



## **REGION 4 OPIOID COUNCIL**

**March 2025**

### **Request for Proposals (“RFP”) RFP No. 4 Mini Grant Program**

#### **Overview:**

The Colorado Attorney General's Office (AG) participated in a national lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies over the opioid crisis, resulting in each state receiving Opioid Settlement Funds to address the epidemic. The AG collaborated with local governments to establish regions for distributing these funds annually. These funds are distributed over 18 years. The terms of the national settlement dictate the guidelines for how these funds can be used.

Region 4 includes ten counties in Central and Northeast Colorado: Elbert, Lincoln, Kit Carson, Cheyenne, Yuma, Washington, Morgan, Logan, Sedgwick, and Phillips. The Region 4 Opioid Council, a governing board made up of members from these counties, oversees the allocation of the Opioid Settlement Funds.

Currently, Region 4 focuses on three key initiatives. The transportation initiative increases access to treatment and recovery services by expanding transportation options in the region. The region also supports four local correctional facilities to enhance access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) within the criminal justice system. Additionally, Region 4 is working to strengthen education and training for addiction care providers to improve local referral networks and care access. To learn more about Region 4 and its ongoing initiatives, please [visit the Region 4 website](#).

#### **Goals and Objectives:**

The services that can be funded with the Opioid Settlement Funds are outlined in the National Opioid Settlement Exhibit E document linked below. An overview of the areas identified for Approved Use of Funds includes the main areas of Treatment, Prevention, and Other Strategies. Nested underneath these broad areas include Recovery, Harm Reduction, and Criminal Justice focused strategies. The Region 4 Opioid Council is seeking proposals for projects that address any of the approved uses in Exhibit E. Region 4 is mindful of not



duplicating behavioral health existing regional services but rather leveraging this funding to further expand access to existing services and develop new necessary services in our communities.

The mini-grant RFP is for small projects or initiatives that can be completed within one year. Region 4 is particularly interested in funding projects that are community-based, scalable, and sustainable. Through this mini-grant funding opportunity, Region 4 aims to accomplish the following:

- 1. Encourage Innovation:** Support smaller, creative, and innovative projects that may not otherwise receive funding through larger grant processes. This helps fund new ideas and approaches that can make a difference in the community.
- 2. Support Local Initiatives:** Provide an opportunity for local organizations or individuals to address specific, immediate needs or projects within the community that are not overly burdensome for smaller organizations.
- 3. Test and Scale:** Pilot new programs or initiatives on a small scale. If successful, these projects could then be expanded or replicated with larger funding.
- 4. Build Capacity:** Small grants can help build the capacity of organizations, especially those that may not have the resources to apply for larger grants. This allows them to improve their operations, develop new programs, and gain experience with managing funds.
- 5. Foster Partnerships:** Encourage collaboration among smaller organizations, community groups, or individuals, fostering partnerships that strengthen the impact of various initiatives.

Region 4 is made up of all rural and frontier designated counties, so service access and resources for those affected by Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) is the ultimate goal and objective.

All proposed services must align with the Schedule B Approved Uses pages E4-E10, in the following [linked document](#).

Applicants are welcome to submit proposals focusing on Treatment Services, Prevention, Recovery Services, Harm Reduction, or Criminal Justice initiatives.



The Region 4 Opioid Council is offering one-year mini-grants of with a maximum anticipated budget of \$15,000 each. The Council anticipates awarding three grants but may consider additional awards based on available funding and the quality of proposals received. Each organization may receive only one mini-grant.

Additionally, the Council reserves the right to adjust funding amounts if compelling justification is provided, demonstrating the need for additional support. Final funding decisions will be made at the Council’s discretion.

Evaluation reporting will be limited for mini-grant awardees, but engaging in evaluation activities for Region 4 shall be required as a condition of accepting funding.

**Timeline:**

Proposals will be accepted **until April 15th, 2025 at 5:00 pm MST**. Proposals received after the deadline may not be considered or accepted.

**Place of Delivery:**

To be eligible to submit a proposal, all proposal documents must be submitted to Region 4 Opioid Council, Attn: Region 4 Opioid Council Board: at [reg4support@omni.org](mailto:reg4support@omni.org)

**Evaluation:**

Region 4 Opioid Council, through its fiscal agent, Yuma County, shall award contracts to awardees based on the evaluation criteria contained within this RFP.

**Reservation of Rights:**

Region 4 Opioid Council and its fiscal agent, Yuma County, reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, to waive informalities and to reserve any request for proposals. Region 4 Opioid Council and its fiscal agent, Yuma County, also reserve the right to award contracts as it deems will best serve its interest, including partial awards. Funds will be issued on a reimbursement basis by Yuma County serving as the Region 4 fiscal agent following receipt of project reports and associated expense invoices, subject to approval by the Council and/or it’s designee. All decisions are final.

**Required Information:**



- 1) Name of the Organization;
- 2) Mailing Address;
- 3) Applicant Contact Name and Title;
- 4) Applicant Contact email and phone number;
- 5) RFP's must contain the following language, signed by the Applicant or Applicant's Representative: "Applicant hereby certifies and warrants that all statements and representations, including all sources and uses of funds, made in this RFP are true and correct and may be relied upon by the Region 4 Opioid Council.



**Questions to be addressed in the application:**

- 1) Brief description of how the funds will be used. Include language that proposed services must align with the Schedule B Approved Uses pages E4-E10, in the following linked document:<https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/TEVA-Exhibit-E.pdf>
- 2) Describe the initiative that you intend to launch, the amount of funding requested, and why funding is required. Please indicate which counties will be served by the initiative.
- 3) What are the anticipated project deliverables and associated outcomes of your program after applying this funding? How will you measure those outcomes? What does success look like?
- 4) Include a preliminary timeline for utilization of funds.
- 5) Will this program be utilizing funds from other sources in conjunction with the Opioid Settlement Funds?
- 6) Does your organization have the capacity and infrastructure to submit invoices and basic reporting for this work? Please explain any experience with any previously awarded funding and how you administered it responsibly.
- 7) Is there any current or anticipated opposition to your program?
- 8) Do you have funds available to accomplish the program or initiative without funding through this RFP? Please explain.
- 9) How do you plan to fund future management and/or operating costs of the program to ensure sustainability?
- 10) If your organization is not successful in securing funding for your program from Region 4 Opioid Council, what is the future of your program/initiative?



**Evaluation Criteria:**

All RFP responses shall be evaluated based on the answers to the questions provided above and the following criteria:

- 1) History and examples of work in rural and frontier areas of Colorado.
- 2) Number of counties within Region 4 that will be served.
- 3) Timeline for providing the service.
- 4) Ability to address the diverse needs of Region 4.
- 5) Anticipated outcomes.
- 6) Ability to utilize and improve existing regional programs and services.
- 7) Sustainability of the program.

\*Please note that priority for funding will be given to smaller organizations.