



**COLORADO REGION 4**

**Opioid Abatement Council**

## **2026 Open Grant**

Request for Proposals

RFP No. 3 | May 2026

### **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.

Region 4 is made up of all rural and frontier designated counties, so improving service access and resources for those affected by Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) is the ultimate goal and objective. To learn more about Region 4 and its ongoing initiatives, please visit the Region 4 Opioid Council website at: <https://yumacounty.net/commissioners/regional-opioid-council/>.

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The services that can be funded with the Opioid Settlement Funds are outlined in the National Opioid Settlement Exhibit E document. 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 are 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. All proposed services must clearly 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>

If a proposal does not align with Exhibit E, the proposal will not be considered.

Region 4 is mindful of not duplicating existing behavioral health services in the region, but rather leveraging this funding to further expand access to existing services and develop new necessary services in our communities.

Applicants are welcome to submit proposals focusing on any of the five focus areas: Treatment Services, Prevention & Education, Recovery Services, Harm Reduction, or Criminal Justice initiatives.

## Community Prioritization

The following subcategories will receive additional points during the evaluation process. These subcategories represent the top two community-supported items within each focus area from a community prioritization survey that was administered in the region. The survey was distributed to community members across the region, including individuals with lived experience and behavioral health providers in spring of 2026.

Focus Area	Top Community-Prioritized Subcategories
Treatment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Non-MOUD Treatment <i>*includes treatment for OUD/co-occurring SUD or MH, inpatient or outpatient treatment services, individual or group counseling, and telehealth counseling</i></li><li>2. MOUD Treatment</li></ol>
Prevention & Education	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Evidence-Based School Prevention Education</li><li>2. Public Education on Prevention and Youth Prevention Programming</li></ol>
Recovery	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Peer Support Services and Wraparound Care</li><li>2. Recovery Programs</li></ol>
Harm Reduction	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Support Harm Reduction Staffing</li><li>2. Infectious Disease Prevention and Naloxone Training</li></ol>
Criminal Justice	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Re-entry Services</li><li>2. Criminal Justice Treatment and Recovery Services</li></ol>

Proposals that address one or more of these prioritized subcategories should clearly identify that alignment in their application.

## Funding Available and Reservation of Rights

The Region 4 Opioid Council will award two-year grants with a maximum budget of \$500,000 total for the two years, per award. The Council reserves the right to fund more than one award, to fund partial scopes, or to decline any or all proposals if the applicant pool does not meet the Council's needs.

The Region 4 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. The Region 4 Council reserves the right to make final award decisions based on factors beyond numerical scores, including alignment with strategic priorities and the goal of achieving a balanced and impactful portfolio.

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. All decisions are final.

## FOCUS POPULATIONS

Ultimately, substance use issues, including opioids, affect every resident of Region 4. The most successful respondents will address how their program will reach Region 4 residents specifically, with particular attention to the barriers faced by people in rural and frontier communities.

The Region 4 Opioid Council strongly encourages proposals that serve the following priority populations and geographic areas, which will receive additional weight in the scoring process:

- Youth and young adults
- Individuals in early recovery
- Justice-involved individuals, particularly during reentry transitions
- Individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use conditions
- Pregnant and parenting individuals
- Uninsured or underinsured individuals
- Residents of rural and frontier counties with limited provider access, including but not limited to Sedgwick, Phillips, Yuma, Washington, Kit Carson, and the southeast counties of the region

We recognize that not all applicants will address all populations. Proposals should clearly describe which populations will be served and how any unique barriers faced by those populations will be addressed.

## EVALUATION

The Region 4 Opioid Council, through its fiscal agent, Yuma County, shall award contracts to awardees based on the evaluation criteria contained within this RFP. Engaging in evaluation activities and submitting quarterly reports to the Region 4 Opioid Council shall be required as a condition of accepting funding.

## REQUIRED INFORMATION

All applications must include the following:

- Name of the Organization
- Mailing Address
- Applicant Contact Name and Title
- Applicant Contact email and phone number
- State registration / certificate of good standing
- No more than three (3) Letters of Support, at least one of which must be from a local government
- Total requested funding amount

Applications 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 application are true and correct and may be relied upon by the Region 4 Opioid Council."*

The following documentation is optional but would aid the Council's decision making:

- Current year operating budget and/or audited financial statements (up to three previous years)

- Organizational bylaws or operating procedures
- Company website

## REQUIRED APPLICATION QUESTIONS

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The following questions **must** be addressed in the application:

### Organization Overview

1. Provide a brief history of the organization. Include the number of years providing similar services, experience of staff leadership, and an overview of the organization's recent accomplishments/work.
2. Please provide a brief summary of the specific needs and/or gaps in Region 4 that your proposed program or project will address. What data can you provide to support the need for your request?

### Project Description

3. Describe the initiative that you intend to launch or expand. Include:
  - A. A brief description of the Schedule B Approved Uses your project aligns with (pages E4-E10 of Exhibit E)
  - B. If your project covers a community-prioritized subcategory as listed in the Goals & Objectives section, please explain that alignment
  - C. For existing programs, explain how your program will be expanded and why additional funding is required
  - D. Approximately how many Region 4 residents do you plan to serve through this work and which counties in Region 4 will your project provide services in?
4. Describe your experience providing services for the population(s) your proposal will serve.
5. Does your initiative reach any priority populations as described in the Focus Populations section? Please describe.
6. What are the anticipated project deliverables and associated outcomes of your initiative? What does success look like, and how will you measure the outcomes you proposed?
7. Does your initiative include any partnerships? Please describe the roles of each partner and how coordination will occur.
8. Include a budget and preliminary timeline for utilization of funds (see Budget Requirement Section on page 5)

### Funding and Sustainability

9. Will this program be utilizing funds from other sources in conjunction with the Opioid Settlement Funds? Please explain and identify whether any proposed services are billable through Medicaid or other reimbursement sources.
10. Do you have funds available to accomplish the initiative without funding from the Region 4 Opioid Council? Please explain.

11. Describe your plan for sustaining this work beyond the grant period. How do you plan to fund future management and/or operating costs of the initiative?
12. If your organization is not successful in securing funding for your program, what is the future of your program/initiative?

### **Organizational Capacity and Compliance**

13. Does your organization have the capacity and infrastructure to manage this funding and submit the reporting required for this work? Please explain any experience with previously awarded funding and how you administered it responsibly.
14. Describe the background, experience, and capacity of staff doing the non-administrative (direct) work you are proposing.
15. Administrative costs are not to exceed 10%. Please provide your proposed administrative costs.
16. Is there any current or anticipated opposition to your program?
17. Please describe your organization's internal controls. Does your agency have written policies and/or procedures regarding purchasing, internal controls, cash management, etc.? If so, please attach.
18. Does your agency have a financial management system that can track opioid settlement funds separately, including awards received, the source and application of funds, and expenditures? Please describe.
19. Is there anything else you would like to share with the Council relevant to your request?

## **BUDGET REQUIREMENTS**

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Proposals must include a detailed budget that includes:

- All direct costs including staff, program expenses, supplies, and other line items
- All administrative and overhead costs (space, technology, etc.)
- A preliminary timeline aligned with budget expenditures
- Any assumptions underlying the budget
- Identification of any matching or leveraged funding from other sources
- Clear identification of which services are billable vs. non-billable, and how opioid settlement funds will fill gaps rather than duplicate reimbursable services

The budget should clearly demonstrate cost-effectiveness and maximize community impact relative to the funds requested. Reviewers will assess whether proposed budgets are appropriate and realistic for the type and scale of services proposed. High-cost service models (e.g., clinical treatment, staffing-intensive recovery services) will not be disadvantaged relative to lower-cost prevention initiatives, provided the budget is well-justified.

## REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

All funded organizations will be required to:

- Engage in quarterly evaluation activities with the Region 4 evaluation team
- Submit quarterly reports to the Region 4 Opioid Council
- Track and report on process and outcome metrics as finalized with evaluators following award
- Participate in Region 4 Opioid Council-coordinated reporting and coordination meetings as required
- Submit regular invoices for reimbursement to the Region 4 fiscal agent

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

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

Evaluation Criterion	Points	Description
Demonstrated Need, Project Design, and Alignment with Region 4 Community Prioritization Goals	25	Provides a compelling, data-supported case for the initiative. Outlines clear goals, objectives, deliverables, and a realistic timeline. Describes measurable outcomes and a credible evaluation approach. Proposals addressing community-prioritized subcategories (as identified in the Goals & Objectives section) will receive additional points.
Geographic Reach & Equity	20	Demonstrates how the proposal serves rural and frontier counties within Region 4, with additional weight given to proposals serving historically underserved counties (e.g., Sedgwick, Phillips, Yuma, Washington, Kit Carson, and the southeast portion of the region) and priority populations including youth, individuals in early recovery, justice-involved individuals, people with co-occurring conditions, pregnant and parenting individuals, and uninsured or underinsured individuals.
Organizational Capacity and Readiness	15	Demonstrates the experience, staffing, and systems needed to responsibly manage grant funds and reporting. Shows evidence of readiness to implement and sustain proposed activities within the grant period.
Collaboration and Community Impact	15	Builds meaningful partnerships with local organizations, health providers, law enforcement, courts, or other partners. Enhances community coordination, avoids duplication of existing funded efforts, and prioritizes equitable access for underserved or high-risk populations.
Budget and Cost-Effectiveness	10	Provides a clear, reasonable, and justified budget aligned with proposed activities. Maximizes community impact relative to cost. Demonstrates how funds complement rather than duplicate existing reimbursable services. Identifies any matching or leveraged funding.

Evaluation Criterion	Points	Description
Sustainability and Long-Term Benefit	15	Outlines how the initiative will continue beyond the grant period. Demonstrates potential for lasting impact on the substance use disorder continuum of care in Region 4.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	

The Region 4 Opioid Council reserves the right to make final award decisions based on factors beyond numerical scores, including alignment with strategic priorities, geographic balance, and the goal of achieving a comprehensive and equitable portfolio of funded services across the region.

## TENTATIVE PROPOSAL CALENDAR

Milestone	Date
RFP Posted	May 15, 2026
Deadline for Submission of Questions	May 25, 2026, at 5:00 PM MST, please submit questions directly to <a href="mailto:reg4support@omni.org">reg4support@omni.org</a> and note Open Grant in your subject line
Proposal Due Date	June 12th at 5:00 PM MST
Anticipated Final Award Selections	July 7, 2026
Anticipated Contract Start Date	August 1, 2026

## SUBMITTING INSTRUCTIONS

To be eligible to submit a proposal, all proposal documents must be submitted to the Region 4 Opioid Council, Attn: Region 4 Opioid Council Board, at: [reg4support@omni.org](mailto:reg4support@omni.org) and note Open Grant in your subject line.

Proposals should be compiled as a single PDF document. Proposals received after the deadline may not be considered or accepted. It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to ensure their submission is received on time. All proposal documents submitted become property of the Region 4 Opioid Council.

Questions regarding this RFP should be submitted in writing to [reg4support@omni.org](mailto:reg4support@omni.org) by the deadline noted in the Proposal Calendar above. Responses to questions will be posted for all prospective applicants.

**Questions? Contact: [Reg4Support@omni.org](mailto:Reg4Support@omni.org)**  
 Serving Elbert, Lincoln, Kit Carson, Cheyenne, Yuma, Washington, Morgan, Logan, Sedgwick, and Phillips Counties