Request for Proposals
Mississippi Overdose Data to Action in States (OD2A-S) Subgrant
October 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025

Overview of the OD2A-S Funding Opportunity

The Mississippi Public Health Institute (MSPHI) is requesting proposals from community-based organizations (see eligibility requirements) to apply for funding to support projects that focus on preventing opioid morbidity and mortality in Mississippi. Projects must be designed to reduce the incidence of opioid misuse, opioid use disorder (OUD), and opioid-involved morbidity and mortality through the implementation of prevention strategies, with a focus on community-based navigation services ensuring an effective continuum of care for those with OUD. Proposed projects must be evidence-informed, data-driven, and aligned with project requirements.

Eligible applicants are required to propose and, if funded, implement activities from a list of allowable activities (see Purpose and Uses of Funding and Examples of Allowable Activities).

General Information

- Application Instructions:
  - Please complete the application and the budget spreadsheet.
  - Include a current W-9 form (as Attachment 1) to ensure timely processing of the funding (if selected).
- Submission Instructions:
  - Applications must be received via email. **Only electronic copies as a PDF (.pdf file) will be accepted.**
  - **Applications must be sent to: Abby England at [aengland@msphi.org.](mailto:aengland@msphi.org)**
  - Letters of Support from partners must be attached to the application if working with partners to complete the proposal goals.
  - **Incomplete applications and applications not completed in accordance with the instructions will be deemed non-responsive.**
- **Funding awards are anticipated to be announced via email.**
- The project period is **anticipated** to start on **October 1, 2024, and it will end on August 31, 2025**. Activities are to be initiated upon formal execution of funding agreements. This project is part of a five-year federal grant that is anticipated to continue. It is highly recommended that you include strategies that will continue into future funding years to demonstrate sustainability. Future funding for the project will be based on continuation funding from CDC and successful implementation and reporting from the subgrantee.
- Questions regarding this RFP may be directed to Abby England at aengland@msphi.org.

A. Mississippi's Overdose Data to Action in States (OD2A-S) Program

- The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) has received funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Overdose Data to Action-States (OD2A-S) program to support efforts to address the national opioid and drug overdose epidemic. MSDH is partnering with MSPHI to implement prevention-focused activities.
- CDC's goal is to prevent opioid-related harms and overdose by:
  - Using data to monitor emerging trends and direct prevention activities
  - Strengthening state, local, and tribal capacity to respond to the epidemic
  - Working with providers, health systems, and payers to reduce unsafe exposure to opioids and treat addiction

- o Coordinating with public safety and community-based partners to rapidly identify overdose threats, reverse overdoses, link people to effective treatment, and reduce harms associated with illicit opioids
- o Increasing public awareness about the risks of opioids

Eligibility and Funding Requirements

B. Eligible Applicants

- Public or private non-profit community-based organizations, local health departments, tribes/tribal organizations, cities/counties, and law enforcement agencies _are_ eligible to apply for OD2A-S subgrant funding.
- Individuals are _not_ eligible.
- Only one applicant per county will be considered.
  - a. Organizations interested in applying must coordinate with one another to ensure that only one application per county is submitted.
- Up to $50,000 in grant funds for one or more organizations for the project period (October 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025) is available. Activities are to be initiated upon formal execution of funding agreements. This project is part of a five-year federal grant that is anticipated to continue. It is highly recommended that you include strategies that will continue into future funding years to demonstrate sustainability. Future funding for the project will be based on continuation funding from CDC and successful implementation and reporting from the subgrantee.
- Funding will be allocated through limited competition. If selected, your organization may only incur eligible expenditures when the agreement is fully executed.
- Funding may be used for program and personnel costs, at the discretion of the applicant in order to effectively implement activities outlined in formal funding agreements.
- NFP (not-for-profit) status must be provided at the time of application, if applicable.
- Awards will be based on local risk for opioid overdose and related risk factors.

C. Purpose and Uses of Funding

- The purpose of this funding is to implement strategies consistent with preventing opioid misuse and overdose and show sustainability in the response to the opioid crisis in Mississippi. Effective projects will implement promising overdose prevention strategies at the intersection of public health and public safety organizations, serving populations at greatest risk by securing a navigator to provide referrals to care and to engage law enforcement in the initiation of the development of a local Public Health and Safety Team (https://phast.org/), ultimately enabling the community to convene multisector partners, share information on the overdose crisis, prioritize strategies and interventions accordingly, and monitor progress collectively.
- This project is part of a five-year federal grant that is anticipated to continue. It is highly recommended that you include strategies that will continue into future funding years to demonstrate sustainability. Future funding for the project will be based on continuation funding from CDC and successful implementation and reporting from the subgrantee.
- Funds must be used for community-based coordination and the development, implementation, and evaluation of activities that address the prevention of opioid-involved morbidity and mortality. By implementing a community-based public health and

public safety overdose response and outreach project guided by a data-informed health equity focus, the funded entities will demonstrate the organizational capacity to expeditiously secure a navigator; provide warm handoffs to services with referrals from a number of settings (e.g., drug courts, social support services, faith-based institutions), and engage local law enforcement in the development of the local PHAST. Navigators hired should have at least a high school diploma and preferred experience with the focus population. Peer Support Specialist experience is desired but not required. Funding is meant to either fund a part-time position or supplement an existing full-time position.

- Funds must be expended within the project period. There is no provision for the payment of unliquidated obligations following the last day of the current project period (August 31, 2025). Future funding for the project will be based on continuation funding from CDC and successful implementation and reporting from the subgrantee.
- Selected applicants are required to coordinate activities funded under this guidance with all other CDC-funded and federally funded opioid-related prevention and intervention activities to ensure alignment and to prevent duplication of services.
- The Mississippi Public Health Institute will provide ongoing oversight, technical assistance, support, and monitoring of the organization's activities and progress during the project period.

D. Work Plan

Required Activities:

Below is a list of activities that must be implemented if funding is received. All of these activities are mandatory and should be reflected in your proposal.

- Implement and support local public safety and opioid prevention leadership in developing and implementing a tailored PHAST (Public Health and Safety Team) that prioritizes disproportionality affected populations.
- Attend regular team calls to facilitate program growth by sharing successes, overcoming barriers, and sharing recent relevant data.
- Attend required trainings to provide equitable referrals to harm reduction services.
- Hire a navigator to facilitate linkages to care and other support services for those at risk for overdose.
- Provide written progress reports to MSPHI on a monthly basis.

Allowable Activities:

Below is a list of activities that *may* be supported through OD2A-S funding agreements. Please choose at least 1 strategy for your proposal.

- Engaging in community-based, data-driven, strategic planning to guide local prevention efforts.
- Pursuing coalition enhancement / interagency coordination and engagement (e.g., among health systems, schools, local first response, community partners, and social services) to address community-level prevention strategies.
- Implementing initiatives to prevent the root causes of opioid use disorder – e.g., addressing risk and protective factors such as adverse childhood experiences, trauma, and the social determinants of health.

- Developing and implementing youth prevention initiatives specific to opioid misuse, opioid use disorder, and overdose.
- Implementing initiatives to support school-based curriculum regarding opioid misuse and overdose prevention (e.g., Operation Prevention).
- Disseminating informational and educational materials to faith-based organizations.
- Engaging community businesses in disseminating information on the opioid crisis, such as Mississippi overdose data, overdose prevention, naloxone, and/or community-specific resources.
- Developing and implementing locally driven public awareness campaign(s) around the risks associated with misusing/abusing prescription and/or illicit opioids, reducing stigma around substance use disorder, risk reduction messaging, and/or community-specific resources.
- Educating local decision makers in evidence-based opioid overdose prevention, intervention, and harm reduction policies and strategies.
- Implementing policies and programs in various settings (e.g., health systems, schools) to facilitate linkage to care for those with an opioid use disorder or at risk of an overdose.
- Conducting other innovative prevention initiatives as approved by MSPHI.

Priority will be given to applicants that address **all required activities and at least one allowable activity** from the above-mentioned strategies, and/or other innovative initiatives, as well as those with existing law enforcement partnerships.

E. Unallowable Expenses

- Research (evaluation will be required, but extensive support and guidance will be provided)
- Data collection or data analysis through Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) or Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBS) surveys
- Neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) surveillance, or Hep C/HIV surveillance
- Wastewater/sewage testing and drug testing for deaths due to motor vehicle crashes
- Purchase of any medication, including naloxone
- Purchase of equipment solely intended for illegal drug use such as cookers/spoons, syringes, and pipes; procurement of other equipment solely intended for preparing drugs for illegal drug injection
- Purchase of syringes, including pharmacy voucher programs and safe syringe disposal programs
- Safe injection sites (controlled environments that facilitate safer use of illicit drugs by providing medical staff, clean facilities, and education); developing education outreach and guidance or materials about supervised/safe injection sites
- Purchase and distribution of fentanyl test strips *for testing in biological samples for clinical decision-making purposes*
- Drug disposal, including the implementation or expansion of drug disposal programs, including drug take-back programs, drug drop boxes, and drug disposal bags
- Medical/clinical care, including behavioral therapy (e.g., cognitive behavioral therapy) and/or specialized clinical care, if indicated, such as pain management
- Paying for fees associated with clinicians obtaining Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) registration to prescribe controlled substances, including buprenorphine
- SUD treatment, including MOUD and the purchase of medications such as methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone

- Any PDMP enhancements that involve providing direct care for substance use disorders (SUDs) treatment
- Duplicating efforts from existing funding from federal, state, or private sources
- Capital acquisitions
- Food and beverage items
- Basic food, health, or personal items even if intended to support outreach or engage individuals in venue-based programs (e.g., meal or grocery cards, first aid kits, hygiene items, clothes, etc.)
- Purchase, lease, or rent equipment intended to help EMS and other clinicians treat and manage overdose
- Providing incentives and promotional items, including financial incentives to encourage clinicians to participate in educational sessions and training activities (e.g., participation in academic detailing, attending seminars, completion of post-session surveys) or financial incentives for integrated PDMP-health IT (e.g., EHR) connections
- Public safety activities that do not include overlap/collaboration with public health partners and objectives
- Purchase of handheld drug testing machines such as TruNarc, Fourier-transform infrared (FTIR) machines, or HPMS machines for the purposes of reducing possible law enforcement exposure to fentanyl
- Establishing new SSPs, infrastructure costs for SSPs that are not associated with the co-location of treatment (e.g., rent, utilities, etc.)
- Housing assistance and food assistance
- HIV/HCV and other STD/STI testing
- Funding or subsidizing costs associated with programs other than those specifically targeting overdose prevention
- Safer sex kits (condoms and lubricant)
- Child care and child care-related purchases (e.g., pack-n-play)
- Furniture or equipment (purchase or leasing vehicles may be allowable expenses for linkage to care activities)
- Prevention of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) as a standalone activity
- Out of state travel
- Carryover requests
- Publicity and propaganda (lobbying)
  - Funds cannot be used for the preparation, distribution, or use of any material (publicity/propaganda) or to pay the salary or expenses of grants, contract recipients, or agents that aim to support or defeat the enactment of legislation, regulation, administrative action, or executive order proposed or pending before a legislative body, beyond normal, recognized executive relationships.

Proposal Process

F. Application Requirements

Please complete all sections of the application.

The application consists of nine sections, including:

- Applicant Information Form

- Personnel
- Organizational Background and Capacity
- Assessment of Need
- Letters of Support Detailing Partnerships
- Project Description
- Project Evaluation and Action Plan (see attached example)
- Sustainability Plan
- Budget

<u>Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.</u>

G. Application Submission

- Applications must be submitted as one consolidated PDF (excluding the budget spreadsheet – which may be submitted in an Excel format)
- Supportive documents (estimates, letters of commitment) must be included in the PDF.
- **<u>Incomplete applications and applications not completed in accordance with the instructions may not be reviewed.</u>**
- To receive consideration, applications must be received via email by close of business on <mark>**September 26, 2024, no later than 5:00 p.m**</mark>. Only applications received by this deadline will be considered for funding.
- Please email completed applications to: Abby England, aengland@msphi.org.

Review and Selection Process

H. Review Panel

Eligible applications will be evaluated and scored by a team of internal and external reviewers. Reviewers will evaluate applications to ensure that the information included is clear, reasonable, and achievable, as well consistent with program requirements. The reviewers' ratings serve as a guide for selecting proposals for funding, though the evaluations are advisory.

Points will be allocated as indicated in the Selection Criteria section.

I. Selection Criteria

A scoring guide will be used to review proposals. The scoring guide has a 100-point total scoring system, composed of the following items.

- Applicant Information Form (0 points)
- Personnel (5 points)
- Organizational Background and Capacity (5 points)
- Assessment of Need (15 points)
- Collaboration and Community Support (20 Points)
- Project Description (30 points)
- Project Evaluation and Action Plan (10 points)
- Sustainability Plan (10 points)
- Budget (5 points)

Letters of Support are to be submitted but are not scored.

Post-Award Requirements

J. Contractual Agreements and Reporting Requirements

In addition to the contents within this RFP, selected applicants shall adhere to the following requirements:

- Selected applicants are expected to perform process evaluations of implemented activities and participate in evaluation activities coordinated by MSPHI staff and/or as requested by the CDC.
- In the first year of funding, monthly reports will be required. If funded for future years, mid-year and final progress reports will be required. More information, including deadlines, will be provided to successful applicants and included in funding agreements.
- Monthly expense reports with itemized categories (affidavit of expenditures) and budget monitoring spreadsheets are due by the 20th of each month to MSPHI.
- Final affidavits of expenditures are due within 30 days of the end of the project period.

Mississippi Overdose Data to Action Community Grant Application

K. Applicant Information Form (0 Points)

Please complete the applicant information form.

Organization Name:		
Project/Program Manager:		
Mailing Address:		
City:	Zip:	
Telephone:	Fax:	
E-mail:		
Fiscal Agency:	FEIN #:	DUNS #:
Fiscal Officer/Grants Manager:		
Telephone:		
E-mail:		
Primary County/Community Served (where the contract funds will be used):		
Other Counties Served (if applicable):		
Total Amount Requested:		

L. Personnel (5 points)

List the staff who will be involved with this project and briefly describe their relevant experience. Please attach resumes for involved staff as well. (Add or delete rows as needed.)

Name	Title	Experience
1.		
2.		
3.		

M. Organizational Background and Capacity (5 points)

Please describe your organization and its qualifications for funding, including leading successful community collaborations. Include any history of work addressing opioid misuse, use disorder, and overdose prevention. (500-word limit)

N. Assessment of Need (15 points)

Include a description of community needs related to opioid misuse and overdose prevention. Provide an overview of community-level data, and include any other pertinent information as it relates to the need for implementing this project in your locality. Individual county data may be located at https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/44,0,382,740.html#overdose or https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/mississippi?year=2024&measure=Drug+Overdose+Deaths*. Local quantifiable data may also be used. (500-word limit)

O. Collaboration and Community Support (20 Points)

Please list community partners collaborating on this project, and describe how the proposed project will improve collaboration between local stakeholders and/or engage new stakeholders. Describe steps that will be taken to ensure that efforts are not duplicated among organizations within the community. These partners should attach Letters of Support detailing their exact scope of work and support. Priority will be given to those organizations with law enforcement support. (500-word limit)

P. Project Description (30 points)

Describe your proposed project. Detail how this project will address the organization and community's needs. Identify which activities from the list of Allowable Activities are included in the project, as well as other innovative projects. There is no word limit for this section, but please try to be concise.

High-Level Strategies	Goal	Strategy	Activities	Outputs/Outcomes	Person(s) Responsible	Timeline (start date/ end date)
Community Navigation		1.				
		2.				
		3.				
PHAST Toolkit Development		1.				
		2.				
		3.				

PHAST Toolkit Implementation		1.			
		2.			
		3.			
		1.			
		2.			
		3.			

Q. Sustainability Plan (15 points)

Describe how the project will be financially sustained beyond the 5-year funding period, including leveraged funds drawn from other sources as applicable. Applicants who demonstrate a commitment to sustain projects beyond contractual requirements will be scored at a higher level. (300-word limit)

R. Budget (10 points)

Please follow the instructions on the OD2A-S Budget Request Form spreadsheet. The categories below serve as examples and can be changed to fit the need(s) of your proposal. Up to $50,000 in grant funds will be available to one or more organizations with qualifying applications.

Budget: Provide a detailed budget by completing the following chart. * *Add rows/columns as needed.*

Category / Line Item	Amount	Notes
Example: Personnel		
Example: Travel		
Example: Supplies		
Example: Other		
Example: Other		
Total Budgeted:		