

City of Worcester 2026 Opioid Settlement Fund Request for Proposals (RFP)

Part I. RFP Information and Guidelines

Purpose

The City of Worcester seeks proposals from nonprofit organizations committed to addressing the opioid crisis through prevention, harm reduction, treatment access, recovery support, and other evidence-based strategies. Funding is intended to support programs and services that reduce overdose deaths, improve health outcomes, strengthen recovery supports, and improve the overall well-being of Worcester residents impacted by substance use disorder (SUD) and opioid use disorder (OUD).

The City is committed to investing opioid settlement funds in initiatives that align with evidence-based practices, address identified community needs, and support populations disproportionately impacted by the opioid overdose crisis.

Eligibility Requirements

- Be a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or have a qualified fiscal sponsor
- Serve City of Worcester residents
- Demonstrate experience serving individuals impacted by substance use disorder and/or opioid use disorder
- Be in good standing with all applicable federal, state, and local requirements
- Be current on all financial obligations to the City of Worcester
- Note that municipal abatement funds should not be used to fund services already reimbursed by the state, including through MassHealth and BSAS, but agencies that provide state-reimbursed services are eligible to receive funds for other work. Note that organizations must adhere to the allowable and unallowable costs provided by Care Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. All project costs may be subject to additional approval.

Funding Information

- Maximum Award Amount: Allocated per priority focus area
- Funding Period: The funding period will be determined by the grant agreement for an initial period of at least one year, with the opportunity for renewal for up to a total of three years. Renewal and continuation of funding will be based on demonstrated contract performance, relevant local and national data, utilization and implementation of evidence-based practices, documented service outcomes and needs, and the availability of funding to support services rendered.
- Funding Source: Opioid Settlement Funds
- Funding awards are contingent upon the availability of funds and execution of a grant agreement with the City of Worcester

Priority Focus Areas

Focus Area	Description	Recommended Maximum per Award	Anticipated Number of Awards
Support People in Treatment and Recovery	Support and promote programs that are necessary for treatment and recovery processes	Up to \$300,000	up to 6
Harm Reduction	Support efforts to prevent overdose deaths or other opioid-related harms		
Connections to Care	Provide connections to care for people who have or are at risk of developing opioid use disorder		
Opioid Use Disorder Treatment	Support and promote treatment of persons with opioid use disorder	Up to \$150,000	up to 3
Prevent Misuse of Opioids / Implement Prevention Education	Support efforts to prevent misuse of opioids	Up to \$75,000	up to 2
Support Pregnant or Parenting Women and Their Families, Including Babies with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome	Support pregnant or parenting women with opioid use disorder and their families, including babies with neonatal abstinence syndrome, through programs and strategies that provide family supports or childcare services for parents with opioid use disorder	Up to \$60,000	up to 2
Address the Needs of Criminal-Justice Involved Persons	Support diversion and deflection programs and strategies for criminal-justice-involved persons with opioid disorder	Up to \$50,000	up to 2

For a full definition of each specific strategy category, please refer to pages 4-8 of the [Massachusetts State Subdivision Agreement](#).

Project Requirements

- **Use of Best Practices** – Projects should utilize evidence-based, evidence-informed, or promising practices that have demonstrated effectiveness in addressing substance use disorders, overdose prevention, harm reduction, treatment engagement, or recovery support.
- **Community Need and Data** – Applicants must provide local data, community assessments, stakeholder feedback, or other supporting information demonstrating the need for the proposed project. Programs should address identified service gaps and community priorities.
- **Collaboration and Partnerships** – Applicants should demonstrate collaboration with healthcare providers, community organizations, municipal agencies, schools, recovery organizations, coalitions, people with lived experience, and/or other relevant stakeholders to maximize impact and coordinate services
- **Lived Experience** – Projects should incorporate the perspectives and expertise of individuals with lived or living experience of substance use disorder, recovery, or overdose whenever possible.
- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** – Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion and describe how proposed activities will improve access, participation, and outcomes for populations disproportionately impacted by substance use disorders and overdose.

Reporting and Evaluation Requirements

- Submit midpoint and final reports
- Participate in evaluation activities coordinated by the City and/or external evaluators

- Provide performance and outcome data (Examples of measurable outcomes may include individuals served, naloxone distributed, treatment referrals completed, recovery housing placements, peer recovery engagements, overdose prevention interventions, and other project-specific performance measures)
- Participate in technical assistance opportunities, learning convenings, stakeholder meetings, and other activities designed to strengthen project outcomes

Submission Requirements

- Completed online application form
- Document Uploads
 - Budget narrative and supporting budget documentation
 - Two letters of support from collaborating organizations, coalitions, healthcare providers, municipalities, or other project partners.
- Any additional documentation requested by the City

Submission Instructions

Applicants are strongly encouraged to complete and submit their applications through the City's online application portal. The online application will be available at 4:59 PM on October 2, 2026, and close at 11:59 PM on November 4, 2026.

Applicants should carefully review the full RFP guidelines before beginning an application and allow sufficient time to complete all required sections and submit supporting materials before the deadline.

For questions or additional information regarding this funding opportunity, please contact the following using "Attn: Opioid Settlement Funding" as the subject line:

- City of Worcester Division of Public Health, Health@worcesterma.gov

Grant Agreements

All RFP applicants that are ultimately chosen to receive an award through this RFP must enter a grant agreement/contract with the City of Worcester for use of said funds. The grant agreement will contain requirements and expectations around grantee's liability and workers insurance, grant draws, reporting, and all federal and state regulations, citations, and provisions for grant compliance.

Reservation of Rights

1. The City of Worcester reserve the right, at its sole discretion, to award all, a portion, or none of the available funding from this application, as well as reject any and all applications based on the quality and merits of the applications received, or when it is determined to be in the public interest to do so. Furthermore, the City of Worcester may extend deadlines and timeframes, as needed.
2. The City of Worcester reserves the right to substantiate any proposers' qualifications, capability to perform, availability, past performance records and to verify that the applicant is current in its financial obligations to the City of Worcester.
3. The successful applicant shall agree to defend, indemnify and save the City of Worcester harmless from all losses, costs or damages caused by its acts or those of its agents, and, before signing the contract, will produce evidence satisfactory to the City of Worcester's Legal Counsel.
4. Pursuant to City of Worcester procurement policy and ordinance, the City of Worcester is unable to contract with businesses or individuals who are delinquent in their financial obligations to the City of Worcester. These obligations may include but are not limited to real estate and personal property taxes and sewer user fees. Applicants who are delinquent in their financial obligations to the City of Worcester must do one of the following: bring the obligation current, negotiate a payment plan with the City of Worcester's Treasury office, or agree to an offset which shall be established by the contract which shall be issued to the successful applicant.

5. The City of Worcester, Massachusetts, reserves the right to waive any informalities in applications, to accept any application or portion thereof, and, to reject any and all applications, should it be in the best in the best interest of the City of Worcester to do so.
6. It is the custom of the City of Worcester, Massachusetts to pay its bills 45 days following the receipt of correct invoices for all items covered by the approved application.

Payment Terms

It is the customary practice of the City of Worcester to process payments within thirty (30) days following receipt and approval of required documentation and reimbursement requests in accordance with the executed grant agreement.

Procedural Review Note

The City should confirm the final solicitation, disclosure of evaluation information, and applicable procurement or grant procedures with the appropriate Purchasing and/or Law Department personnel before issuance.

Part II. Application Questions

Organization Information

1. Organization Name
2. Organization Address
3. Contact Name
4. Contact Person's Title/Role
5. Email Address
6. Phone Number
7. Organization's Mission and Vision (Maximum 1,500 characters or approximately 250 words)

Project Summary

8. Name of Project
9. What is the geographic area of focus for your project? (Select all that apply)
 - ☐ 01602
 - ☐ 01603
 - ☐ 01604
 - ☐ 01605
 - ☐ 01606
 - ☐ 01607
 - ☐ 10608
 - ☐ 01609
 - ☐ 01610
 - ☐ All of Worcester
10. Provide a summary of the proposed project, including the population served, activities, and anticipated outcomes. (Maximum 1,500 characters or approximately 250 words) **Unscored**

Project Information

11. Priority focus area addressed by the project (Select one that best applies)
 - ☐ Support People in Treatment and Recovery: Support and promote programs that are necessary for treatment and recovery processes; Harm Reduction: Supports efforts to prevent overdose deaths or other opioid-related harms; Connections to Care: Provide connections to care for people who have or are at risk of developing opioid use disorder.
 - ☐ Prevent Misuse of Opioids and Implement Prevention Education: Support efforts to prevent misuse of opioids
 - ☐ Address the Needs of Criminal-Justice Involved Persons: Support diversion and deflection programs and strategies for criminal-Justice-involved persons with opioid disorder.
 - ☐ Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Support: Support and promote treatment of persons with opioid use disorder
 - ☐ Support Pregnant or Parenting Women and Their Families, Including Babies with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome: Support pregnant or parenting women with opioid use disorder and their families, including babies with neonatal abstinence syndrome, through programs and strategies that provide family supports or childcare services for parents with opioid use disorder.
12. Select other areas that may be addressed by your project? (Select up to two, if applicable)
 - ☐ Support People in Treatment and Recovery: Support and promote programs that are necessary for treatment and recovery processes; Harm Reduction: Supports efforts to prevent overdose deaths or other opioid-related harms; Connections to Care: Provide connections to care for people who have or are at risk of developing opioid use disorder.
 - ☐ Prevent Misuse of Opioids and Implement Prevention Education: Support efforts to prevent misuse of opioids

- Address the Needs of Criminal-Justice Involved Persons: Support diversion and deflection programs and strategies for criminal-Justice-involved persons with opioid disorder.
 - Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Support: Support and promote treatment of persons with opioid use disorder
 - Support Pregnant or Parenting Women and Their Families, Including Babies with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome: Support pregnant or parenting women with opioid use disorder and their families, including babies with neonatal abstinence syndrome, through programs and strategies that provide family supports or childcare services for parents with opioid use disorder.
13. Describe how the proposed project will address your identified priority areas mentioned above or other appropriate care pathways. (Maximum 4,000 characters or approximately 750 words) **15 Points**
 14. Describe the evidence-based, evidence-informed, or promising practices that will guide project implementation. (Maximum 2,000 characters or approximately 300 words) **10 Points**
 15. Describe your organization's experience and capacity to successfully implement the proposed project, including relevant staff qualifications, prior outcomes, and experience with similar programs. Identify existing or proposed partnerships with healthcare providers, community organizations, local coalitions, people with lived or living experience, and other stakeholders. Explain how these partnerships will support project implementation, coordinate services, and maximize impact. (Maximum 3,250 characters or approximately 500 words) **15 Points**
 16. Provide local data identifying critical gaps in services. Explain how this data informs the design of your proposed project to address the most pressing community needs. (Maximum 2,000 characters or approximately 300 words) **10 Points**
 17. Describe the measurable outcomes you expect to achieve during the grant period and how you would track progress towards these outcomes. (Maximum 2,000 characters or approximately 300 words) **10 Points**
 18. Provide a timeline outlining the major activities, implementation, and anticipated completion dates during the grant period. (Maximum 1,500 characters or approximately 250 words) **5 Points**
 19. Describe how the project or its benefits will be sustained after grant funding ends. (Maximum 1,500 characters or approximately 250 words) **5 Points**
 20. Describe your organization's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion and explain how the proposed project will improve access, participation, and outcomes for populations disproportionately impacted by substance use disorders and overdose. (Maximum 2,000 characters or approximately 300 words) **10 Points**

Budget Information

21. What is the total amount you are requesting (in USD)?
22. List any additional funding sources and amounts that will support the project and indicate whether each source is secured, pending, or proposed. (Maximum 1,500 characters or approximately 250 words) **5 Points**
23. Describe how grant funds will be used. (Maximum 1,500 characters or 250 words) Anticipated expenses may include personnel, program operations, supplies, training, equipment, contracted services, and other direct program costs. Additional information may be included in your detailed budget. **10 Points**
24. Attach your budget. **5 Points**

Letters of Support

25. Attach two letters of support from collaborating organizations, coalitions, healthcare providers, municipalities, or other partners involved in the project.

Reporting and Evaluation

26. Successful applicants will be required to submit midpoint and final reports, participate in evaluation activities, provide performance and outcome data, and participate in technical assistance, meetings, learning opportunities, and other activities coordinated by the City.
 - I certify that our organization will comply with all reporting and evaluation requirements.

Grant Agreement and Compliance

27. Successful applicants must enter into a grant agreement with the City of Worcester and comply with all applicable federal, state, and local requirements governing the use of public funds.
- I certify that our organization understands and agrees to comply with all grant requirements.

Reservation of Rights

28. The City of Worcester reserves the right to award all, a portion, or none of the available funding based on the quality of applications received, available funding, community need, and overall program priorities.
- I certify that our organization understands and agrees to these conditions.

Authorized Certification

29. I certify that the information provided in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.
(Typing full name sufficient for online application)
- Name
 - Signature
 - Date