

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Below are frequently asked questions. This list includes questions submitted via email and answered directly by RIZE staff. The questions have been anonymized. We will update this list weekly until the application closes. Remember, you can email additional questions to grants@rizema.org and we will post responses on this list so they might be helpful to others. Thanks for your interest in the Mosaic Family Resilience Grant program.

Proposal Guidelines

1. What are the goals of the Mosaic Family Resilience Grant program?

The primary goal of the Mosaic Family Resilience Grant program is to 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

2. Who is eligible to apply for these funds?

RIZE seeks to fund nonprofit organizations that work with an aspect of the care continuum from prevention to recovery, and:

- Have a total annual operating budget of \$20 million or less.
- Have nonprofit tax status (501c3) or have a fiscal agent with such status.
- Conduct their proposed activities within Massachusetts
- Are in good standing and current with state and federal reporting requirements

Types of organizations can include:

- Multi-service agencies
- Minority-led and minority-serving community-based organizations
- Tribal entities or community-led initiatives

3. Who is not eligible to apply for these funds?

We do not accept applications from religious institutions, for-profit institutions, or individuals and families. We cannot consider grant requests for fundraising events, athletic-related events, political advocacy, and related activities, or endowment funds.

Organizations with an annual operating budget of over \$20 million are not eligible to apply.

4. My program budget is under \$20,000,000, but my organization's operating budget is over that amount. Can we apply?

Only organizations with a total annual operating budget of \$20 million or less for the entire organization, not for a specific program, can apply.

While you may not be eligible for this specific funding opportunity, the Municipal Matching Grant Program will be available in the fall of 2025. Please sign up for our newsletter at rizema.org for more Information on Mosaic or other RIZE grant opportunities.

5. I have a current grant from RIZE or have received a grant from RIZE in the past. Am I eligible for this grant opportunity?

Yes, any RIZE grant recipient may apply, including Mosaic grantees.

6. Our organization delivers OUD services, but we also work on other issues. Can we apply?

Yes, as long as you meet all of the criteria in the application guidelines. Please note that the total budget of your organization will be considered, not just the portion dedicated to OUD services.

7. What activities are expected of grantees?

In addition to the activities you outline in your proposal, grantees are expected to participate in virtual or in-person meetings, technical assistance offerings, and convenings to network, share ideas, and learn from each other. Grantees will help determine the topics of the training and technical assistance.

Grantees are also expected to participate in the evaluation conducted by the Institute of Community Health. RIZE and the evaluators are committed to a participatory evaluation process that you help design and is not burdensome.

Finally, we will ask grantees to prepare annual progress reports and share learning and impact data.

8. What is a fiscal agent?

If your organization does not have a nonprofit tax status from the Internal Revenue Service, you can still apply for a grant from RIZE using a fiscal agent. A fiscal agent is an organization that agrees to accept and manage grant funds on your behalf.

Before you apply, you must find a fiscal agent for your project. This process can take some time, so starting as soon as possible is best. To find a fiscal agent, look for a 501(c)(3) organization or another eligible organization with a similar mission to yours. Once you've identified a potential fiscal agent, you should establish a formal relationship and written agreement.

Be aware that most fiscal agents charge a fee to cover costs and expenses, including staff time, administrative support, bookkeeping and accounting, reporting, compliance, insurance, and other overhead.

9. How much funding can I request?

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.

10. How will the payments work?

All awarded grantees will receive their first-year payment in full in November 2025. To ensure everything is going smoothly and to share your progress with us, we'll ask you to send a progress report before the payments for years two and three. This report should include a summary of the activities you've undertaken with the grant, an evaluation of the achievements you've made, and a detailed financial report on how you've utilized the funds. Report templates and technical assistance will be available.

11. How can funds 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.

12. What can funds NOT be used for?

Funds **cannot** be used for:

- 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

13. What was the introductory webinar about and how do I access it?

The webinar was a virtual session held on April 28. A recording of the session is available [here](#) and the webinar slides can be found [here](#). The webinar was an opportunity to meet with RIZE staff who reviewed the grant guidelines and application and answered questions. Additional questions can be addressed at the upcoming virtual office hours session and/or by submitting an email to grants@rizema.org.

14. What are office hours?

When you sit down and start writing a grant application, more questions usually come to mind. Office hours are an opportunity to meet with staff and address these questions. Office hours will be held via zoom on May 19. Register to attend [here](#).

15. When and how will we be notified of funding decisions?

All applicants will be notified of decisions in September 2025 via phone or email.

Proposal Review

16. How will proposals be reviewed?

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

- RIZE staff will ensure applicants meet eligibility requirements.
- Review teams will read and score assigned proposals against a rubric.
- Review teams will be comprised of people with lived and living experience/family members, subject matter expertise, and/or understanding of equity and inclusion.
- RIZE will work to ensure that there is an equitable distribution of funds based on geography, population served, opioid overdose rates, and types of services.

17. What are the 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

18. How many grants will be awarded?

The number of grants awarded will be based on the number of applicants and the size of the grant requests. However, we anticipate the funding will support 5 to 10 organizations.

19. Will feedback be provided on our application if we want it?

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

Questions from the Informational Webinar and grants@rizema.org

**Should organizations with an operating budget greater than \$20 million refrain from applying?
Is there any leeway on the operating budget threshold?**

If an organization has an operating budget greater than \$20 million, is it possible for a department, branch, or service line of that organization to apply for a grant independently?

Organizations with an operating budget greater than \$20 million are not eligible to apply for this grant program. A department, branch, or service line belonging to an organization with an operating budget greater than \$20 million would also be ineligible.

Mosaic Opioid Recovery Partnership was created as a way for small community-based organizations to access state opioid settlement funds. By capping the budget size of organizations allowed to apply, we aim to ensure that smaller organizations can compete for funding. Larger organizations are often eligible for a wider array of funding opportunities, including state procurements, than smaller entities, often making it challenging for smaller entities to access support.

For this grant round, the budget cap is a strategic choice designed to foster an inclusive, effective, and innovative approach to addressing the opioid crisis through community-based organizations.

Our organization does not have a 501(c)(3) status. Are we eligible to apply?

Only nonprofits with a 501(c)(3) status are eligible to apply. If your organization does not have a nonprofit tax status from the Internal Revenue Service, you can still apply for a grant from RIZE using a fiscal agent. A fiscal agent is an organization that agrees to accept and manage grant funds on your behalf. Other organizations, including LLCs, are not eligible for funding independently.

Can a church be a fiscal sponsor?

Yes.

Would a fiscal sponsor be the lead applicant?

No, the applying organization would be the lead applicant.

Would it be beneficial to seek a fiscal sponsor for a large project?

We would consider the operational budget of your organization to determine eligibility and feasibility of the project. The use of a fiscal sponsor and the size of the fiscal sponsor has no material bearing on the application.

Our organization delivers services for opioid use disorder, but we also work on other issues. Can we apply?

Yes, as long as your organization meets all of the criteria in the application guidelines. Please note the total budget of your organization will be considered, not just the portion dedicated to OUD services.

Can these funds provide support to families impacted by any substance or opioids specifically?

These funds aim to reach individuals and families affected by opioid use disorder and the associated overdose epidemic. The grant does allow proposals to address not only the challenges related to opioid use but also substance use prevention, or other broader behavioral health needs that occur together with OUD.

Can municipalities apply in partnership with a nonprofit? Can multiple nonprofits partner together to apply?

Yes, either of those partnerships are welcome to apply. Please be clear about the partnership in the proposal and budget. One organization will need to be the lead applicant when filling out the application. In the case of the municipal and nonprofit partnership, the lead applicant must have 501(c)(3) status.

Does the grant program emphasize collaborations between multiple organizations to provide the most wraparound services to children and families?

There is no preference for collaborative proposals in the review process. However, the goal of the grant program is to support wraparound services, which can exist in one organization or in a partnership. The impact of the proposed activity would be considered more than the number of organizations involved.

If multiple organizations partner together on an application, do all partners need to submit an audited financial statement?

Only the lead applicant needs to submit an audited financial statement.

For the budget requirement, should I submit a program budget or an agency budget?

Please submit a program budget that reflects how the grant money would be spent. However, organizations with a total operating budget greater than \$20 million are ineligible for this grant program.

For fiscally sponsored programs, are you looking at the fiscal sponsor's budget for the operating budget eligibility cap of \$20 million, or just the particular program applying?

We would look at the program applying, not the fiscal sponsor's budget.

Is the goal to fund new or expanded program work, or will this grant fund existing work?

The grant funds can strengthen and strengthen existing program work as long as it's not supplanting state funds.

Is the grant period over three calendar years?

No, the grant period is 36 months starting November 1, 2025 and ending October 31, 2028.

Can RIZE assist with networking and connecting organizations with potential partners?

Please find a list of RIZE [grantees](#) and [community partners](#) on our website.

Would the evaluation require Institutional Review Board approval for research or would evaluations fall under quality improvement?

Our evaluation partners, the Institute of Community Health, will work with grantees on any evaluation needs. The evaluation design is not yet finalized, but evaluations will most likely be determined quality improvement-oriented program evaluation. If it is needed, ICH will oversee Institutional Review Board approval. Grantees would be considered program partners and not research partners, and ICH would work with grantees on any documentation needed.

Where can we find overdose statistics for our community?

Please consult the [BSAS Overdose Dashboard](#).

Will there be options for continued funding after the three-year grant period?

This grant opportunity is a three-year grant. At this time, there are no options for continued funding.

Our organization is in an underserved, highly impacted community, but we do not focus on opioid use disorder specifically, instead serving all youth in our community more broadly. Would we be eligible for funding?

The program should specifically address the impact of overdose and opioid use disorder on children and/or families, though it may encompass other forms of support for youth, such as youth prevention.

We are organizing a charity show/fundraising event. Can we apply for this grant to fund the event?

No, funds cannot be used for fundraising pursuits.

Does this grant support families in which the parent/caregiver is affected by opioid use disorder or the child?

The purpose of the grant is to support all families affected by overdose and the opioid crisis. While it specifically addresses the caregiver-child relationship, it is not limited to that definition.

For this grant, "family" is defined broadly to include various structures such as traditional nuclear families, extended families (like grandparents, aunts, and uncles), chosen families, and guardians or caregivers who play a significant role in a child's life. The main focus is on those who provide emotional, physical, and social support, regardless of legal guardianship or formal custody arrangements.

Eligible projects may include assistance for grandparents raising their grandchildren, parents with lived experiences related to substance use, and other caregivers impacted by these issues, as well as direct support for children.

Within what age range do you consider someone to be a child for the purposes of this grant?

We will utilize a SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) supported definition for "youth" to broadly refer to children and young adults. While there isn't a specific numerical age cutoff, for the purpose of this grant, we use "child" or "youth" to encompass individuals from infancy through the transition to adulthood (typically ages 18-25). This includes individuals experiencing childhood and adolescence, as well as young adults navigating the complexities of their developmental stage. Therefore, a child or youth is defined as under 25 years of age.

Under "Who Should Apply" in the grant guidelines, there are six bullets listed. Does an organization need to check all of the bullets to be considered?

No, the "Who Should Apply" section of the grant guidelines offers a general guideline for applicants, and your organization does not need to meet every example listed.

Is the Mosaic Family Resilience Grant program a separate grant from the Mosaic Municipal Matching program?

Yes. There will be a second round of the Mosaic Municipal Matching program in fall of 2025.

If an agency is proposing to acquire a building and operate a transitional supportive housing project for families, would the agency be required to have site control of a property at the time of application submission (lease, purchase and sales)? Or could it propose to identify and purchase a property within a reasonable time frame following award?

An agency does not need site control of a property when submitting its application. Plans for leasing or purchasing a property should be included in your proposal. However, you must provide evidence of site control through a lease or purchase and sale agreement within six months of being awarded. If you do not provide this evidence, the award will be rescinded.

Can the funds be used for capital expenditures? For example, can the funds go towards construction costs for building affordable housing for families?

Yes.

Would a project that focuses primarily on supporting individuals who are transitioning back to the community after incarceration qualify for this funding opportunity? The individuals are from underserved areas that have been disproportionately impacted by the opioid epidemic. Or would the project also need to include direct work with returning citizens' families and/or opioid specific programming?

The primary purpose of the program is to provide funding for comprehensive support services to enhance family stability and improve child well-being. In order to qualify, your proposal should specifically address both opioid-related programming and support for the families of individuals transitioning back into the community after incarceration.

Can local health departments apply? While the city's budget is well over the \$20 million, the health department's budget is under that amount.

Applicants must have 501(c)(3) status. If not, a municipality could partner with a community-based organization. The community-based organization should be the lead applicant and should have 501(c)(3) status.

Can municipalities partner together on a proposal for a larger regional project?

This program aims to fund family-serving community-based organizations. However, multiple municipalities could partner together to apply to the Mosaic Municipal Matching program. There will be a second round of the Mosaic Municipal Matching program in the fall of 2025.

We are a grief support organization serving families, many of whom have experienced substance use related loss. We also provide grief support groups in schools for youth. We would like to expand our programming and offer groups specific to substance use related loss. Would we be eligible to apply?

Yes.

We offer preventative programs for teens centering on substance use and addiction. Are we eligible to apply?

Yes.

Can a nonprofit partner with a for-profit organization on this grant application, if the nonprofit is the lead?

Yes. The organization with 501(c)(3) status should be the lead applicant.

Can multiple nonprofits partner with each other?

Yes. One organization should choose to be the lead.

For applicants partnering with other organizations, are you looking for a budget from all organizations involved or just the lead applicant?

We would only need a budget and financial statement from the lead applicant.

Can an organization with an operating budget less than \$20 million apply as the lead organization on the grant and then use the funds to create subcontracts to organizations with an operating budget greater than \$20 million?

Yes, as long as the lead applicant is a 501(c)(3) with an operating budget less than \$20 million, you could subcontract organizations with an operating budget greater than \$20 million.

Can an organization apply as the lead applicant if it is already the partner on another application?

Yes.

Can an organization submit more than one proposal?

No, an organization should only submit one proposal as the lead applicant. However, you can be the supporting applicant on other proposals.

Do the guidelines require that services are provided directly to children or just that children/families are supported and their quality of life improved by the program?

While projects should support families, they do not need to provide direct services to children specifically. For example, programs that provide housing, counseling services, or peer support to families as a whole or pregnant mothers would be welcome to apply.

We have an evaluation partner for this work that we would like to include in our project to extend our existing data collection systems to new school districts. In addition, since we are a small team, we have limited capacity to participate in the grant evaluation. Can we include time for our long-term evaluation partner in our budget to support us in meeting ICH's evaluation requirements?

Yes, you can include your evaluator's time in your budget to participate in the evaluation with the Institute of Community Health. Please reach out to grants@rizema.org if you have questions.

We already use a system to track data and outcomes. Can we use this data to complete the evaluation requirements for this grant?

Yes, you can use relevant data that you collect for the evaluation. The Institute for Community Health seeks to streamline the process and will collaborate with grantees to evaluate the grant program.

Our organization would like to provide a stipend to the individual helping us with our data collection and evaluation. Would that be acceptable to include in our budget?

Yes. Please provide a detailed line-item note when completing your budget.

Can we use the funds to create a program? For example, could we hire a LCSW to develop and implement a program model to serve our population of youth and their families?

Yes.

It was stated that prior grantees may apply for the grant funds. I'm wondering if new organizations that are qualified would have priority over those that have already received funding?

Currently, both new applicants and prior grantees will be equally considered in the review process. There is no priority for new applicants.

I am not totally sure about the role a smaller organization can play in seeking these funds.

Organizations with operating budgets of \$20 million or less are eligible to apply. They can also work together to submit an application, but there must be one lead organization that is a 501c3 that submits the application.

I would like more in-depth information about how funds can and cannot be used.

Please see [How Funds Can Be Used](#) on the Mosaic website. Funds cannot be used for:

- 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

As long as your proposed intervention does not supplant state funds and falls within the guidelines of supporting children and/or families impacted by the overdose crisis, you are welcome to apply.

May we send letters of support with our application?

No, letters of support will not be considered for this grant program.

Does an organization need to be located in Massachusetts to apply? We are a nationwide nonprofit that has done work in Massachusetts and would focus the work of this grant project solely in Massachusetts.

Your organization is eligible to apply if you provide services in Massachusetts, even if you are not headquartered in Massachusetts. The budget of the umbrella organization must be \$20 million or under to be eligible to apply.

Will there be an opportunity to revise budget allocations or the total grant amount in years two and three?

RIZE can work with grantees to adjust allocations at any point during the grant period, but the total amount of the grant will not change.

Is there a formula we can use to find the maximum award amount we can request based on the size of our organization?

There is no specific formula, but RIZE will perform a thorough review to assess whether the organization's operational size can support the requested grant amount. The maximum allowable grant is \$500,000 per year, totaling \$1.5 million over three years.

Our program will have different costs each year. Do we need to request the same dollar amount each of the three years, even if the activities look different?

The grant will be made in three equal payments over the three years, but the following two scenarios would be acceptable:

1. Your organization spends the same dollar amount each year, but your allocations change.
2. Your organization spends different amounts each year, which you would explain in your budget, but the request is still for equal payments over the three years and the cash flow will even out. For example, the amount spent in year 1 is less than the payment received, so there are funds left over at the end of the first year that can be carried into year 2 or 3 to cover a larger budget expenditure in those years.

We are not able to make a larger upfront payment for year 1.

If your project falls into one of these situations, please include a narrative explanation in your budget submission.