



The City of Worcester

Request for Proposal (RFP) for Nonprofit Partner (Opioid)

Issued by:

City of Worcester, Health & Human Services Department

Proposal Due Date: November 1, 2024

Overview:

The City of Worcester is seeking qualified nonprofit organizations to partner in a joint application for the RIZE Foundation's grantmaking opportunity, focused on addressing the opioid overdose crisis. The City will fund up to the maximum match amount of \$50,000 to 10 organizations. This initiative will leverage best practices and align with the Massachusetts State Sub-Division Agreement for Statewide Opioid Settlements to expand interventions proven to save lives.

Total Available City Match Funding: \$50,000 per project

Number of Partner Organizations: Up to 10

Eligible Applicants: Nonprofit organizations based in Worcester or serving the city of Worcester.

Project Focus Areas:

Proposed projects must address one or more of the following areas:

- **Prevention:** Initiatives to reduce opioid use or misuse. (such as working with the public schools)
- **Harm Reduction:** Interventions to reduce the harmful consequences of opioid use. (creative harm reduction strategies)
- **Access to Care:** Expanding access to treatment and services for those affected by opioid use.
- **Recovery Support:** Providing resources to aid in recovery from substance use disorder. (Examples: Access to respite beds, or increase sober or temporary housing beds)

Key Project Requirements:

Proposals should demonstrate the following:

1. **Use of Best Practices:** Implement proven strategies to end the opioid overdose crisis, leveraging evidence-based practices in prevention, harm reduction, and care.
2. **Utilization of Care Massachusetts Resources:** Collaborate with Care Massachusetts to ensure programs are aligned with state resources and networks.

3. **Community Data:** Applicants must provide local data that identifies the critical gaps in services. Programs should be designed to specifically address these identified needs, ensuring they are aligned with the most pressing concerns of the community.

Proposal Selection Criteria:

All proposals will be evaluated by an unbiased and equitable review process, with a focus on:

- Addressing the overdose crisis, prevention, harm reduction, and access to care.
- Engaging populations with high rates of opioid use and overdose, particularly those that have been historically underserved.
- Centering the voices of those with lived experience in opioid use.
- Demonstrating a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion by addressing existing service disparities.
- Providing evidence of collaboration with municipal partners, coalitions, and other relevant stakeholders.
- Priority consideration will be given to minority-led organizations and agencies that primarily serve historically underserved populations, including Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), LGBTQ+ individuals, youth, and others disproportionately affected by the overdose crisis.

Reporting and Evaluation:

Selected grantees must participate in ongoing evaluation and reporting activities, including:

- Mid-point and final reports detailing progress, challenges, and outcomes.
- Participation in technical assistance sessions and learning convenings.
- Collaboration with RIZE's evaluation team to measure success and community impact.

Submission Requirements:

Interested nonprofit organizations should submit the following:

- A cover letter introducing the organization, including its mission, experience in addressing the opioid crisis, and relevance to the Worcester community.
- A detailed project proposal outlining the target focus areas (prevention, harm reduction, access to care, etc.), the project's alignment with best practices, and how the organization will collaborate with the City and other partners.
- A budget proposal, including the amount of City match funding requested and any additional pooled funds.
- Letters of support from any collaborating organizations.
- Demonstration of commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion principles.

Contingent Funding: Funding from the City of Worcester is contingent upon the applicant being awarded the RIZE grant. The City's financial support will be provided as matching funds, up to \$50,000, only if the proposed project is selected for RIZE grant funding.

Grant Agreements

All RFP applicants that are ultimately chosen to receive an award through this RFP must enter into a grant agreement/contract with the City of Worcester for use of said funds. The grant agreement will contain requirements and expectations around 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 interest of the City of Worcester to do so.
1. It is the custom of the City of Worcester, Massachusetts to pay its bills 30 days following the receipt of correct invoices for all items covered by the approved application.

Submission Deadline:

All proposals must be received by November 1, 2024, to arriagaa@worcesterma.gov.

For questions or additional information, please contact:

Alex Arriaga
Deputy Commissioner
Health & Human Services Department
508-799-8486 x31330

The City of Worcester looks forward to partnering with community organizations committed to addressing the opioid crisis and building a healthier, safer community for all.