FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is eligible to apply?

Applicants must be one of the following:

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

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 regional collaborative?

Yes, as long as the regional planning agency is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the project meets the grant criteria, and the applicant provides evidence of municipal commitment.

Our organization provides recovery services for alcohol and substance use, but not opioid use exclusively. Are we eligible to apply?

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 a regional collaborative to apply for the grant?

No, a single municipality may apply alone, with a group of municipalities, or in collaboration with a community-based organization.

Can a municipality or regional collaboration apply with multiple CBOs?

Yes.

Who is not eligible to apply?

We cannot accept applications from religious institutions that do not have 501(c)(3) status, for-profit organizations, or individuals and families.

I am applying as a regional collaboration. 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 a regional collaboration even if it is not contributing funds to the pool. A letter certifying the intent of the regional collaboration to commit funds is sufficient at the time of application. Then, if recommended for an award, each municipality committing funds will be required to submit an individual letter signed by the Mayor or town manager **within five business days** of the award notification.

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

Please reach out to Municipal TTA for a contact in your city or town. You can also call or visit your city or town hall.

Can a regional collaboration be just two towns?

Yes.

Can a community-based organization apply with multiple municipalities without a formal regional collaboration?

A CBO can apply for a project that spans multiple municipalities without a formal regional collaboration. However, if the proposal involves delivering the same service across multiple municipalities, we strongly encourage collaboration to support regional coordination and ensure the most efficient use of resources.

Can a coalition be the lead applicant for two different regional collaboratives?

Yes.

If a town is part of a regional collaboration that is applying, is that same town eligible to apply on its own as well?

Yes. A municipality may submit one application on its own and another through a regional collaboration with other municipalities.

Can a single municipality participate in more than one regional collaborative?

Yes.

Can nonprofit organizations join together as a regional collaborative?

Groups of nonprofits are not considered regional collaboratives. Groups of municipalities are considered regional collaboratives. Nonprofit organizations can apply with the commitment of one or more municipalities.

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

Yes.

If an organization receives different funding from RIZE, does that affect their chances in these grants?

No. Receiving other RIZE funding does not affect an applicant's eligibility or likelihood of receiving an award through this program.

If an organization or municipality received funding in a previous round, will priority be given to eligible applicants that have not previously received funding? What if the existing funded project is still underway?

Prior funding does not affect an applicant's priority.

We have received RIZE funding and may apply for additional support to continue our current work. Is the continuation of an existing project eligible for funding in this round?

Yes. An application may request funding to continue an existing project, provided the proposed work meets the requirements of this funding round.

How do I apply?

The application can be accessed here. If you need assistance with the form, please email us at grants@rizema.org.

Can I submit more than one proposal?

An applicant may submit more than one application provided it has sufficient funds to meet the matching requirement for each application. However, proposals are reviewed for equitable distribution, and while it's possible that more than one application could be funded from one CBO, municipality, or regional collaborative, it is not guaranteed.

How much can I request?

- A single municipality is eligible for a matching grant of up to $50,000. Municipalities collaborating with a nonprofit organization can have the nonprofit be the lead applicant if that leads to greater efficiency.
- Municipalities can collaborate by pooling their resources and funds to pursue a regional grant of up to $150,000. Mosaic may fund beyond a one-to-one match for regional collaboratives only. This approach is especially beneficial for communities

struggling to support a project independently due to limited abatement funds. By joining forces as a collaborative group, these municipalities can request more funding than they can individually contribute. Funding requests from these regional collaboratives will be carefully evaluated, focusing on how well they align with the goals of the proposed initiative. This strategy encourages cooperation and supports communities working together to have a greater impact.

Are municipal settlement funds the only type of funding eligible for a match? If we add funds to our project from another source, or use general funds, are they eligible for a match?

Only municipal settlement funds qualify for a match.

What kind of proof do we need for the match?

Proof may be 1) a formal recorded budget discussion or 2) a 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 of its opioid abatement funds to the Mosaic Municipal Matching Grant Program for the following project: (name of project/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 <u>That Are Pooling Funds *ONLY*</u>

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.

I am applying as a regional collaboration. 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 a regional collaborative even if it is not contributing funds to the project.

Can match funds be used within a given fiscal year, or can they be carried over?

The funds should be spent during the grant period.

Can an organization apply for reimbursement for settlement funds that have already been spent?

No.

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?

Please seek this information from your town.

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 matching payment in full from Mosaic in March 2027. 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 care continuum category should I choose on the application?

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 the Mosaic Municipal TTA program?

On July 1, 2025, the municipal training and technical assistance (TTA) program transitioned from Care Massachusetts to Mosaic Opioid Recovery Partnership (Mosaic). This program is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) and powered by RIZE Massachusetts Foundation.

For more information about Mosaic's TTA program, please click here.

Do I need to submit a budget?

In the application, you are asked to describe the budget for your proposed project in a brief paragraph. Be as specific as possible and include amounts allocated to categories such as:

- Contractor/consultant fees
- Contracts (e.g., facilitating assessments or strategic planning)
- Community engagement costs (e.g., stipends for participants, focus group costs, translation services)
- Personnel costs
- Other direct costs.

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. The detailed budget should include amounts allocated to the following spending categories:

- Salaries (e.g., FTEs per position, hourly rate)
- Subcontractor costs (e.g., consultant to conduct a needs assessment and strategic planning)
- Program facilities (e.g., venue fees)
- Program support (e.g., stipends for participants, childcare vouchers, translation services)
- Program supplies (e.g., print outs, local advertising)
- Administrative costs (e.g., clerical support).

Definitions of these categories are as follows:

Salaries

This includes salaries of municipal employees who dedicate a specific number of FTEs to the project. This does not include independent subcontractors or salaries of staff employed by a vendor. There may be instances when a salary line-item for the same position is listed more than once. For example, a full-time homeless coordinator who dedicates .50 FTE to Project A and .50 FTE to Project B.

Subcontracts

This includes individuals who are independent contractors through a 1099, as well as organizations. Again, a subcontractor may need to be listed more than once. For example, the same nonprofit was procured to provide housing case management for Project A, and to operate a Warming Center for Project B. Furthermore, there may be instances when two subcontractors are funded for the same project. For example, Project A's mobilizes and empowers people who use drugs to become change agents in their communities, in which a Syringe Service Program is subcontracted to pay stipends to people who use drugs to perform post-overdose outreach, and subcontracts a Harm Reduction Coalition to

convene a steering committee that is responsible for deciding how opioid abatement funds will be used.

Program Facilities

This includes funds expended or encumbered specifically for opioid abatement-related projects such as monthly rent, utilities, renovations, or maintenance. For example, Project A funded supplemented a low-threshold housing initiative, which allowed a housing developer and housing provider to renovate a building to develop permanent supportive housing units.

Program Support

This includes funds expended and/or encumbered to procure consultants and/or subject-matter experts that provide services that are specialized and are not ordinarily provided by municipalities. For example, Project A funded a consultant conducts a strategic planning process to ensure the municipal opioid abatement funds are invested effectively. Project B funded a consultant to implement a municipal recovery-friendly workplace initiative.

Program Supplies

This includes funds expended and/or encumbered for goods and/or services needed for a specific project such as equipment, transportation, materials. For example, Project A aims to remove barriers to employment by providing transportation and childcare vouchers. Project B funds a street outreach program that distributes safe drug use supplies to people who use drugs.

Administrative Costs

Overhead expenses related to managing and reporting on the opioid settlement funds, such as bookkeeping, fiscal monitoring, and audit preparation.

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 February via email.

Are the application questions this round different from the application questions last round?

Yes, the questions are slightly different.

Can the project budget include administrative costs?

Yes, the budget may include administrative costs associated with the project. Under the statewide opioid settlement agreements, opioid remediation includes (1) planning expenditures related to opioid remediation and (2) reasonable administrative expenditures related to opioid remediation. According to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, a "cost is reasonable if, in its nature and amount, it does not exceed that which would be incurred by a prudent person under the circumstances prevailing at the time the decision was made to incur the cost" (2 CFR § 200.403(i)).

If you are applying as a CBO, please consult your municipality for information on allowable administrative costs for the municipal portion of the match.

Do all of the funds need to be spent within the grant period?

Unused funds can roll over but must be negotiated with RIZE before the end of the grant period. Please consult your municipality for the terms of the municipal portion of the match.

Do the committed municipal funds need to be opioid abatement dollars?

Yes.

Does a CBO need to be registered in Massachusetts to be eligible for the grant, or could it apply if it serves residents of Massachusetts?

The CBO could apply as long as it provides services in Massachusetts, but you will need a commitment letter from a Massachusetts city or town.

Does a school fall within the definition of a municipality?

A school can apply, but the commitment letter must come from your municipality's mayor or town manager.

Who should we list as the primary contact at the municipality? Are you looking for a particular job title?

We aren't looking for a particular job title. Ideally, the contact would be knowledgeable about the project and the municipality's opioid abatement funds. This could be someone from the mayor's office or the health department, anyone who may be familiar with how these funds are being used.

Our municipality might be able to contribute a significant amount to a regional collaborative, but we haven't finalized the agreement yet. Should the regional collaborative include our tentative contribution in the total requested amount on the application, or should they only include funds that are certain?

Please provide a best guess for the commitment when applying and include your municipality's tentative contribution. If your proposal is recommended for award, you will be required to submit a signed letter of commitment with dollar amount from each participating municipality.

Our CBO received the Mosaic Municipal Matching grant last round. Do we need to obtain another letter from the municipality to apply, or can we use the letter from the last round?

You'll need to obtain a new letter from the municipality stating the amount of opioid abatement funds being committed for this round. Commitment letters must be forward-looking, and the municipality must commit new funds for the match.

Since we can't match the same funds twice, previously committed or spent funds from the last round can't be used again.

What is the difference between a municipality and a CBO acting as the lead applicant?

There is no preference for who serves as the lead applicant, and this choice won't impact the review process or funding decisions.

Would a municipal letter outlining a nonprofit partnership and a future opportunity to receive settlement funds satisfy the letter-of-commitment requirement if the municipality will not begin accepting opioid funding proposals until after November 1, 2026?

No. If the municipality cannot commit funds before the application deadline and its support remains contingent on a later approval, those funds are not considered committed. The application must include either a municipal commitment letter specifying the dollar amount or documentation of an awarded grant whose funding period overlaps with the grant period through August 2027.

Are there any stipulations around compensating participants in cash?

There is no categorical prohibition on compensating participants in cash, but applicants should follow the applicable guidance available here.

In the first round, awards were based in part on available overdose data and documented impacts of opioid use. Because those measures can disadvantage communities with limited documentation, including rural communities, how will such data be considered in this funding round?

Community burden remains one consideration in allocating these funds, but we consider several factors, including a community review process.

Are any activities or project types that were eligible in previous RIZE funding rounds no longer eligible or prioritized in this funding cycle?

All proposed projects must comply with the Massachusetts State Subdivision Agreement. This funding cycle does not introduce additional categorical exclusions or newly eligible project types beyond those requirements.

If a municipality has awarded funding for a program that ends June 30, may it amend the contract to extend through September 30 and satisfy the required six-month overlap?

No. In previous rounds, an amended contract end date alone was not accepted as proof of matching funds. The funds must be specifically committed for the required grant period.

Because tribal communities are organized across multiple jurisdictions and may not have access to municipal opioid settlement funds, can a tribe partner with a municipality or use other eligible funds as the project match?

Applications must be submitted by or in partnership with a municipality. A tribe may participate as a project partner, but the required matching contribution must come from the municipality.

If a nonprofit proposes related work with two or three municipalities in different parts of the state, should it submit a separate application for each municipality or one application with commitment letters explaining how each municipality's support will be used?

Although individual circumstances may require additional review, in this scenario, the organization should submit one application supported by two or three separate municipal

commitment letters. However, the municipalities must be in agreement that they're funding the same project, which should be indicated in each of their letters. The application from the CBO must be for one project.

Will financial reporting be submitted as part of the 6-month and 1-year progress report?

Detailed financial reporting is required with the one-year progress report.

Is this matching grant opportunity expected to be offered again next year?

The is the final Municipal Matching Grant opportunity at this time.

If a CBO submits one application for the same project in three communities, supported by three municipal commitment letters, what is the maximum total matching award available in this funding round?

The maximum total matching award available for municipalities pooling their funds for a regional approach is $150,000.

Does each municipality involved in a regional collaborative have to contribute the same amount? For example, would every municipality have to commit $5,000 each, or could the amount vary by town?

The municipalities in a regional collaborative do not have to contribute the same amount. Each town could commit a different amount, and it would be okay to include a municipality in a regional collaborative that will not contribute any funds towards the match.