Access to Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder
Request for Proposals
February 2020
GENERAL INFORMATION

Background

Greater Cincinnati continues to be in the middle of an opioid epidemic. Interact for Health’s 20-county region is experiencing a growing prevalence of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids combined with other illegal substances. In 2018, illicit fentanyl or fentanyl analogs were involved in nearly 73% of overdose deaths in Ohio, often in combination with other drugs.¹

Nationally in 2017, an estimated 20.7 million people ages 12 or older needed substance use treatment. That’s about 1 in 13 or 7.6% of people ages 12 or older.² Many communities in Interact for Health’s 20-county service area lack sufficient access to medication-assisted treatment and behavioral health providers. Among the many factors, the shortage of substance use disorder providers, particularly in rural areas, exacerbates access to evidence-based treatment service.³

In response to the opioid epidemic, Interact for Health has adopted a comprehensive approach to reduce the trend of opioid overdoses and deaths from opioids. These efforts include increasing access to treatment, recovery support, reducing the stigma of addiction and supporting harm reduction strategies. Research shows that a comprehensive approach can reduce substance misuse and related problems.⁴

As part of its strategic plan, Interact for Health has prioritized increasing access to treatment for opioid use disorder. Simply increasing capacity for treatment may not effectively increase availability (or decrease opioid-related overdoses) if treatment providers are not located in areas of need.⁵ Interact for Health plans to expand access to treatment by increasing the number of physicians and practitioners with waivers to the Drug Addiction Treatment Act 2000 and certified/licensed behavioral health providers, and encouraging the use of telehealth services.

RFP Goal

To increase the number of treatment providers in Interact for Health’s 20-county service area who provide evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder.

RFP Overview

Interact for Health seeks to support qualified community partners using an integrated approach to treat opioid use disorder. Proposed projects will expand treatment services in areas where either prescribers or clinicians do not currently offer services or in communities where the need is greater than existing capacity. All applicants must demonstrate how they are currently implementing or plan to implement “Five Signs of Quality Treatment,” as described by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.⁶

Key elements of these programs will require the grantee to implement one of the following:

- Partnerships between licensed clinicians and at least one DATA 2000-waivered prescriber. Provided MAT services to include naltrexone and buprenorphine. Methadone access must be included in communities where methadone clinics exist.
- Use of telehealth for screening, assessments and/or prescription of naltrexone and buprenorphine by licensed clinicians.

In order to increase treatment access, Interact for Health will award up to **$200,000**. Planning grants will not exceed **12 months and $25,000**. Implementation grants will not exceed **12 months and $50,000**. Funding length and amount will depend on the proposed activities and plans.

A planning grant may include activities such as convening a work group to develop an evidence-based treatment network, determining community readiness and completing a plan for community access to treatment.

Available implementation funds may support costs associated with generating community awareness, costs to support practitioners obtaining DATA 2000 waiver certification, and procuring technology and equipment to deliver telehealth services.

**Eligibility Criteria**

Applicants must:

- Be a public or private nonprofit or governmental organization.
- Provide services in at least one county of Interact for Health’s 20-county service area (see below).

If two or more organizations will be collaborating on the project, either organization may take the lead and serve as the fiscal agent, but representatives from each organization must participate in the application process.

**Interact for Health’s commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion**

Interact for Health has a large service area with diverse communities, and is committed to expanding equity, diversity and inclusion among the grantees it funds. Interact for Health values organizations that have experience working in communities of color and low-income communities, and whose potential staffing of the project is representative of the community they are serving.

**Grantee Requirements**

Awarded grantees are expected to participate in the following throughout the duration of funding:

- Attend up to four grante meetings and technical assistance sessions hosted by Interact for Health.
- Work with Interact for Health to develop an evaluation plan, and participate in activities as part of the overall evaluation of the initiative.

**PROPOSAL SELECTION CRITERIA**

Interact for Health will use the following criteria to select the most competitive proposals. Prioritized programs will:

- Demonstrate the need for treatment services in their community, using local data when possible.
- Demonstrate the capability to provide access to treatment in service area gaps.
- Describe how the applicant is currently implementing or plans to implement “Five Signs of Quality Treatment.”
- Include new or innovative programmatic approaches.
- Describe whether this is planning or implementing a new program or expanding an existing program.
- Detail a realistic timeline.
- Include matching or in-kind contributions from the lead organization and collaborating organizations.
• Leverage other funding and/or existing resources.
• Have a clearly delineated budget with justification for each line item.
• Have a plan to sustain the project/program after grant funding has ended.

**Timeline**

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proposal workshop (includes</td>
<td>1:30-3:30 p.m., Feb. 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to new online</td>
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<td>application process)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposal deadline</td>
<td>5 p.m., March 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site visits</td>
<td>April 2 and 3</td>
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<td>Notification of grant award</td>
<td>April 22</td>
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<td>Grantee meeting/workshop</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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**Proposal Workshop**

Interested applicants who have questions are invited to join the Access to Treatment Proposal Workshop from **1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Feb. 25** at Interact for Health, 3805 Edwards Road, Suite 500, Cincinnati, OH 45209. Attendance is optional and not required in order to submit a proposal. Driving directions can be found at [https://www.interactforhealth.org/location-directions](https://www.interactforhealth.org/location-directions).

**Proposal Submissions**

Completed proposals must be submitted no later than **5 p.m. March 17**, via Interact for Health’s online grants management system. To begin the application process or to access a PDF of the required application questions, please visit [https://www.interactforhealth.org/requests-for-proposals](https://www.interactforhealth.org/requests-for-proposals).

If your organization has received a grant from Interact for Health in the past, you may already have an account. For assistance with the application process, please contact Senior Grants Manager Kristine Schultz at kschultz@interactforhealth.org.

**Site Visits**

Before selecting projects for funding, Interact for Health staff will conduct a site visit with the potential grantee. Representatives from collaborating organizations are required to attend the site visit. This meeting allows Interact for Health staff to hear more about the proposed project and ask any clarifying questions. Site visits will be conducted **April 2 and 3**. Applicants will indicate their preferred timeslot during the application process.

**Questions**

Interested applicants unable to attend the proposal workshop should direct questions to Senior Program Officer Sonya Carrico at scarrico@interactforhealth.org or 513-458-6647.