

Planning Initiative to Build Bridges Between Jail and Community-Based Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder

Competitive Application Announcement

Introduction

America's correctional facilities sit at the epicenter of the opioid overdose crisis. Nationally, nearly one in five people entering local jails has an opioid use disorder (OUD), and some states estimate that a majority of their residents with OUDs pass through the doors of their jails each year. The high prevalence of OUD in the jail population is especially concerning given the high rates of overdose post-release. Studies have estimated that formerly incarcerated people are significantly more likely to die of a drug overdose in the two weeks immediately post-release than are members of the general population. Individuals with OUDs who leave jail untreated also may continue their drug use, which can contribute to recidivism and reincarceration.

Our country's opioid epidemic is not a problem without solutions. Medication-assisted treatment (MAT), the use of FDA-approved medications in combination with counseling and recovery support, is the gold standard treatment for OUD and has been shown to reduce fatal overdoses and illicit drug use. Unfortunately, treatment access is limited in most communities and absent in most jails. This is a significant missed opportunity to initiate treatment for individuals with OUDs while they are incarcerated and after they are released into the community.

Implementing MAT in jails and enhancing collaboration between jails and community providers are required to change the course of the opioid epidemic, but these are not easy tasks for local jurisdictions. The purpose of this solicitation is to help communities take advantage of this opportunity to treat some of their most vulnerable residents with OUDs by establishing a comprehensive continuum of care that starts in jail and extends to treatment providers in the community. Applicants may find the publication [Jail-Based Medication-Assisted Treatment: Promising Practices, Guidelines, and Resources for the Field](#) to be useful as they consider their planning efforts.

Planning Initiative Details

The Institute of Intergovernmental Research (IIR) is releasing this solicitation on behalf of the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). BJA is joining efforts with Arnold Ventures to support this nine-month planning initiative designed to help communities develop a comprehensive continuum of care model that targets the jail population and builds bridges between in-custody and community-based treatment. **Under this solicitation, up to 15 communities will be selected to participate in the planning initiative.**

The planning initiative is designed to assist local communities by:

- Increasing stakeholder understanding of promising practices in the use of MAT in jails and community-based settings.
- Building a comprehensive plan for initiating or expanding a MAT continuum of care model from jail to community.
- Developing effective partnerships between jails and community-based treatment providers.
- Planning for continuity and coordination of MAT during transitions into jails and reentry into communities.

The ultimate goal of this initiative is to reduce overdose deaths, reduce recidivism, and increase engagement in evidence-based OUD treatment by developing a continuum of care for individuals in jail and in the community post-release. Applicants may find the publication [Jail-Based Medication-Assisted Treatment: Promising Practices, Guidelines, and Resources for the Field](#) to be useful as they consider their planning efforts.

This effort is part of BJA's Interagency Response to the Opioid Crisis (IROC) portfolio under the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program. IROC supports innovative demonstration projects that strategically blend public health and public safety funding from multiple federal agencies and promote public-philanthropic partnerships. The effort is also part of Arnold Ventures' Public Health and Criminal Justice portfolios, which support projects that aim to reduce overdose deaths as well as the social, economic, and criminal justice-related costs of the opioid epidemic.

Eligibility

Applicants are limited to units of local government and federally recognized Indian tribal governments (as determined by the Secretary of the Interior).

Benefits If Selected

Communities that are selected for the planning initiative will:

- Receive full travel scholarships for five team members to participate in two face-to-face meetings that will be held in Washington, DC, between July 2019 and February 2020. These meetings will be approximately two days in length. The scholarships will be managed as travel reimbursements, meaning that attendees will pay for their travel and be reimbursed for their eligible expenses according to federal travel guidelines after each training.
- Have a meaningful opportunity to learn from experts and from one another. Over the course of nine months, there will be four virtual peer-to-peer exchanges, monthly coaching calls with subject experts, and tailored technical assistance for strategic planning.
- Be eligible for additional funding and technical assistance to implement a continuum of care model to treat individuals with OUDs in the jail and the community.

Applicant Requirements

Applicants must meet three requirements:

- Applicants must demonstrate the commitment of a multidisciplinary team made up of representatives who oversee and provide treatment services to individuals in custody and in the community.
- Applicants must agree to work towards a plan to provide at least two forms of MAT in both a jail-based setting and a community-based setting,
- Applicants must identify a project coordinator.

Commitment of Multidisciplinary Team

All communities selected for this planning initiative must identify a team of at least five (and no more than eight) local stakeholders. If selected, each team member must agree to participate in both virtual and in-person meetings with the other sites selected.

Individuals selected to serve on the planning team should plan on serving for the entirety of the nine-month planning process to ensure continuity. The individuals selected should have the authority and support of their home agencies to actively participate in the planning meetings and drive change in their agencies.

Mandatory Planning Team Members

To be considered for the planning initiative, your application must demonstrate the commitment of the following individuals:

- A representative responsible for health services in the local jail(s). This may be a health services administrator, a physician, or a nurse. This person must, at a minimum, be responsible for, or involved in, the delivery of substance use treatment inside the jail.
- A representative from the jail custody system, with decision-making authority over custody operations.
- A representative from the local administrator's office responsible for public safety/criminal justice agencies or human service agencies in the community.
- A representative from the local community corrections, probation, or pretrial services agency with responsibilities that include coordination with jail administration for substance use services.
- A representative from the local behavioral health department or agency that oversees substance use treatment. This should be a local government employee, not a treatment provider.

The travel scholarships will support travel expenses for the five planning team members identified above. All five members of the mandatory team must agree to participate in the two face-to-face meetings to be held in Washington, DC.

Optional Team Members

Additional team members are encouraged to participate in the virtual learning opportunities. Sites selected for the planning initiative may elect to self-fund the travel for up to three additional team members to participate in the two face-to-face meetings in Washington, DC.

The following list of suggested optional team members is not intended to be a comprehensive list. Applicants may propose alternate team members.

- Medicaid coordinator
- Prosecutor
- Defense attorney
- Court representative (to include drug courts)
- Local MAT provider
- Criminal justice coordinator or representative of the local opioid task force

Forms of MAT

Applicants must agree to develop a plan to provide at least two forms of MAT in both a jail-based setting and a community-based setting.

Project Coordination

Each applicant must identify a project coordinator to serve as the administrative and operational coordinator of the planning initiative. We anticipate that the project coordinator will:

- Guide the development of the local planning effort.
- Conduct outreach to officials in key agencies to gain support for the planning initiative.
- Cultivate and maintain effective partnerships with stakeholders to achieve common objectives.
- Coordinate and convene routine (no less than once a month) workgroup meetings and ensure follow-up on key action items.
- Serve as the primary point of contact for this initiative with BJA and its partners.

How to Apply

All application components must be submitted via online surveys. Links to each of the surveys, along with PDF versions of the questions for each survey, are available on the COAP Resource Center at [COAP Funding Opportunities](#). All required application components must

be submitted via online surveys no later than **5:00 p.m., ET, on March 25, 2019**. Applicants should receive a notice of submission upon completion of the survey within the survey software. For issues with submission, please email COAP@iir.com.

Final award decisions will be made by IIR, BJA, and Arnold Ventures and are expected to be announced by **April 30, 2019**.

To Learn More

Should you have any questions about the application process, please send an email to COAP@iir.com and we will do our best to respond promptly.

Answers to frequently asked questions and other updates that arise during the open solicitation period will be posted periodically on the COAP Resource Center at [COAP Funding Opportunities](#).

Signed Letters of Commitment

Upload a scanned, signed copy of a letter of commitment from each proposed planning team member in the Project Narrative survey. Letters of commitment should be addressed to the Review Committee (no address needed). The letter of commitment must, at a minimum:

- Include a statement indicating your agency's commitment to participating in the mandatory virtual and face-to-face meetings.
- Indicate a willingness to work closely with the designed training and technical assistance providers who will be leading the planning effort.

Selection Criteria

IIR will evaluate all proposals submitted by the published deadline on **March 25, 2019**, to ensure that all required project materials are included. Incomplete applications will be removed from consideration. The funders aim to select a diverse group of communities that represent a variety of population sizes (measured by jail capacity) and geographic locations. In addition to these considerations, applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Disproportionate Impact of the Opioid Epidemic:** Communities that have been disproportionately impacted by problematic opioid use will be given priority consideration. Evidence of disproportionate impact can be demonstrated, in part, by high rates of OUD-related treatment admissions, high rates of opioid overdose deaths, and/or a lack of accessibility to treatment providers and emergency medical services.
- **Existing Coordination Capacity:** Communities that demonstrate that they have an existing coordinating body such as a criminal justice coordinating council, an opioid task force, or another planning body with demonstrated capacity and willingness to plan across the criminal justice and behavioral health continuum will receive priority consideration.
- **Stakeholder Investment:** Applicants that demonstrate investment in the planning process by self-funding the travel of one or more of the optional team members will be prioritized, since this indicates community support for the effort. Stakeholder investment also may be demonstrated by providing evidence of ongoing or past efforts to increase access to treatment for the criminal justice system-involved population that were successful and required cross-sector collaboration.

Applications will be reviewed by Arnold Ventures, BJA, and IIR staff members. Arnold Ventures and BJA will make the final decisions on site selection, and all decisions are final.

Applicant Checklist

- ___ Project narrative survey
- ___ Applicant information
- ___ Letters of commitment
- ___ Data from jail facility survey
- ___ Data from probation survey
- ___ Data from drug court survey
(optional if you do not have one)
- ___ Data from treatment survey
- ___ Proposed planning team members survey