

# TOMPKINS COMMUNITY OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND COMMUNITY PROJECTS (OSFC)

## BACKGROUND

The State Attorney General negotiated opioid settlement payments for New York State and its counties. Payments to the counties consist of both one-time payments and recurring payments for several years. The Tompkins County Legislature appointed the Tompkins County Opioid Task Force in October 2022 to help ensure the funds are used for [approved uses](#) and strategies per settlement stipulation.

## PLEASE NOTE:

The Opioid Task Force is proceeding with this grant program with the understanding that some components of the Opioid Settlement cases are still being finalized in court, and there may be additional funds to allocate towards proposals in the coming years. The Tompkins County Opioid Taskforce may modify or refuse to make awards based on the availability of funds.

## PURPOSE OF REQUEST

To prepare to allocate these incoming funds towards innovative community efforts, the Tompkins County Opioid Taskforce is soliciting proposals for programs or interventions that target the opioid crisis in Tompkins County and support our local community members dealing with the effects of the opioid epidemic. Proposals are encouraged from for-profit, not-for-profit, educational, and government entities/organizations.

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Support organizations/entities of all sizes and origins in Tompkins County in combating the effects of the opioid crisis.
- Provide support/resources for individuals and families dealing with the effects of the opioid crisis.
- Encourage new and innovative solutions to mitigating the opioid epidemic.
- Bolster capacity of local partners to evolve or improve prevention and response efforts.
- Further develop the support network for individuals dealing with opioid use disorder.
- Support the workforce/staff dealing with the impacts of the opioid crisis.
- Improve community understanding regarding the opioid epidemic.

## REQUIRED PROGRAM PARAMETERS

Intent and Focus The Tompkins County Opioid Task Force invited local treatment and advocacy agencies to present on the gaps and needs that exist in working with individuals with Opioid Use Disorder in Tompkins County. Based on the feedback

received, the Task Force has prioritized supporting innovative programs which address any or all of the following areas\*:

**\*Please note:** *interventions listed are not comprehensive, and applications are not limited to interventions from these suggestions. However, all proposals must meet the eligibility requirements in [Schedule C](#).*

### 1. **Strengthen Network related to Overdose Prevention**

This category includes strategies that strengthen the network within the county related to ***overdose prevention***. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Increasing the number of people who are educated and trained in overdose prevention, including strengthening outreach to businesses, schools, historically marginalized populations, or youth-prevention organizations.
- Enhancing the collaborative coordinated response among agencies or providers. For example: implementing fatality reviews, creating a Post Overdose Response Team, improving availability of real time data, etc.
- Expanding outreach strategies in rural or other geographically hard-to-reach areas.

### 2. **Expand Harm Reduction Strategies and Improve Collaboration**

This category includes strategies to increase access to ***harm reduction resources and improve collaboration*** within the county. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Installing a Narcan vending machine.
- Increasing community distribution of fentanyl testing strips.
- Providing and/or broadening access to response training such as Narcan “Train the trainer”.
- Creating or improving cross collaboration among agencies, organizations, and/or providers to streamline and create warm “hand offs” for affected populations among available services and resources.
- Providing support/resources for individuals and families dealing with the effects of the opioid crisis.

### 3. **Workforce Investment**

This category includes strategies focused on ***supporting the workforce*** involved with substance use and opioid use disorder. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Providing access to additional training for enhanced outreach strategies, community education approaches, prevention, or treatment methods.
- Hiring new staff with appropriate expertise to expand capacity (such as Peers).

- Providing support/resources for the emotional health and wellness of staff working in this field.

Proposals must demonstrate how the program or intervention would address the opioid crisis within Tompkins County and support the community at the organizational and/or individual level. The Tompkins County Opioid Task Force recognizes the systemic and structural factors associated with the opioid crisis which have disproportionately impacted vulnerable populations, such as Black and Brown individuals along with other minorities, and innovative programs which consider this aspect are encouraged. Successful applicants will be explicit with their plans to engage the impacted population.

Structure The proposed project must fall within the approved uses as defined in [Schedule C](#), and have a focus population within Tompkins County. Projects that are innovative or new to the community are encouraged. Proposals for funding to continue existing projects will not be considered.

The same agency/applicant may submit *separate* proposals for both **Pool A** and **Pool B**. The two pools of money cannot be combined for the same project or intervention.

\$ Pool	# of funded applications*	Maximum amount per award	Allocation per year (3 years)
A	4*	\$165,000	Allow respondents to propose year-to-year amounts <u>OR</u> use all at once. <i>(Suggested: \$55k/year over three years)</i>
B	4*	\$10,000	Allow respondents to propose year-to-year amounts <u>OR</u> use all at once.

\* Please note that the number of funded applications per pool may fluctuate based on the number of applications submitted to each pool.

Duration Applications for **Pool A** are required to continue activities for at least three years. Applications for **Pool B** should define the applicant's plans for how funds will be allocated each year. If additional Opioid Settlement funding becomes available in the future, any applicants will be able to reapply. Current funding is approved for activities between **June 2023 and June 2026**.

Pay If a project proposes wages to be paid, all Federal and New York state wage and hour laws must be followed, and hours must be documented on the participant's timesheet. As of December 31, 2022, minimum wage is \$16.61 per hour. Participant lunch period must be unpaid. Stipends are not permitted, and it is expected that participants will be on the provider's payroll. Wages are paid for

work.

Budget 100% of the overall budget must be utilized for the approved project only. Funds cannot be used to supplant existing funding or programming.

## FOCUS POPULATIONS

**Program participants** must be Tompkins County residents who are:

- Individuals facing opioid use disorder (OUD) or opioid misuse.
- Families, friends, co-workers, etc. of individuals facing opioid use disorder (OUD) or opioid misuse.
- Families, friends, co-workers, etc. who have lost someone due to opioids, or are otherwise facing the impacts of the opioid crisis.
- Staff who are working directly with populations impacted by opioid use disorder or opioid misuse.

**Respondents** must be Tompkins County organizations which work with individuals who meet the above criteria.

Community start-ups or grassroots organizations are encouraged to apply for the one-time **Pool B** funding opportunity. Applications for both pools which explicitly describe the involvement of particularly vulnerable populations (such as Black and Brown communities, unhoused people, youth, etc.) are also strongly encouraged.

## MONITORING AND REPORTING FOR COMPLIANCE

Opioid Task Force members and/or Legislature members reserve the right to periodically visit funded programs to conduct informal program evaluations including informal interviews/discussions around program progress, successes, or barriers.

Programs receiving funding through this grant application process may be required to provide progress reports to the Opioid Task Force and/or Legislature. These occurrences would be requested and scheduled with appropriate notice.

## PROPOSAL EVALUATION

To be reviewed, a proposal must be complete and must comply with all requirements of this grant application process. A proposal may be excluded from funding consideration for any of the following reasons:

- Goals or outcomes that are not in accordance with objectives of this program.
- Did not follow grant application guidelines, i.e.: not meeting proposal submission deadline date and time.
- Activities specifically not allowed by Federal, State, or local laws.
- History of contract non-compliance or poor past or current contract performance.
- Training site and facilities not in full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals meeting the minimum grant application process requirements will be evaluated based on, but not limited to, the following criteria.

### Quality of Program Design-60 points

- Describes a thorough project plan that includes specific strategies aligned with required grant application program parameters, but also the organizational program goals and program intent.
- Offers new or innovative approaches to mitigating the impacts of the opioid crisis in Tompkins County.
- Demonstrates engagement and/or collaboration with other community partners, as appropriate.
- Incorporates specific strategies for serving underserved/vulnerable/historically marginalized populations.
- Provides rationale for proposed project/program that clearly explains the potential impact within Tompkins County.
- Demonstrates a method for tracking and evaluating outcomes.

### Demonstrated Capability-20 points.

- Record of successful program management and financial operations, including an ability to implement proposed strategies successfully and manage funding responsibly.
- Demonstrated appropriate professional skill/knowledge to implement proposed strategies.
- History of success in serving the focus population.
- Has a history of collaborating with other agencies.

### Cost Efficiency-20 points

- Clarity and completeness of budget detail
- Reasonableness of program costs

## SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

The deadline for submission of proposals is **5pm on Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**To complete an application, please use the following link:** [Opioid Settlement Fund Community Projects: Tompkins County](#)

**Any questions can be submitted to:** [OpioidTaskForce@tompkins-co.org](mailto:OpioidTaskForce@tompkins-co.org)



Legislature

**CHAIR**  
Shawna Black

**VICE CHAIR**  
Dan Klein

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*Application Link: [OSFC Application](#)*

*QR Code to application:*



Opioid  
Task Force