

**Susquehanna County**  
**Opioid Remediation Grant Application**  
Program Guidelines | January 2024

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## **SECTION I. Statement of Purpose**

As part of the \$26 billion national settlement, which is intended to resolve several thousand lawsuits against drug manufacturer Johnson & Johnson, which is based in New Jersey, and the country's three major pharmaceutical distributors: AmerisourceBergen, which is headquartered in Conshohocken, Texas-based McKesson, and Cardinal Health in Ohio, Susquehanna County will receive an allocation of funds. The companies have not admitted any wrongdoing under the settlement agreement and will make payments over 18 years.

The Pennsylvania Allocation is based on input from a Working Group of Local Government Stakeholders, Counsel and Treatment Community Voices and the allocation will be established as a Trust that cannot be amended later. The total dollars allocated to Pennsylvania is \$1,070,609,642 with 70% allocated to counties based on metrics i.e., overdose deaths, hospitalizations, naloxone administrations, and Morphine Milligram Equivalents (MME), 15% to Litigating Counties, Subdivisions, DAs, and Special Districts, and 15% controlled by the Legislature. The anticipated allocation to Pennsylvania Counties is \$700 million with Susquehanna County receiving \$119,000 annually. However, \$163,723.00 is currently available for expenditure in 2024.

85% of total funds on a nationwide basis must be utilized for opioid remediation. At least 70% of total monies on a nationwide basis must be utilized on forward-looking abatement rather than restitution. 70% of the total amount received by Susquehanna County will go directly to all Susquehanna County School Districts for prevention programs as monitored and approved by the Single County Opioid Remediation Advisory Board and Single County Authority (SCA). The remaining 30% will be given out in grants. Organizations can apply for grants to support projects and programs that provide abatement strategies and related services to local communities. Priority will be given to grantees utilizing the funding for projects and programs following core abatement strategies outlined in Appendix A, particularly as it relates to treatment and issues of staffing.

## **SECTION II. Eligible Applicants**

### **A. Eligible Sponsors/Recipients**

1. The Organization/Location of the Program must reside in Susquehanna County (must be authorized by the Board of Commissioners).
2. Non-Profit and For-Profit Organizations within Susquehanna County with a proven track record as it pertains to SUD, awareness, prevention and/or treatment that will use monies it receives through the Distributor Settlement solely for the purposes provided therein.
3. Municipalities but only if their application is joined in by an eligible sponsor/recipient identified above both (1) and (2)

Beginning in 2025, applicants who have received previous funding through the Opioid Remediation Grant program may only re-apply if they provide documents regarding their program or **project Comparative Effectiveness Research**.

NOTE: Additional information on success and performance measurement can be found in Appendix D.

B. Sponsorship Requirements

1. **An entity that falls under Section II.A.3 must have an eligible sponsor for its application or the application will be rejected.**
2. All applications must include written evidence in the application submission that the application is sponsored or joined by an eligible sponsor on or before the application deadline.

**SECTION III. Eligible Uses of Grant Funds**

- A. Eligible uses for funds include the following, so long as the use, need, costs, or project uses monies it receives through the Distributor Settlement solely for the purposes provided therein and States and Qualifying Block Grantees shall choose from among the abatement strategies listed in Schedule B.
- B. However, priority shall be given to the following core abatement strategies under Schedule A (“Core Strategies”) with further priority given to Applicants who focus on 1) staff development and recruitment AND/OR 2) treatment options.
  - ❖ APPENDIX A – List of Opioid Remediation includes:
    - a) Schedule A: Core Strategies
    - b) Schedule B: Approved Uses
- C. Applicants applying for funds for programs or projects eligible for funding under Schedule A: Core Strategies will be given priority over programs and projects eligible for funding under Schedule B: Approved Uses.
- D. Applicants that can provide evidence of revenue generation and a direct community impact will be considered with preference.
- E. Applications for projects or programs that have an established record of success of 3 years or longer will be given greater preference than newly established or those in the early stages of development.
- F. Applications that are submitted jointly by two or more entities and/or municipalities that can provide evidence of greater community impact will be considered with preference.
- G. PLEASE NOTE, Applicants who receive grant approval and subsequent funds \must participate in the Susquehanna County Comparative Effectiveness Research.

NOTE: Additional information on success and performance measurement can be found in Appendix D.

#### **SECTION IV. Recommended Grant Amounts**

All applicants should carefully consider the amount of funding requested in the Opioid Remediation Grant Application submitted. In order to enhance the impact and maximize the reach of the funding available, Susquehanna County has established the following recommended grant amounts to guide potential applicants:

- A. Nonprofit- total request of not more than \$35,000 in a single grant cycle.
- B. Applicants submitted jointly by any two or more entities – a total request of not more than \$50,000.

#### **SECTION V. Important Dates**

- ❖ January 15, 2024- Opioid Remediation Grant Application is OPEN
- ❖ March 15, 2024 – Opioid Remediation Grant Application deadline/Sponsorship request deadline to Susquehanna (See Section VII)

#### **SECTION VI. Application Procedures**

- A. Applications for grants awarded by Susquehanna County must be submitted through the Opioid Remediation Grant process and include the project narrative information requested in Section VII of these Program Guidelines. Applications must be delivered by the close of business at 4:30 p.m. EST on Friday March 15th, 2024. If mailed, applications must be postmarked by Friday March 15th, 2024.
- B. Applicants should submit five (5) paper copies of the application to the Susquehanna County Opioid Remediation Advisory Board, c/o Susquehanna County Chief Clerk, Rebecca Hubbard, 31 Lake Avenue, Montrose PA 18801.
- C. Grants will be awarded by the Susquehanna County Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners has established an advisory board, the Susquehanna County Opioid Remediation Advisory Board, to assist it in screening applicant eligibility and evaluating applications for Opioid Remediation funding. Once awarded, all Opioid Remediation Grants will be administered by the Susquehanna County Opioid Remediation Advisory Board and the Susquehanna County Commissioners unless otherwise stated.
- D. The Susquehanna County Opioid Remediation Advisory Board will review applications to ensure that each applicant and proposed project meets eligibility requirements.

- E. The Susquehanna County Opioid Remediation Advisory Board will establish a grant application calendar for the Opioid Remediation Grant Program. See Page 4, Section V.
- F. Evaluation criteria will be developed by the Opioid Remediation Advisory Board and the County Commissioners. Priority will be given to public-private partnerships, those that leverage additional investment in the County, and projects that are ready to proceed and require a portion of Opioid Remediation funds for completion.

**SECTION VII. Application Narrative** (To be included in the Opioid Remediation Grant Application)

A project narrative is required as part of the application for each proposal and must contain the following:

- A. A completed Application Cover Page
- B. A brief description of the project or program (limit response to 300 words).
- C. An outline of the project or program objectives expected outcomes, and measurable project deliverables.
- D. Identify how the proposed project will mitigate the harms stemming from opioid use disorder.
- E. A description of the local and community support for the project or program.
- F. A projected schedule and detailed timeline of the project or program.
- G. A budget accompanied by a description of the basis of costs for the project and sources of funding and identify the financial sustainability of the project or program.

NOTE: The application should identify the percentage that Opioid Remediation funds will constitute of the total project budget and details on how the project will leverage funds from other sources. For any multi-year project, cost information should be broken into phases, and applicants must detail the projected sources of funding for all phases and project completion.

- H. If the Applicant is requesting grant funding to support new or existing staff salaries, insurance, or benefits, identify the time dedicated by the personnel in the positions to the provision of services pertaining to Opioid Use Disorder, Substance Use Disorder, or Mental Health-related programming.
- I. Evidence of prior and anticipated interaction and/or work with the sponsoring organization/co-applicant.

NOTE: Municipal and Nonmunicipal applicants submitting applications sponsored by or joined by a co-applicant should show how the applicant and sponsor or co-applicants have interacted and/or worked together in the past as well as anticipated future interactions.

- J. Evidence of conformity of the program or project with organizational strategic plans; if applicable.
- K. A statement disclosing any instances of fraud or theft of applicant funds in the last five (5) years and measures taken by the applicant to prevent future theft and fraudulent events.
- L. Describe any litigation, administrative proceeding and/or governmental approval related to the project.

NOTE: Litigation, administrative proceedings and governmental approvals should be identified whether or not the matter(s) could cause a delay, potentially prevent the project from being completed or otherwise have an impact on the project.

- M. Outline in detail the community impact and performance measurement. The overall quality strategy must include the following components:
  - a. An organizational culture that supports (through human capital and resources) and values a continuous improvement process.
  - b. Adequate resources to support the planned activities of the project or program.
  - c. Evidence of the desired health or performance outcomes.

NOTE: Additional information on success and performance measurement can be found in Appendix D.

- N. Documentation of support from the affected community, as well as any professional or expert studies, analyses or support related to the project or its need, uses, or costs;
- O. A statement providing where the project ranks on the sponsor's list of priorities if the applicant has more than one project; and

NOTE: A sponsor's list of priorities is merely advisory and not intended to restrict the Dauphin Opioid Remediation Advisory Board in its recommendations to the Susquehanna County Board of Commissioners.

- P. An executed Certification of Non-Contingency, the form of which appears at Appendix C of these Program Guidelines, certifying that the applicant has not engaged any consultant or representative in relation to the application whose compensation is on a contingent fee basis.

## **SECTION IX. Procedures for Accessing Funds**

A grant agreement between the grantee and Susquehanna County will be required prior to release of grant funding. All grant agreements will include deliverables and funding amounts as awarded to the project. The other terms and conditions of the grant agreement are firm. A sample agreement is attached to these guidelines. In addition to the terms and conditions stated in the grant agreement, grantees must acknowledge and adhere to the following conditions and program requirements:

- A. Nondiscrimination - No funding will be awarded to a grantee unless it certifies to the grantor that it shall not discriminate against any employee or against any person seeking employment because of race, religion, color, handicap, national origin, age, or sex.
- B. Project Account – Grant monies are typically disbursed on an after-expenditure basis. For record maintenance and audit purposes, all Opioid Remediation grant funds must be deposited in a separate project account and be maintained by the grantee to hold and disburse all project funds.
- C. Project Records - The grantee must maintain full and accurate records with respect to the projects. The grantor shall have access to such records, as well as the ability to inspect all project work, invoices, materials, and other relevant records at reasonable times and places.
- D. Reporting/Audit - The grantee must submit a close-out report on the use of the Opioid Remediation funds consistent with the grant agreement. Unless excused, an audit of the use of the grant proceeds by an independent certified public accountant will be required.
- E. Bidding – Grantees are solely responsible for complying with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures for selecting contractors and other persons or entities performing work on proposed projects. The County may require proof of compliance with said procedures.
- F. Prevailing Wage - The Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act (43 P.S. § 165-1 et seq.; 34 Pa. Code § 9.101 et seq.) may be applicable to a project funded under this program. The County makes no representation regarding the Act, and grantees are solely responsible for determining whether the Act applies. If applicable, the grantee is responsible for including prevailing wage rates in all projected budgets or grant application documents pertaining to the project. The Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry has final authority to make all prevailing wage applicability determinations.

**SECTION X. Program Inquiries**

*All inquiries should be directed to:*

Rebekah Hubbard, Chief Clerk

31 Lake Avenue

Montrose, PA 18801

(717) 780-6290