Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Nonprofits
Seeking Baltimore City Opioid Restitution Fund Funding

AS OF November 4, 2025
[Additional questions and responses have been updated in purple]

This document contains answers to frequently asked questions regarding the City of Baltimore's Opioid Restitution Fund Community Grant funding. The Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs (MORP) will periodically update the document version on our website in response to stakeholder questions.

For overall information about the program, including how to request funding, please visit arp.baltimorecity.gov/orf or email overdoseresponse@baltimorecity.gov.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1. What type of funding is available?

The Baltimore City Opioid Restitution Fund is comprised of funds won by the City of Baltimore in lawsuits against opioid companies to address harms associated with the opioid epidemic.

1.2. How will Baltimore City grant funds to community organizations?

As part of the oversight of Opioid Restitution Funds, the City can provide funds to organization(s) for the purpose of remediating harms associated with the opioid epidemic. Submitting organizations will be required to submit a project proposal to the City. Upon reviewing these proposals, standardized evaluation criteria will be used to score them. Select proposals will be invited to complete a full application. Those applications will also be reviewed with standardized evaluation criteria. The top proposals will be recommended to the Mayor for review and consideration. Once the awards receive approval from executive leadership, the City will announce them to awardees.

1.3. If awarded funds, what reports will be required?

Organizations receiving funds will be required to submit monthly and quarterly program and expenditure reports on City-provided templates.

1.4. What are "community grants"?

"Community grants" refers to funding made available through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process for community-based organizations and nonprofits. This distinguishes them from direct allocations to named organizations. For-profit companies are not eligible to receive these grants.

2. ELIGIBILITY

2.1. **What kinds of organizations can submit applications?**

Eligible submitting organizations will be those that are not for-profit. If applying for Tier 2 or Tier 3 funding, submitting organizations must have 501(c)3 status. Organizations must be in good financial standing and have a valid Employer Identification Number (EIN).

Organizations that have already received funding or those that have an earmark to receive funds in FY26 from Baltimore City's ORF are not eligible to apply.

Organizations must have proven experience in Baltimore City in effectively serving populations impacted by the opioid overdose crisis. Eligible applicants should provide evidence of effective service delivery, including prior or current programs, outreach initiatives, partnerships, or community engagement efforts. The experience should reflect a culturally responsive, trauma-informed, and community-centered approach, with measurable outcomes or indicators of community trust as evidence of impact.

2.2. **Can I submit a proposal using a Fiscal Sponsor?**

Yes. Organizations can submit proposals using a Fiscal Sponsor. Organizations should indicate their intention to use a Fiscal Sponsor throughout the proposal. The Fiscal Sponsor can also act as the applicant. If the Fiscal Sponsor has 501(c)3 status, organizations can apply for all funding tiers. Should an organization with a fiscal sponsor be selected to move on to the application stage, due diligence information for both organizations will be required before a project can be selected for funding.

2.3. **Can organizations coordinate and jointly submit one project proposal?**

Yes, organizations can coordinate and jointly submit one project proposal. However, a lead organization must be chosen to submit the proposal. Should the proposal move to the application stage and be selected for funding, the lead organization will work with the secondary organization as a sub-grantee. All partner organizations should be clearly named and described in the proposal. In cases where an organization uses a fiscal agent, both the fiscal agent and the applying organization may be formally recognized in the grant agreement.

2.4. **Can you partner with an organization named in the settlement?**

Yes. Partnerships are encouraged to break down silos and strengthen community collaboration. However, proposals that sub-award significant funds to a named organization may receive additional review.

2.5. **What kind of projects and programs are eligible for Baltimore City Opioid Restitution Funds?**

2.6. This Request for Projects outlines specific guidelines for the activities that will be funded. All projects must align with the "Approved Uses" identified in the Mayor's Executive Order, should address Baltimore City's Overdose Response Strategic Plan, and serve populations in greatest need.

2.7. **How can an organization ensure that a project is eligible for funding?**

Organizations should address the following questions to self-assess the eligibility of proposed projects:

- Is your organization nonprofit or community-based? (Answer must be "yes" to be eligible for funding.)
- Is your organization named in the Baltimore City Opioid Settlement Agreements? (Answer must be "no" to be eligible for funding.)
- Does your organization currently have an operating location in Baltimore City? (Answer must be "yes" to be eligible for funding.)

Projects should also respond to the requirements of the tier for which they are applying. Information about each tier is in the table below:

	Funding Range	Awards	Funding Requirements
Tier 3	Up to $500,000	Approximately 2-3 awards	*Increase availability of low-barrier mobile treatment services, specifically in geographic areas that are disproportionately affected by overdose but may not have the necessary number of services to meet the need (Activity 1c).* *Inclusion of Strategic Plan Activities 1b, 7a, and 12c is also highly encouraged.* Tier 3 funding must include robust Harm Reduction services, as outlined in Activity 7a, which states the City aims to increase access to a full array of low-barrier Harm Reduction services (including naloxone distribution, drug checking, syringe service programs, and other evidence-based strategies), *and low-barrier, Harm Reduction-informed clinical treatment.*
Tier 2	Up to $250,000	Approximately 2-4 awards	*Increase access to a full array of low-barrier harm reduction services (including naloxone distribution, drug checking, syringe service programs, wound care, and other evidence-based strategies) (Activity 7a).* *Inclusion of Strategic Plan Activities 1b, 1c, and 12c is also highly encouraged.* Tier 2 funding must include robust Harm Reduction services, as outlined in Activity 7a, which states the City aims to increase access to a full array of low-barrier Harm Reduction services (including naloxone distribution, drug checking, syringe service programs, and other evidence-based strategies).
Tier 1	Up to $50,000	Approximately 3-6 awards	*Increase access to low-barrier social support services (housing, transportation, food assistance, education, and employment) for people who use drugs and people with substance use disorders. (Strategy 12)* *Inclusion of Strategic Plan Activities 1b, 1c, 7a, and 12c is also highly encouraged.*

2.3. **How much funding is reserved for community grants?**

The City has allocated $2 million in total to community grants in Fiscal Year 2026.

2.4.   Can institutions of higher education apply?

Yes. As long as the institution meets the eligibility requirement of being a non-profit, community organization, or a 501(c)(3), it may apply. Applicants for Tiers 2 or 3 must have 501(c)(3) status.

2.5.   Will newly established nonprofits be considered for funding?

Yes, but applicants must have an operating location in Baltimore City and demonstrate a track record of providing services. Newer organizations should show capacity and community connections that meet these requirements.

2.6.   Can hybrid organizations (both for-profit and nonprofit) apply?

Yes. An organization with both nonprofit and for-profit arms may apply, but applicants must clearly describe the roles of each and demonstrate that grant funds will not benefit the for-profit entity.

2.7.   Can organizations partner with for-profit entities?

Yes, partnerships with for-profit organizations are allowed, but funding cannot directly benefit for-profit partners.

2.8.   Do organizations need to establish Overdose Response Programs (ORPs) to apply?

No. Being an established ORP is not required, but it is encouraged. Applicants for Tier 2 (comprehensive harm reduction services) should clearly outline how they will obtain harm reduction supplies such as naloxone or testing strips.

2.9.   If an organization received other Baltimore City Opioid Restitution Funding as a named organization, can they still receive community grant funding?

No. Organizations named in settlement agreements that receive funding from the Baltimore City Opioid Restitution Fund are currently ineligible to apply for community grants. However, they can partner with another organization as a sub-grantee (see the response to 2.12 above).

2.10.   How can we tell if our organization was named in the settlement agreement?

Organizations named in the settlement were notified directly and featured in a public press announcement. These organizations are already working with the Mayor's Office of Overdose Response and the Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs.

2.11.   Can a lead organization still be considered if its partner is a past grantee or a named entity in the settlement?

Yes. Lead organizations partnering with past grantees or named entities are still eligible. These applications will be reviewed in full context to ensure compliance with funding requirements.

2.12. Do applicants need to have a physical or brick-and-mortar location in Baltimore City?

No. Organizations do not need to own or lease a physical location. However, applicants must have a history of serving people in Baltimore City and demonstrate an operational presence within the city.

Operating out of a partner site—such as a church, community center, or another organization's facility—is acceptable as long as services are delivered in Baltimore City.

2.13. Are only nonprofit organizations allowed to apply?

Per the eligibility criteria, submitting organizations must not be for-profit.
- For Tier 1 (Social Support Services), applicants do not need to have 501(c)(3) status. Community-based organizations are eligible. Community-based organizations may be nonstock corporations and must be registered and in good standing with the State of Maryland Department of Assessments & Taxation.
- For Tiers 2 and 3 (Harm Reduction, Mobile Treatment and Social Support Services), applicants must have 501(c)(3) status.

2.14. Can an organization apply for all tiers through a partnership?

Yes. A fiscal agent or lead organization with 501(c)(3) status may apply on behalf of partners for all three tiers. However, an organization is only eligible to receive funding for one proposal in this cycle.

2.15. Can a nonprofit organization outside of Baltimore City (e.g., Harford County) apply?

To be eligible, organizations must operate in Baltimore City and deliver services to Baltimore City residents.
For example, a nonprofit located in Harford County that also operates out of a Baltimore City partner site may qualify.
Fiscal Sponsors do not need to be based in Baltimore City as long as the submitting organization has operations in Baltimore City and the Fiscal Sponsor is registered in Maryland.

2.16. Is the funding limited to Baltimore City residents?

Yes. Funding from the Opioid Restitution Fund is intended only for programs operating in and serving residents of Baltimore City.

2.17. Can quasi-City entities apply for funding through this process?

As an addendum to the Submitting Organization Eligibility section of the Instructions for Proposals for Funding for Baltimore City Opioid Restitution Fund Community Grants dated October 23, 2025, there is added that Organizations:

- Must not be a quasi-City entity, or an affiliate or subsidiary of that entity, that can be or is funded by the City through its annual budgeting process.

3. APPLICATIONS

3.1. Can I use AI to write my proposal or application?

Generative AI can answer questions and generate text, images, and media. For this proposal, we do not explicitly prohibit organizations from using AI. However, please do not attempt to answer proposal questions solely with generative AI, as it lacks context and generally does not provide sufficiently accurate responses. Always find, verify, and cite sources for ideas. Your organization is responsible for verifying sources and facts. Generative AI tools sometimes invent facts and sources. Proposals that are incorrect or lack sufficient detail are less likely to receive funding.

3.2. When can nonprofit organizations apply for funding?

The application portal will open on October 23, 2025, and close on November 23, 2025, at 11:59 pm.

3.3. Can an organization submit multiple proposals, and if they do, can more than one be selected for funding?

Yes, multiple applications may be submitted; however, only one project per organization will be selected for funding.

3.4. How detailed does the organization's proposal have to be?

A proposal is a concise overview of the proposed project. It provides a project description, identifies potential performance measures, and offers a high-level overview of the budget and potential cost impacts. It also includes organizational information to ensure that organizations meet the requirements to receive Opioid Restitution Funds. Provide as much relevant detail as possible within the proposal form, especially in relation to the scoring criteria. The information provided in the proposal will be reviewed for eligibility by MORP and BCMOOR. Character limits are included in each question. The complete application phase will require additional detail, building on your initial proposal.

3.5. Can a sub-grantee on one proposal apply for another separate grant?

Yes. Being a sub-grantee on one application does not prevent an organization from submitting its own separate proposal.

3.6. Is there a page limit for proposals?

There are character limits for each section of the proposal form.

3.7. How is the application submitted—uploaded or entered directly?

Applications are completed through the online portal with line-by-line responses. Applicants may upload supporting documents in the optional "Additional Information" section (up to 9MB total).

3.8. Can proposals be started, saved, and resumed later?

Yes. Applications can be saved and edited before submission. Multiple collaborators may work on a proposal simultaneously.

3.9. Can applicants preview the application without submitting it?

Yes. After completing the eligibility section, you can view all proposal questions. However, full application questions are only visible once a proposal is submitted and selected to advance.

https://arp.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/RFP_ORF_Applicant Instructions_Appendix C.pdf

4. PROCESS

4.1. Is there a user guide for the application portal?

Yes, a user guide is included in the application instructions, which can be found in **Appendix G.** MORP will also provide an orientation for submitting organizations on October 26 at 10 am and October 27 at 6 pm, and will review the use of the portal at that time.

4.2. Can multiple users work on one application?

Yes, multiple users can work together by using the "collaborate" function in the online application.

4.3. Can a project proposal be saved and edited later?

Yes, the online application portal allows a proposal to be saved during the editing process and completed later.

4.4. How are applications evaluated?

If the project is determined to be eligible for funding, the proposal will then be scored against 100-point criteria by the Proposal Review Team. Proposals receiving an average score greater than 80 will be reviewed by the full Restitution Advisory Board, which will select proposals that will advance to the application stage. The criteria are in **Appendix C.**

4.5. When will an organization be notified if a project has been chosen for funding?

Applicants will receive regular email communication from MORP via the portal through each step of the process. There is no commitment to fund any project until a City executive has approved it through the process outlined in the "Applicant Instructions" document.

4.6. Can an organization withdraw its project proposal?

Yes, an organization can withdraw its project proposal at any stage prior to signing the grant agreement.

4.7. What is the timeline for awards?
- Applications open October 23, 2025
- Initial proposals due November 23, 2025
- Final applications due January 25, 2026
- Awards will support programming for up to two years

4.8. What financial documents are required?

Applicants must provide:
- Their most recent operating budget
- Any recent financial audits or findings
- Proof of good standing with the State of Maryland (a printed eSTAT lookup is acceptable)
- Applicants will also need to provide a general overview of how the requested funds will be allocated across activities.

Organizations awarded funds may be requested to provide other financial documentation as applicable.

4.9. Will responses to applicant questions be made public?

Yes. This consolidated FAQ document is available on the program website: arp.baltimorecity.gov/org. It is regularly updated to include all questions and answers from information sessions and training events.

5. FUNDING, TIERS, AND SCOPE

5.1.   What tier does public education fall into?

Public education is broad and may only fit if it directly supports activities outlined within a specific tier, such as mobile treatment, harm reduction services, or social supports. Projects unrelated to these core activities are unlikely to be eligible this round.

5.2.   How long can funding support a project?

Funding can cover up to two years. The maximum award amount (for example, $500,000 for Tier 3) applies to the entire project period, not per fiscal year.

5.3.   Are there geographic restrictions for mobile services?

No specific restrictions apply. Applicants should prioritize areas with high overdose rates, using data from the City's needs assessment. Mobile services are encouraged for their flexibility in moving to where the need is greatest.

5.4.   Is the purchase of a vehicle or van allowable?

Refer to Appendix A of the RFP for allowable and unallowable costs. Generally, if an expense is not listed as unallowable, it is considered allowable so long as it correlates to an activity within a specific tier.

5.5.   What qualifies as an unallowable "large construction project"?

The current funding round prioritizes direct service delivery over capital projects.
- Large-scale or long-term construction efforts are not eligible.
- Small-scale improvements that directly support service delivery (e.g., outfitting a space for harm reduction or mobile treatment) may be allowable if consistent with program goals.

Applicants should focus on activities that can be implemented and make a measurable impact within the two-year grant period.

5.6.   Will additional funding opportunities be available in future years? For example, will there be future grant rounds for other focus areas, such as developing opioid alternatives or expanding access to medication for opioid use disorder?
Yes. This is the first competitive funding opportunity from the Opioid Restitution Fund (ORF). Future rounds will be shaped by annual budget allocations and the City's ongoing overdose response priorities.

Future funding priorities will be based on the City's Comprehensive Needs Assessment and updates to the Overdose Response Strategic Plan, with guidance

from the Restitution Advisory Board. These areas may be considered if identified as priority needs.

The Mayor's Executive Order establishing the ORF requires that the fund be sustained for at least 15 years, ensuring ongoing support for Baltimore's long-term overdose prevention and recovery efforts.