submitted to grants@rizema.org. RIZE will post answers to submitted questions on mosaic.rizema.org. All questions will be posted anonymously. RIZE may contact applicants for additional information or clarification if needed during the review process. RIZE is committed to providing ample technical assistance and support during the application process.

Activity	Date
Application Released	April 22, 2025
Informational Webinar (Register here)	April 28, 2025 @ 1 pm
Office Hours	May 19, 2025 @ 10 am
Application Due	June 17, 2025 @ 11:59 pm
Notifications	September 2025
Grant Period Begins	November 1, 2025

Grant Selection Criteria

All proposals will undergo an unbiased, fair, equitable, and timely review process that includes people with lived and living experience and other subject matter experts. RIZE recognizes that not every proposal will address all items below, but in general, seeks to fund organizations that:

- Address prevention, harm reduction, access to care, recovery, trauma, grief, and family supports
- Have a well-thought-out project and describe the partners engaged (including people with lived and living experience, experts, and professionals) and how their feedback informed the proposal
- Serve populations and communities with high rates of opioid overdoses and deaths that have been historically underserved
- Currently deliver programs and services for children and families that reflect the input of their communities and are based on best and promising practices
- Are rooted in health equity and engage in activities that address disparities in services and outcomes for children and families

Applications will be reviewed based on the following:

- Alignment with grant criteria
- Strength and innovation of the proposal
- Engagement of people with lived/living experience
- Geographic equity and population focus
- Organizational capacity and readiness
- Data tracking and evaluation capacity
- Budget feasibility and sustainability

Evaluation & Reporting

RIZE aims to measure what matters most, not just what is easily measurable. Our evaluations track progress, increase grantee capacity for data-informed decision-making, and develop a community of learning and improvement. This helps grantees understand what works, adjust what doesn't, and create sustainable means to measure success. In addition, with the evaluation of the Family Resilience Grant RIZE aims to develop evidence about the feasibility and effectiveness of different approaches for supporting children and families who the opioid crisis has impacted. For example, we may explore questions like:

- How many families were reached by the program, and what were their characteristics?
- What kinds of services and supports were offered to participants?
- What went well, and what was challenging about implementing different models? What factors affected implementation?
- What services and supports did families use most often or find most helpful?
- How did family stability, resilience, and well-being change over time?



- What approaches were most effective for promoting positive family outcomes? What approaches were less effective and why?

Our evaluation partner, the Institute for Community Health (ICH), will develop measures to help grantees track program implementation and outcomes at the family level. Evaluation focus areas and metrics will be designed with grantee input and participation, and the evaluation process will respect grantees' time and resources. The evaluation will also gather feedback on the grant application process, technical assistance, and learning events to gather lessons and recommendations for future programs.

With support from ICH, grantees will be asked to:

- Track and report on participant demographics
- Track and report on service delivery
- Administer a family outcomes evaluation assessment and enter data (a specific tool will be developed with grantee input)
- Participate in qualitative data collection such as interviews or focus groups

We recommend that applicants include staff time for data entry and reporting when developing their project budgets. ICH will offer support and technical assistance to help grantees build their data and reporting capacity to participate in the evaluation.

Grantees will be offered opportunities to participate in virtual or in-person meetings, technical assistance, and convenings to network, share ideas, and learn from each other. In addition, we ask grantees to share their progress, successes, and challenges annually.

Health Equity Statement

RIZE believes that anyone with substance use disorder should have access to a range of substance use treatments, including all types of medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), psychosocial interventions, harm reduction, community services, and recovery supports. Yet, gaps in access to care remain, especially for people who identify as BIPOC as well as rural residents, LGBTQ+ persons, youth, and others. RIZE makes health equity a grantmaking priority by investing in programs that increase access to care and address root causes, such as racism, poverty, and power imbalances. RIZE also follows the MA Department of Public Health Principles for Racial Equity and endeavors to meet national [Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services \(CLAS\) standards](#) as an additional tool to help achieve health and racial equity.



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Application Questions

Contact Information

- Applying organization
- Provide your EIN
- Fiscal sponsor (if applicable)
- Contact person
- Street address, city, county, zip code
- Email
- Phone number
- Total amount requested for three years

In which region of the Commonwealth are the cities/towns you serve located?

Please select one response. If you need definitions for the regions, visit:

https://matracking.ehs.state.ma.us/eohhs_regions/eohhs_regions.html

- Region 1: Western MA
- Region 2: Central MA
- Region 3: Northeast
- Region 4: MetroWest
- Region 5: Southeast
- Region 6: Boston area
- Statewide
- Multiple regions (but not statewide)

What is your organization's annual operating budget? (**select one**)

- Less than \$500k annually
- \$500k - \$1 million annually
- Over \$1 million - \$5 million annually
- Over \$5 million - \$10 million annually
- Over \$10 million - \$20 million annually
- More than \$20 million annually (not eligible)

Is your organization BIPOC-led or run? This is defined as organizations with at least 50% of board members and/or senior staff who identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color.
(**select one**)



- Yes
- No
- I am not sure

While all projects must focus on children and/or families, please select the most appropriate continuum of care category for your proposed project. **(choose one)**

- Prevention; harm reduction; access to care; recovery; trauma, grief, and family supports

Please select your proposed project's most appropriate priority area(s). **(select all that apply)**

- Comprehensive Family Support Services; Housing and Stability Support; Early Childhood and Educational Support; Community-Based Harm Reduction & Recovery Support

Check **up to 3** Priority Population(s) your organization serves or aims to serve - by Priority Population, we mean a population your organization specifically focuses on, specializes in or tailors its services for.

- People with lived or living experience with substance misuse and/or recovery
- LGBTQ+ identified
- People experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity
- People who are currently or formerly incarcerated
- Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC)
- People with limited English proficiency
- Older adults/seniors
- People with disabilities (learning, physical, developmental, or other disabilities)
- Immigrant communities
- Youth
- Families
- Veterans
- Other (please specify) _____

Project Description & Implementation

1. Describe your organization's services or activities, including your experience delivering services to children and families impacted by opioid and/or substance use. (300 words)



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2. Describe the specific population(s) you serve, including demographics. (300 words)
3. Given the specific population(s) described above, please explain how you address their unique needs. (300 words)
4. Describe your proposed project in 50 words or less. This description will be used in publicly facing materials if awarded. (50 words)
5. Fully describe your proposed project, including the activities, key partners, and timeline. (500 words)

Identifying Gaps & Measuring Results

6. Discuss the partners you've engaged (including people with lived and living experience) and how their input informed your proposed project. (300 words)
7. Detail the results and outcomes you hope to achieve through your proposed project. (300 words)
8. Describe how you currently track service delivery and assess the effectiveness of your programs. (Note: Technical data collection/tracking support will be available to grantees.) (300 words)

Budget

Please upload a detailed budget and budget narrative using the template provided.

Financials

Please upload a copy of your organization's most recent Audited Financial Statement or most recent Financial Review if you do not have an Audited Financial Statement.

ⁱ Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Addiction Services, Current Overdose Data. (<https://www.mass.gov/lists/current-overdose-data>)

ⁱⁱ Massachusetts Department of Children and Families, Annual Report FY2023. (<https://www.mass.gov/doc/fy2023-dcf-annual-report/download>)

ⁱⁱⁱ Schiff DM, Work EC, Muftu S, et al. "You have to take this medication, but then you get punished for taking it." Lack of agency, choice, and fear of medications to treat opioid use disorder across the perinatal period. *J Subst Abuse Treat.* 2022;139. doi:10.1016/j.jsat.2022.108765.

^{iv} Schiff DM, Muftu S, MacMillan KDL, et al. Mutual Mistrust: The Multilayered Experiences at the Intersection of Healthcare and Early Parenting Among Mothers With Opioid Use Disorder. *J Addict Med.* 2024 Jan-Feb 01;18(1):55-61. doi: 10.1097/ADM.0000000000001242.

^v Stulac SN, Costello E, Baker J, et al. High Engagement in Care in a Pediatric Medical Home for Children Impacted By Parental Substance Use. *Clinical Pediatrics.* 2023;63(6):769-773. doi:10.1177/00099228231189140

^{vi} Davis MT, Warfield ME, Boguslaw J, et al. Parenting a 6-Year Old Is Not What I Planned in Retirement: Trauma and Stress among Grandparents Due to the Opioid Crisis. *J Gerontol Soc Work.* 2020 May-Jun;63(4):295-315. doi: 10.1080/01634372.2020.1752872.

^{vii} Tyo MB, McCurry MK, Horowitz JA, Elliott K. Predictors of Burden and Resilience in Family Caregivers of Individuals With Opioid Use Disorder. *J Addict Nurs.* 2023 Jan-Mar 01;34(1):E8-E20. doi: 10.1097/JAN.0000000000000412.

^{viii} Kelly, J. F., Fallah-Sohy, N., Cristello, J. & Bergman, B. (2017). Coping with the enduring unpredictability of opioid addiction: An investigation of a novel family-focused peer-support organization. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, 77, 193–200. 10.1016/j.jsat.2017.02.010

^{ix} Mokgothu, M. C., Du Plessis, E. & Koen, M. P. (2015). The strengths of families in supporting mentally-ill family members. *Curationis*, 38(1),1258. 10.4102/curationis.v38i1.1258

^x Institute for Health and Recovery, Moms Do Care. (<https://www.healthrecovery.org/page/moms-do-care>)

^{xi} Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition, FIRST Steps Together (<https://www.mass.gov/first-steps-together>)

^{xii} Administration for Children & Families, Office of Planning, Research & Evaluation. Replication of Recovery and Reunification Interventions for Families—Impact Study (<https://acf.gov/opre/project/replication-recovery-and-reunification-interventions-families-impact-study>)