



MUNICIPAL MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Background: The Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts participated in the 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 a billion dollars over 18 years for substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery support. For certain settlements, Massachusetts will dedicate 40 percent of the funds to municipalities and 60 percent 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 allows small nonprofits 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 use ideas with promise to address the opioid crisis. The grants will strengthen prevention, harm reduction, access to care, recovery, trauma, and family support programs. Through Mosaic, RIZE will distribute approximately \$5 million annually.

The Municipal Matching Grant Program

The Municipal Matching Grant program helps cities and towns maximize their opioid abatement funds to address the overdose crisis. By providing matching funds, the program incentivizes municipalities to scale impactful work, expand their resources, and build capacity across communities.

Demonstrating this commitment, RIZE awarded \$1,485,042 to municipalities in Round 1 (2025) and \$1,250,000 in Round 2 (2026). In 2027, the Commonwealth is increasing its commitment to the Municipal Matching Grant program by making \$2,250,000 available in Round 3, expanding the pool of matching funds to help more municipalities unlock and use their opioid abatement funds.

In this grant program, priority will be given to municipalities that 1) adopt best practices to combat the overdose crisis, 2) utilize Mosaic's Municipal Training and Technical Assistance resources, 3)



meaningfully engage people with lived and living experience (PWLE), and 4) collaborate with regional partners, especially those pooling financial resources.

Rooted in equity, sustainability, and community-driven solutions, the program supports municipalities at every stage, from those launching early efforts to those scaling innovative, data-driven programs.

How Funds Can Be Used

The funds must support projects and initiatives developed with input from PWLE, municipal leaders, and subject matter experts. Proposed projects and initiatives must align with the [Massachusetts State Sub-Division Agreement for Statewide Opioid Settlements \(SSA\)](#) and advance non-punitive, health-centered approaches to substance use disorder-related harms and challenges. A guidance document for municipal opioid abatement can be found [here](#). Please see Appendix 1 for a list of project examples.

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, not supplant them
- Initiatives and activities that are not considered best practice and cause additional harm and/or trauma for people who use drugs, individuals in recovery and/or treatment, and their family members
- Fundraising pursuits
- Endowments or annual appeals
- Clinical or drug trials
- The promulgation of religious beliefs
- Lobbying or legislative activity

Law enforcement, fire, or emergency medical services activities may be eligible uses of opioid abatement funds when they are aligned with SSA-approved abatement strategies. However, not all such activities are permitted. For additional guidance, please consult [this link](#).

Who Should Apply

RIZE seeks to award matching funds to local governments and nonprofit organizations across the Commonwealth that work on any aspect of the care continuum, from prevention to recovery, and that work with communities and populations that are diverse, historically underserved, and have experienced a higher rate of opioid-related overdose deaths.



To be eligible for matching funds, municipalities must be in full compliance with state reporting guidelines. This includes submitting completed annual expenditure reports for both FY25 and FY26.

Applicants must be one of the following:

- A single **municipality**
- A **group of municipalities**, with one municipality designated as the lead applicant
- A **nonprofit applying in partnership with** a municipality or a group of municipalities

How Much Can You Apply For

Applicants can apply as many times as they like, but RIZE will fund only one project per municipality, regional collaborative, or nonprofit organization. Award amounts are as follows:

- **Single-Municipality Grants (Up to \$50,000):** A single municipality or nonprofit organization applying in partnership with a municipality is eligible for up to \$50,000. The application must be matched dollar-for-dollar with the participating municipality's allocated opioid abatement funds.
- **Regional Collaborative Grants (Up to \$150,000):** A group of municipalities or a nonprofit organization partnering with a group of municipalities can pool their opioid abatement funds to apply for up to \$150,000 in matching funds. Regional collaboratives may receive more than a one-to-one match, enabling communities with limited abatement budgets to pool resources and request greater total funding.

Funding requests will be carefully evaluated, focusing on how well they align with the goals of the Municipal Matching Grant program and the [SSA](#). This grant program is designed to encourage alignment with the SSA and increase collective impact.

Match Commitment from Municipalities

Applicants must submit proof that each contributing municipality has committed a portion of its opioid abatement funds for the proposed initiative. Such proof may include either of the following:

- a formal recorded budget discussion, or
- a dated commitment letter signed by the mayor or city/town manager

The letter should be on municipal letterhead, include the municipality's address, and include at least the following language:

To Whom It May Concern,



The City/Town of XYZ confirms its commitment to allocate \$00.00 of its opioid abatement funds to the Mosaic Municipal Matching Grant Program for the following project (project name/description):

If the municipality is supporting an application from a nonprofit organization, the letter should also name the nonprofit.

A commitment letter is required from each municipality contributing funds to be matched by the Mosaic grant.

If a municipality has already awarded opioid abatement funds to a nonprofit for the proposed project, and the nonprofit is applying for a Mosaic matching grant, the nonprofit must also submit (as part of the Mosaic application) the document awarding the municipal funds to the nonprofit. To be eligible for a Mosaic match, the existing municipal grant period must end on or after August 31, 2027. In other words, the municipal grant period must run concurrently with the Mosaic grant program for at least six months.

Funding Commitments for Municipalities That Are Pooling Funds ONLY

For applications involving pooled funds from multiple municipalities, the **lead municipality** must certify that each participating municipality is committed to contributing funds as outlined in the application.

Please note:

- Proof of these funding commitments is highly recommended but **not required at the time of application**.
- However, if the application is recommended for an award, the lead municipality will have **five (5) business days** from the award announcement to submit **written commitment letters** from each contributing municipal partner.

We recognize that securing official commitments can take time, so while they are not required with the application, the **lead municipality should begin collecting these letters immediately after submission** to ensure timely compliance if awarded.

Application Process, Support & Timeline

If your project meets the guidelines, we invite you to complete an [application](#) and submit it by **11:59 pm EST on November 6, 2026**. The application questions are 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 in an FAQ format. All questions will be de-identified. 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. Some additional resources to assist you in completing the application are:

- Informational webinar and office hours with RIZE staff. (See schedule below.)
- The [Massachusetts Association of Health Boards \(MAHB\)](#) provides training and technical assistance to municipalities interested in formalizing a regional collaborative. MAHB can assist municipalities in navigating the fiscal and/or legal considerations associated with forming a regional arrangement, including drafting and amending intermunicipal agreements and memorandums of understanding, complying with municipal finance laws about fund appropriation and utilization, and establishing governance bodies.
- Mosaic's [Municipal Training and Technical Assistance Program \(Municipal TTA\)](#) works alongside cities and towns to use abatement funds to build community-based solutions and strategies through individual TTA, shared resources, and ongoing community learning events.

Date	Activity
Application Released	September 17, 2026
Informational Webinar (RSVP here)	October 1, 2026, at 10:00 am
Office Hours (RSVP here)	October 15, 2026, at 11:00 am
Application Due	November 6, 2026, at 11:59 pm
Notifications	February 2027
Grant Period Begins	March 1, 2027

Grant Selection Criteria

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

- Address prevention, harm reduction, access to care, recovery, and trauma, grief, and/or family supports
- Present a well-thought-out project plan that describes the partners engaged (including PWLLE, subject matter experts, and community professionals) and how their feedback informed the proposal



- Serve populations and communities with high rates of opioid overdose and deaths that have been historically underserved
- Deliver programs and services grounded in best practices that center the voices of PWLLE and reflect the direct feedback and needs of the local community.
- Commit to diversity, equity, and inclusion and engage in activities to address existing disparities in services and outcomes and improve equity
- Commit to transparency

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. For example, we may explore questions like:

- To what extent were municipalities and their partners able to implement projects as expected? What challenges did they experience, and how were they resolved?
- How did the matching funds impact municipalities' strategies for using their opioid settlement funds?
- What were the strengths and challenges of municipal-nonprofit partnerships and collaborations?
- How many community members were reached with the projects, and what were their characteristics?
- What early outcomes did communities experience as a result of the projects? (e.g., shifts in attitudes and perceptions, increased access to care and resources, strengthened cross-sector collaborations, etc.)

Grantees will submit reports sharing their progress, successes, and challenges at the mid-point and end of the grant period. Our evaluation partner, the Institute for Community Health (ICH), will gather information about program implementation and outcomes. ICH may also invite grantees to participate in interviews at the end of the grant period to speak about their experience and work in more detail. The evaluation process will respect the grantees' limited time and resources.

Finally, if awarded, all municipal grantees will be required to complete the Mosaic Municipal TTA Capacity Planning tool. If you are interested in learning more, please review the tool [here for individual municipalities](#) and [here for regional collaboratives](#).



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 medication 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 Black, Indigenous, and people of color, 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.

Disclaimer: Information Sharing Between Mosaic Programs

The Municipal Matching Grant is a part of the Mosaic Community Grant Program. Mosaic also provides training and technical assistance (TTA) to support municipalities in spending their opioid abatement funds. RIZE maintains clear separation between the training and technical assistance program and the grant review process. Regional coordinators may provide general support to municipalities but may not participate in the scoring, ranking, recommendation, or approval of grant applications from municipalities they assisted during the relevant grant cycle.

Application Questions

Contact Information

- Lead municipality or nonprofit partner
- Street Address, City, County, Zip Code
- Geographic region: Please select one response. You can find definitions for the regions [here](#)
 - Region 1: Western MA
 - Region 2: Central MA
 - Region 3: Northeast MA
 - Region 4: MetroWest MA
 - Region 5: Southeast MA
 - Region 6: Boston area
- If a nonprofit organization, please provide your EIN
- If a municipality, please provide your FEIN
- Contact person at municipality
- Contact person at the nonprofit organization (if applicable)

Funding Request

- Total amount committed by municipality (or municipalities)
- Total amount requested in matching funds
- Which municipality (or municipalities) is providing funds?

If you are applying as a regional collaborative, please answer the following:

- Name of the regional collaborative
- Participating cities and towns
- Lead municipality

Select the most appropriate continuum of care category for your proposed project (**select one**)

- Prevention
- Harm reduction
- Access to care
- Recovery
- Trauma, grief, and family supports
- Planning/capacity building

Using the [State Subdivision Agreement](#) as a guide, please select which strategies your project addresses (**multi-select**)

- Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) Treatment
- Support People in Treatment and Recovery
- Connections to Care
- Harm Reduction
- Address the Needs of Criminal-Justice-Involved Persons
- Support Pregnant or Parenting Women and Their Families, Including Babies with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
- Prevent Misuse of Opioids and Implement Prevention Education

Project Description & Implementation

1. Project Title: If awarded, this description will be used in publicly facing materials. (25 words max)
2. Project Summary: Briefly describe the primary goal of your project (e.g., conduct a needs assessment, establish a community advisory board, hire a staff person, deliver mobile services, scale an effective program, sustain a local innovation with demonstrated success). If awarded, this description will be used in publicly facing materials. (50 words max)
3. Full Project Description (500 words max)
Fully describe the proposed project and include proposed activities (e.g., hiring a staff person, purchasing a van, scaling an effective program).
4. Budget: Please provide a detailed budget narrative. Explain how funds will be spent. Be specific and include amounts allocated to categories such as contractor/consultant fees, contracts, community engagement costs, personnel costs, equipment, and other direct costs. (250 words max)
5. Project Team: Describe who will execute your project, including the specific roles and responsibilities of municipal agencies, nonprofits, and other key partners. (250 words max)
6. Funds Management: Explain the process for managing and disbursing funds. How will you ensure the funds are used specifically for the approved project activities, in compliance with the grant guidelines, and not supplanting other funds? (250 words max)
7. Communication: Explain what steps you will take to keep the public informed and respond to questions and concerns to ensure transparency. (250 words)

Identifying Needs & Measuring Results

8. Community & Partner Engagement: Describe the partners engaged in developing this project (e.g., people with lived and living experience, public health experts, municipal leaders, nonprofits). How did their input directly inform your proposal? (250 words max)
9. Needs Assessment: Describe the data, community outreach, needs assessments, or other methods used to identify the specific need for this project. Explain how your project will address these identified needs and/or service gaps. (250 words max)
10. Expected Outcomes & Impact: Detail the results and outcomes you hope to achieve through your project during the grant period. How will this project strengthen prevention, harm reduction, access to care, recovery, trauma, grief, and family supports in your community? (250 words max)

Uploads

All applicants must upload proof of a municipality's commitment to allocate opioid abatement funds for the proposal. Such proof may be 1) a formal recorded budget discussion or 2) a dated commitment letter signed by the mayor or city/town manager. The letter should be on municipal letterhead with the municipality's address and must contain (at a minimum) the following text:

To Whom It May Concern,

The City/Town of XYZ confirms its commitment to allocate \$00.00 of its opioid abatement funds to the Mosaic Municipal Matching Grant program for the following project:

If the letter is in support of an application from a nonprofit, the letter should also name the nonprofit.

HOWEVER: **IF** the applicant is a regional collaborative **OR** a nonprofit partnering with a regional collaborative **AND** the proof is not available when the application is submitted, a letter certifying the intent of the collaborative to commit matching funds is sufficient to submit with the application. **If a letter of intent is submitted with the application, proof of the above commitment must be submitted within 5 days of receiving notice of a grant award.**

If a municipality has already awarded opioid abatement funds to a nonprofit for the proposed project, and the nonprofit is applying for a Municipal Matching Grant, the nonprofit must also submit (as part of the Mosaic application) the document awarding the municipal funds to the nonprofit. To be eligible for a Mosaic match, the existing municipal grant period must end on or after August 31, 2027. In other words, the municipal grant period must run concurrently with the Mosaic match for at least six months.

Appendix 1

Example 1: Mobile MOUD Services in a Rural Community

Following a community needs assessment that identified a need for mobile services in a rural town, a municipality commits **\$50,000** in opioid abatement funds to purchase a van for mobile MOUD services.

The community health center that will prescribe MOUD on the van needs **\$50,000** in matching funds for supplies, equipment, and staffing needed to operate the mobile service.

With the municipality's commitment, the community health center may request **\$50,000** from RIZE.

Total project budget: \$100,000

Funding scenario: \$50,000 municipal funds + \$50,000 RIZE match

Example 2: Single Municipality and Community Partner

A city commits **\$50,000** in opioid abatement funds to partner with a recovery organization to expand peer recovery supports for residents leaving treatment, hospitals, or incarceration.

The recovery organization, with the city's commitment, may request **\$50,000** from RIZE.

Total project budget: \$100,000

Funding scenario: \$50,000 municipal funds + \$50,000 RIZE match

Example 3: Small Regional Collaborative Requesting More Than a Match

Five neighboring towns pool **\$40,000** in opioid abatement funds to conduct a shared regional needs assessment and develop a multi-year action plan for opioid abatement investments. Activities include analyzing local data, mapping existing resources and gaps, engaging people with lived and living experience and other community stakeholders, identifying shared priorities, and developing recommendations for coordinated use of opioid abatement funds.

Because the municipalities are working together and pooling limited local funds, the collaborative may request **\$60,000** from RIZE to fully support the regional project.

Total project budget: \$100,000

Funding scenario: \$40,000 pooled municipal funds + \$60,000 RIZE request

Example 4: Larger Regional Collaborative Requesting More Than a Match



Ten municipalities pool **\$75,000** in opioid abatement funds to expand mobile harm reduction, outreach, and referral services across the region.

The collaborative may request **\$150,000** from RIZE.

Total project budget: \$225,000

Funding scenario: \$75,000 pooled municipal funds + \$150,000 RIZE request