

Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)

Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP)

# Initiative to Build Bridges to Increase Access to Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Options in the Nation's Jails

## Application Announcement

### Overview of Funding Opportunity

A significant number of individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD) pass through jails each year, placing correctional facilities at the epicenter of the opioid crisis. Few jails offer the FDA-approved medications — buprenorphine, methadone, and naltrexone — that have consistently been shown to be the most effective forms of treatment for OUD when combined with behavioral therapies.

The 2023 Building Bridges planning initiative supported a nine-month planning process for selected counties committed to implementing medication-assisted treatment (MAT) in jails and enhancing collaboration between jails and community-based treatment providers. Communities received coaching and technical assistance to develop a comprehensive continuum of care model that targets the jail population and builds bridges between in-custody and community-based treatment and supervision, including probation, parole, and court-based programs.

This funding opportunity, supported by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, will make up to \$250,000

available over a 14-month period to eligible Building Bridges sites to support projects to increase access to MAT in jails and the capacity of local communities to collaborate across public safety, behavioral health, and public health to continue care in the community. Sites can expect to continue to have a meaningful opportunity to engage with subject matter experts and from one another. Over the course of 14 months, sites can expect: monthly collaborative calls with coaches with subject matter expertise and tailored technical assistance for implementation of their plans. If necessary, sites can also request additional on-site assistance to support implementation.

Please see below for the applicant requirements, allowable uses of funding, and instructions to apply for funding.

### Applicant Requirements

Applicants must continue to meet these requirements:

Applicants must be committed to making a significant advancement in access to MAT services in their jails.

Applicants must agree to work to implement a MAT program in the jail that provides at least two forms

of FDA-approved medications for OUD or expand an existing MAT program in the jail to offer at least two, preferably all three forms of medication, and to support continued access to MAT in the community upon release.

Applicants must demonstrate the commitment of a multidisciplinary team made up of representatives who oversee and provide MAT services to all individuals in custody with OUD and to continue that care in the community. The team must continue to have at least five local stakeholders, each of whom must agree to participate in virtual meetings with assigned coaches.

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

Team members must include 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, including MAT, inside the jail.
- ◀ A representative from the jail custody system, with decision-making authority over custody operations.
- ◀ A representative from the local government's 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 continuing substance use treatment services, including MAT.

- ◀ A representative from the local behavioral health department or agency that oversees substance use treatment for justice involved individuals.

Additional team members are encouraged to participate in the virtual learning opportunities to support implementation.

## Project Coordination

Each applicant must continue to have an identified project coordinator to serve as the administrative and operational coordinator of the implementation initiative. We anticipate that the project coordinator will be able to devote approximately eight hours a week of their time to:

- ◀ Guide the development of the local implementation effort.
- ◀ Conduct outreach to officials in key agencies to gain support for the 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.
- ◀ Coordinate team participation in monthly calls with coaches.
- ◀ Serve as the primary point of contact for this initiative with BJA and its partner, IIR.

## Allowable Activities and Use of Funding

Applicants will be asked to identify intended use of funding within the categories below and provide a description of their activities and objectives. Applicants may select more than one if applicable.

## Category 1: Implementing or enhancing access to MAT for individuals incarcerated in their local jail.

Access to MAT should include both maintenance and induction on at least two FDA-approved medications for OUD while detained in the facility.

Potential Activities include:

- ◀ Providing training/information to staff on the science of addiction, MAT, and the impact of substance use and misuse.
- ◀ Implementing the use of SUD screening & assessment tools and any associated costs and trainings.
- ◀ Developing and implementing policies and procedures to support the implementation or expansion of MAT in the facility.
- ◀ Completing the necessary processes to become a certified opioid treatment program.
- ◀ Developing collaborative case plans to support people participating in the MAT program.
- ◀ Providing MAT and recovery programming pre-release.

## Category 2: Implementing Effective Linkage to Care Programs upon Release from Incarceration

Potential Activities include:

- ◀ Establishing relevant and lawful information-sharing procedures to support continuity of care from incarceration to reentry into the community regarding treatment and recovery services.
- ◀ Continuing the provision of case management and MAT services post-release.
  - ◀ Providing recovery support services post-release.

- ◀ Post-release recovery support services can include, for example, access to health and behavioral health care benefits, peer support services, medical services, counseling services, recovery or emergency housing, transportation services, employment services, and education services.

Allowable Costs:

- ◀ Hire personnel (e.g., case managers, reentry coordinators, or behavioral health providers).
- ◀ Pay for medication (e.g., psychiatric medication, FDA-approved medication to support MAT, naloxone) and other supplies to support SUD programming, harm reduction, or reentry.
- ◀ Pay for screening and assessment tools and associated training.
- ◀ Provide transitional or recovery housing.
- ◀ Contract with another organization to provide in-reach services, which might include case management, peer support, or evidence-based treatment like MAT.
- ◀ Contract with an organization to provide continued treatment or recovery support services in the community, training to staff on gender and culturally responsive screening or assessment tools or curricula, or evaluation services.

In addition to the unallowable costs identified in the [DOJ Grants Financial Guide](#), award funds may not be used for the following:

- ◀ Prizes, rewards, entertainment, trinkets, or any other monetary incentives
- ◀ Client stipends
- ◀ Gift cards
- ◀ Food and beverages

## Mandatory Application Items

### Application

An online application to be considered for implementation funding from the Building Bridges project can be completed here <http://s.iir.com/DzUvY2nx> no later than April 8, 2024. Please complete all information including the narrative questions and team representative details.

## Additional Mandatory Application Requirements

### Budget and Associated Documentation

The Budget Detail Worksheet and the Budget Narrative are now combined in a single document collectively referred to as the Budget Detail Worksheet. The Budget Detail Worksheet is a user-friendly, fillable, Microsoft Excel-based document designed to calculate totals. In addition, the Excel workbook contains worksheets for multiple budget years that can be completed as necessary. All applicants should use the Excel version when completing the proposed budget in an application, except in cases where the applicant does not have access to Microsoft Excel or experiences technical difficulties. If an applicant does not have access to Microsoft Excel or experiences technical difficulties with the Excel version, the applicant should use the 508-compliant accessible Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) version. Both versions of the Budget Detail Worksheet are included as attachments in the announcement email. Applicants should complete a budget for the entire project period, which is defined as June 2024 to July 2025.

The Budget Detail Worksheet should provide the detailed computation for each budget line item, listing the total cost of each and showing how it was calculated by the applicant. For example, costs for personnel should show the annual salary rate and the percentage of time devoted to the project for each employee paid with federal funds. The Budget Detail

Worksheet should present a complete itemization of all proposed costs.

For questions pertaining to budget and examples of allowable and unallowable costs, see the DOJ Grants Financial Guide at <https://ojp.gov/financialguide/DOJ/index.htm>. The budget summary page must reflect the amounts in the budget categories as included in the Budget Detail Worksheet. These amounts should mirror the amounts in the Budget Narrative.

### Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)

Indirect costs may be charged to an award only if:

- a. The recipient has a current (unexpired), federally approved indirect cost rate; or
- b. The recipient is eligible to use, and elects to use, the de minimis indirect cost rate described in the Part 200 Uniform Requirements, as set out at 2 CFR 200.414(f).

An applicant with a current (unexpired) federally approved indirect cost rate must attach a copy of the indirect cost rate agreement to the application. An applicant that does not have a current federally approved rate may request one through its cognizant federal agency, which will review all documentation and approve a rate for the applicant entity, or, if the applicant's accounting system permits, applicants may propose to allocate costs in the direct cost categories.

Certain OJP recipients have the option of electing to use the de minimis indirect cost rate. An applicant that is eligible to use the de minimis rate and wishes to use the de minimis rate should attach written documentation to the application that advises OJP of both (1) the applicant's eligibility to use the de minimis rate and (2) its election to do so. If an eligible applicant elects the de minimis rate, costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs

but may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both. The de minimis rate may no longer be used once an approved federally negotiated indirect cost rate is in place. (No entity that ever has had a federally approved negotiated indirect cost rate is eligible to use the de minimis rate.) For the de minimis rate requirements (including information on eligibility to elect to use the rate), see the Part 200 Uniform Requirements, at 2 C.F.R. 200.414(f).

### **Applicant Certification (Required)**

The applicant agency must provide a statement of assurance signed by the authorized representative of the applicant organization stating that:

- ◀ Federal funds made available through this award will not be used to supplant state, local, or tribal funds.
- ◀ Federal funds made available through this award will be used to increase the amounts of such funds that would, in the absence of federal funds, be made available for the activities addressed in the application.
- ◀ There has been appropriate coordination with all affected agencies.
- ◀ The project coordinator will agree to work with BJA and its representatives as well as the selected BJA COSSUP training and technical assistance provider(s) and partner agencies.

### **Accounting System and Financial Capability Questionnaire (Required)**

All applicants must download, complete, and submit the form attached in the announcement email. Please provide a copy of, or a link to, the most recently completed audit used to complete the questions related to the “Audit Information” on page 2 of this form.

## **Post-Award Requirements**

### **Monthly Collaborative Calls**

The recipient of the funds will be required to have the project coordinator participate in a monthly call with site coaches and the IIR project manager. These calls will last no more than 1.5 hours. Additional staff members may choose to participate.

### **Monthly and Final Reporting**

The recipient of funds under this solicitation will be required to submit monthly progress reports, final financial and progress reports, and, if applicable, an annual audit report in accordance with the Part 200 Uniform Requirements or specific award conditions. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if reports are delinquent.

### **Confidentiality and Human Subjects Protection**

Any recipient of an award under this solicitation will be required to comply with the U.S. Department of Justice regulations on confidentiality and human subjects’ protection. See Evidence, Research, and Evaluation Guidance and Requirements, at <https://ojp.gov/funding/Explore/SolicitationRequirements/EvidenceResearchEvaluationRequirements.htm>. All funded applicants will be required to provide documentation of compliance with this requirement prior to commencing data collection.

### **Applicable Federal Laws and Regulations**

All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law. Applicants selected for awards must agree to comply with additional legal requirements upon acceptance of an award. Additional information for each requirement can be found at <https://ojp.gov/funding/index.htm>.

## Applicant Process

**Applications due:** April 8, 2024

**Review of applications:** April 9–26, 2024

**Notification of awards:** No later than April 29, 2024

**Project begins:** June 1, 2024

## Application Checklist

\_\_\_ Application form (see here <http://s.iir.com/DzUvY2nx>)

\_\_\_ Budget Detail Worksheet (see attachment)

\_\_\_ Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable) (see page 4)

\_\_\_ Applicant Certification (see page 5)

\_\_\_ Accounting System and Financial Capability Questionnaire (see attachment)

\_\_\_ Recently completed audit (see page 5)

\_\_\_ Letters of Commitment from Multidisciplinary Team

## Submission Deadline

All application components must be submitted via online application here: <http://s.iir.com/DzUvY2nx>.

The Excel version of the Budget Detail Worksheet and the PDF version were included as attachments in the announcement email. A PDF copy of the application questions was also included as an attachment. All required application components must be submitted via online application no later than 5:00 p.m. ET on April 8, 2024. Applicants will receive a notice of submission upon completion of the online application.

## Questions

Should you have any questions about the application process or issues with submission, please send an email to [rlacy@iir.com](mailto:rlacy@iir.com).

Visit the COSSUP Resource Center at [www.cossup.org](http://www.cossup.org).

## About BJA

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) provides leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy development to support local, state, and tribal justice strategies to achieve safer communities. To learn more about BJA, visit <https://bja.ojp.gov> and follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/DOJBJA](http://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA)) and Twitter (@DOJBJA). BJA is part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.

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