

SWORD Community Grant Guidelines

Background of SWORD

In 2021 the Colorado Attorney General's Office (COAG) won settlements against opioid manufacturers and distributors. The Southwest Opioid Response District (SWORD) was formed as a regional partnership to receive and manage the funds allocated to Montezuma, La Plata, Archuleta, San Juan, and Dolores counties, and several municipalities therein. The Region 9 Economic Development District (Region 9) acts as the facilitating agent for the SWORD Council.

In November 2023, SWORD developed and submitted an initial two-year plan: 20% of funding will be dispersed directly into communities to expand and enrich locally identified recovery support needs, and another 10% will support regional infrastructure projects to eliminate barriers to recovery by expanding resources and services across the SWORD region. Both funding programs will be distributed through the undermentioned Community Grant Application.

These SWORD Community Grant Funds allow local entities to expand and enrich regional and locally identified needs in addressing opioid use disorder (OUD), which may include other substances and co-occurring behavioral health needs. Funding aims to mitigate the harmful effects of opioids within a community and build recovery capital within the SWORD region.

Program Interests & Eligibility

SWORD is seeking funding proposals to address opioid use within Montezuma, La Plata, Archuleta, San Juan, and Dolores Counties. There is a total of \$465,286.41 available—\$310,190.94 for local projects and \$155,095.47 for regional infrastructure projects—for Community Grants. SWORD aims to equitably distribute these funds across the region. Counties, municipalities, and independent entities are encouraged to apply.

This opportunity will be advertised across the region, and every consideration will be made to ensure projects cover the entire SWORD geography.

Grantees will be required to sign a Grant Agreement with Region 9 Economic Development District—on behalf of the SWORD Council—that they will use the funds as intended.

Funding Eligibility

For a detailed overview of how the proposed project shall be evaluated, please refer to the SWORD Community Grant Application Rubric.

The proposed project must benefit people in treatment and recovery for opioid use disorder or promote opioid use abatement methods.

The funding allocated must be spent within the State of Colorado.

The proposed project must serve the SWORD region and the people and communities therein. It is preferential that the project applicant also be located within the SWORD region.

Requests may be up to \$77,548 for any single project. If a request exceeds this amount, it may not receive full funding.

Entities registered with the Colorado Secretary of State must be able to prove that they are in good standing.

To be eligible for funding, projects must follow [Exhibit E](#) and will be asked to identify which approved use the application request meets. Below is the approved use that SWORD has prioritized:

Support People in Treatment and Recovery:

Support people in recovery from OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions through evidence-based or evidence-informed programs or strategies that may include, but are not limited to, the programs or strategies that:

- i. Provide comprehensive wrap-around services to individuals with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions, including housing, transportation, education, job placement, job training, or childcare.
- ii. Provide the full continuum of care of treatment and recovery services for OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions, including supportive housing, peer support services and counseling, community navigators, case management, and connections to community-based services.
- iii. Provide counseling, peer-support, recovery case management and residential treatment with access to medications for those who need it to persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions.
- iv. Provide access to housing for people with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions, including supportive housing, recovery housing, housing assistance programs, training for housing providers, or recovery housing programs that allow or integrate FDA-approved medication with other support services.
- v. Provide community support services, including social and legal services, to assist in deinstitutionalizing persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions.
- vi. Support or expand peer-recovery centers, which may include support groups, social events, computer access, or other services for persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions.
- vii. Provide or support transportation to treatment or recovery programs or services for persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions.
- viii. Provide employment training or educational services for persons in treatment for or recovery from OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions.
- ix. Identify successful recovery programs such as physician, pilot, and college recovery programs, and provide support and technical assistance to increase the number and capacity of high-quality programs to help those in recovery.
- x. Engage non-profits, faith-based communities, and community coalitions to support people in treatment and recovery and to support family members in their efforts to support the person with OUD in the family.

- xi. Provide training and development of procedures for government staff to appropriately interact and provide social and other services to individuals with or in recovery from OUD, including reducing stigma.
- xii. Support stigma reduction efforts regarding treatment and support for persons with OUD, including reducing the stigma on effective treatment.
- xiii. Create or support culturally appropriate services and programs for persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions, including new Americans.
- xiv. Create and/or support recovery high schools.
- xv. Hire or train behavioral health workers to provide or expand any of the services or supports listed above.

Ineligible Projects

Entities and projects located outside Montezuma, La Plata, Archuleta, San Juan, or Dolores Counties (the SWORD region) are not eligible for funding.

SWORD will not fund political candidates for any office, or projects that promote political or religious ideology.

Funding cannot be used to pay off existing debt or to fund capital projects (such as new construction).

Funding cannot be used for personal expenses or to financially benefit the applicant personally.

Grant Cycle

The first round of local and regional community grant funds will open June 1, 2024. The application will close July 1, 2024. Grantees will be announced via email/phone by August 1, 2024.

At this time, SWORD is not sure if there will be additional rounds of funding.

La Plata County is SWORD's Fiscal Agent. Successful grantees should receive a one-time payment via check from either Region 9 or La Plata County no later than August 30, 2024.

Important Information for Grantees

Application Review Committee

A subcommittee for the SWORD Council will review applications. The application review committee will be made up of no less than four people and shall include subject matter experts, SWORD Council advisory members, and persons with lived experience.

Each member of the application review committee shall complete a SWORD Community Grant Application Rubric for each application they review to determine eligibility and funding priority. Grantees will be determined using this tool as well as a holistic approach to the application.

Each application shall be reviewed by at least two—but no more than four—members of the review committee.

The review committee will prioritize projects that focus on recovery efforts, and then award to other approved uses if funds remain. Grantees may not receive the full amount of funding they request in the application.

Final approval will be decided with a SWORD Council vote during the July 2024 meeting.

Reporting Requirements

Grantees will be asked for a follow-up report within 12 months of receiving funds, during which time the grantee will be asked to provide receipts and/or invoices for expenses incurred. Funding should be spent within this timeframe.

Grantees will be required to complete a W-9 for Region 9 Economic Development to disburse funds.

In the case that funds are not spent in accordance with the original application, grantees will be subject to the terms of the Grant Agreement.

How to Apply

To apply, you must submit the following application before (July 1, 2024). Complete the application in PDF format and email directly to:

Contact Person

Claire West, SWORD Project Coordinator

Email: west.claire@outlook.com

SWORD Community Grant Application

Applicant Information

Organization Name

Applicant Type and EIN

Non-Profit, For-Profit, Other

Contact First Name & Last Name

Mailing Address

Phone Number

Email Address

Project Details

Project Name

Project Description

250 words maximum detailing what you will do with this funding and the specific need(s) your project will address.

Project Location (Address, City, State, Zip Code)

Anticipated Project Start Date

Anticipated Project End Date

Please indicate whether this is a Regional Infrastructure Project or a Local Community Project.

Regional Infrastructure Projects span across counties. The goal with these projects is to extend and strengthen cross-county services. Local Community Projects focus on a specific town or population within a single county.

Local Project

Regional Infrastructure Project

Please indicate from the drop-down menu which approved use from Exhibit E your grant request falls under:

Please note that your project is eligible if it follows Exhibit E and focuses primarily on OUD (even if co-occurring substance use or mental health conditions are present) in accordance with the intent of the opioid settlement funds.

Funding Requirements

Funding Request amount requested

You may request up to \$77,548.

If approved, how will the project/program continue past SWORD's initial funding?

If applicable, explain how the applicant or a collaborating partner will provide in-kind contributions to the project/program.

Collaboration

Is this a new project or program?

Are there any partners (organizations, individuals, non-profits, etc.) involved with this project/program? If so, please list all collaborative partners and their role.

Outcomes & Accountability

The SWORD Council is interested in supporting regional communities to reach their abatement goals. We recognize that things can change between the time a proposal is submitted and when the project is completed. However, we would like to know what your intended outcomes are. Please limit to a maximum of 250 words.

What does success look like for this project?

Describe the evaluation plan for your proposed work. If there are specific models or theories that your activities are developed from, please state this and elaborate where possible. If you intend to use data to measure progress, what information will you gather and how? Including—but not limited to—specific numbers or activities, people served, etc. If your organization has its own processes to evaluate the success of projects, please feel free to include that.

Associated Files & Documents

Please add the following attachments to your application.

Proof of Good Standing with the Secretary of State or Trade Association Certification, if applicable.

This is only required for non-profit and for-profit entities.

Program Budget Template

This template can be found on the Region 9 website. If your organization has a more comprehensive program budget form, please feel free to use that instead.

1 Letter of Support

Application Scoring Guide

For reference only. Do not mark.

Criteria	Excellent	Acceptable	Emerging	Insufficient
APPLICANT INFORMATION	Section is complete and thorough. All components are filled in with hyperlinks and full details. (3 Points)	Section is complete. (2 Points)	Section is mostly complete but missing one component. (1 Point)	Section is missing more than two components. (0 Points)
PROJECT DETAILS: project description	Description is very clear, concise, and easy to understand, and clearly depicts the need the project will address with relevant data. (4 Points)	Description depicts the need for the project well with limited data. (3 Points)	Description depicting the need is somewhat clear but is not supported by data. (2 Points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Description of need is hard to understand, verbose, or uses jargon. (1 Point) Section is missing. (0 Points)
PROJECT DETAILS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project outcomes or activities align with Exhibit E and address constraints of community. (4 Points) The project goals and corresponding outcomes are stated clearly. (4 Points) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project elements align with Exhibit E, but do not take into consideration the needs or constraints of the community. (3 Points) The goals of the grant are clearly stated but there lacks some specificity in what is measurable in outcomes. (3 Points) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project tangentially but not directly related to Exhibit A. (2 Points) The stated goals and outcomes are vaguely stated or lack correlation. (2 Points) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No explicit relationship between project and Exhibit E. (1 Point) The goals do not align with the need stated. No outcomes are described. (1 Point) Section is missing. (0 Points)
BUDGET: sustainability of the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence presented demonstrates that project or its impact can be sustained locally beyond grant period. (4 Points) Budget is attached, appears appropriate for the project, and shows evidence of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project is temporary, designed to end when grant ends, or some effort to secure commitment beyond grant period is indicated. (3 Points) Budget is attached and shows minimal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal includes no financial plan to support future project activities. (2 Points) Budget is attached but does not show evidence of financial viability or appears 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal does not demonstrate project sustainability during or following the grant period. (1 Point) Budget is not attached. (0 Points)

	financial sustainability. (3 Points)	evidence of financial sustainability. (2 Points)	inappropriate for the project. (1 Point)	
COLLABORATION EFFORTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project plan leverages or contributes to existing infrastructure or precedents. Design appears scalable or replicable. (3 Points) • If the program is new, it is not offered elsewhere in the community or is a novel approach. If the program is established, it has evidence of need and success behind it. (3 Points) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project plan does not duplicate other work in the community but lacks collaborative efforts. (2 Points) • If the program is new, it is offered elsewhere in the community. If the program is established, it has evidence of need behind it. (2 Points) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project is isolated from related work and duplicates effort. Funding for this project can be found through other channels. (1 Point) • The project is new or existing. (1 Point) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No effort to research the need or determine existing resources is evident. (0 Points) • It is unclear whether the project is new, novel, or existing. (0 Points)
OUTCOMES: monitoring and assessment plan to evaluate project	Section clearly outlines a project evaluation plan utilizing key performance indicators to monitor progress toward each project goal. (4 Points)	Section contains a project evaluation plan that utilizes key performance indicators to monitor some, but not all, goals. (3 Points)	Section generally describes how the applicant will measure progress towards project goals, but provides no key performance indicators. (2 Points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation plans missing or unusable. (0 Points) • Section contains no evaluation plan to monitor progress. (1 Point)