

PUBLIC NOTICE



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

Puerto Rico Department of Health

Opioid Recovery and Restitution Fund Advisory Committee

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS FROM THE OPIOID SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS 2023-2024

The Puerto Rico Department of Health in collaboration with the Opioid Recovery and Restitution Fund Advisory Committee announces the availability of funds through the *Opioid Settlement Agreements* (OSA) in the amount of fifteen million, seven hundred ninety-three thousand, three hundred thirty-one dollars and fifty-three cents (**\$15,793,331.53**). Accordingly, it offers the opportunity to finance initiatives and projects led by organizations, entities, and agencies that dedicate their efforts to manage and mitigate the opioid situation in Puerto Rico. Initiatives financed through these funds should be aligned with the strategies approved in the *Annual Work Plan and Budget for the Use of the Funds of the Opioid Settlement Agreements 2023-2024*, as well as the approved uses stated within the OSAs. Funding opportunities will be provided through the submission of **proposals** and supporting documentation **aimed at implementing and expanding efforts that contribute to the mitigation of the opioid situation in Puerto Rico**. The funds will be allocated for a period of **three (3) years** until **Wednesday, June 30, 2027**. A process for the execution, monitoring, and annual reporting of progress/outcomes will be in place.

The approved activities are as follows:

A. Treatment and Harm Reduction

1. Expansion of **access and availability of medication-assisted treatment services** for people with opioid use disorder in Puerto Rico, that reduce the gaps in the recognition of human rights and gender equality, social classes, races, and other intersections of the human experience.
2. Expansion of **harm reduction efforts and community outreach** for linkage to treatment and support services for people with opioid and substance use disorder.
3. Increase the **capacity of care for women, pregnant people, and gender and sex diverse persons** as a priority element to achieve equity in health services.
4. Increase the **availability of peer support and recovery specialists** (also known as peer educators) **in programs and clinics that provide treatment for people with opioid and substance use disorders**.
5. Review, update, and creation of **treatment standards** for people with opioid and substance use disorder.
6. Review, development and implementation of **guidelines, public policies, laws, regulations, executive and administrative orders to address gaps in access, availability of treatment and effects of the territorial relationship, and to safeguard the rights of people with opioid and substance use disorder**.

B. Education and Prevention

1. Development and implementation of large-scale, evidence-informed **prevention strategies, alternative education, and dissemination of information with a multidisciplinary and health perspective, and cross-agency collaboration for stigma reduction**.
2. Design and implementation of **training courses, formal and continuing education related to substances, opioids, consumption and dependence focused on government employees, public safety professionals, law professionals, teachers, students, healthcare and human behavior professionals, and any other professional that offers direct services to people with opioid use disorder**.
3. Creation and implementation **of educational campaigns about the opioid situation in Puerto Rico** as prevention strategies aimed at the general population according to their life cycle and in consideration of the diverse individuals and communities.
4. Creation and implementation of **social and community reintegration programs and services** focused on providing legal, supportive services and addressing the opioid situation from the community level, family, and support systems of people with opioid use disorder.

5. Provision of **comprehensive support services for family members and support systems** of people with opioid use disorder.
6. Development and **implementation of public policies, laws, and regulations to address the social determinants of health** that have effect on the opioid and substance situation in Puerto Rico (homelessness, poverty, gender violence, racism, among others).

C. Research and Data Integration

1. Facilitate efforts for the **standardization, integration, collection, visualization, transparency, and publication of data at a national level in an accessible data repository.**
2. **Research development for inventory of needs and resources regarding the opioid situation and the access and quality of services in Puerto Rico** in academic institutions, entities, and organizations with expertise to conduct scientific studies and consulting activities.

Priority in the allocation of these funds will be directed towards government and municipal agencies (preferably where programs already exist), Federally Qualified Health Centers ("Centros 330"), diagnostic and treatment centers (DTCs), coalitions, public and private hospitals, academic institutions, private organizations, and non-profit organizations incorporated in Puerto Rico that **dedicate their efforts towards the mitigation of the opioid situation in Puerto Rico**. Likewise, these entities, agencies, and organizations must be **legally** constituted, have **an accounting system and accounting practices**, and offer services to **one or more** of the following populations:

- People with opioid use disorder and substance use disorder,
- People with dual mental health and substance use disorders,
- Pregnant and postpartum persons,
- Babies with neonatal abstinence syndrome,
- Persons in the prison system who are serving sentence or in the process of transitioning to the community setting,
- Among other populations that are affected **directly or indirectly by the opioid situation in Puerto Rico.**
- People in the LGBTQIAPGN+ community
- People with functional diversity,
- People experiencing homelessness,
- Women,
- Child and youth population, young people, and young adults,
- Older adults,
- Family members, groups, and support systems of people with opioid use disorder or substance use disorder,

As a first step, any entity interested in applying for such funds must send a *Letter of Intent* on or before **1:00 p.m., of Wednesday, January 31, 2024**. In addition, proposal submissions with **all** the required documentation must be completed on or before **1:00 p.m. of Tuesday, March 19, 2024**. The letter of intent and proposal will be sent through a platform available at the following link: https://bit.ly/Fondos_opioides. No letter of intent, proposals, or documentation will be accepted on paper, by e-mail, or postings after the established deadline. Incomplete proposals or documentation will not be considered.

For more information regarding this process and other requirements, you can download the **Opioid Settlement Agreement Notice of Funding Opportunity 2023-2024** available from **Wednesday, January 17, 2024** on the Opioid Recovery and Restitution Fund Advisory Committee website: www.salud.pr.gov/CMS/578

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