



Request for Proposals

Community Responses to Opioid Related Harm – July 2025

Overview

The County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency Behavioral Health Division has contracted with Community Foundation Santa Cruz County to make grants for the prevention, early intervention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery of opioid related disorders and harm.

Background

From 1999 to the present, over 700,000 people have died in the United States from an overdose involving any opioid, including prescription opioids. To deal with some of the local impacts, Santa Cruz County, in 2018, filed a complaint against opioid manufacturers, distributors and pharmacies alleging that they falsely marketed, unlawfully promoted, and dispensed opioids in ways that the industry knew to be dangerous, addictive, and prone to abuse. The County's case was combined with thousands of other opioid cases for joint administration purposes.

These combined cases paved the way for national settlements with many of the defendants. Some defendants declared bankruptcy and those matters are proceeding in bankruptcy court.

The settlement agreements, each hundreds of pages long, are available at www.nationalopioidsettlement.com. The County's share of the total settlement amount is approximately \$26 million over 18 years (the "Opioid Settlement Funds" or "OSF"). The County began receiving OSF in November 2022. The first round of two-year grants were awarded locally through a competitive process in 2024.

The national settlements require that OSF be used to abate the impacts of the opioid crisis. The allowed uses are detailed in an attachment to the national settlement agreement known as Exhibit E, a copy of which is attached to this RFP.

High Impact Abatement Activities

Because the national settlement funds are being administered through participating states, each state has its own process for distributing funds to cities and counties within those states. The State of California required participating subdivisions of the State to enter into the California State Subdivision Agreement, which mandates participating cities and counties abide by Exhibit E and adds additional requirements regarding spending on "High Impact Abatement Activities" or "HIAA").

At least 50% of annual expenditures must be for one or more HIAA. The State of California defines HIAA as follows:

1. Provision of matching funds or operating costs for substance use disorder facilities within the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program.
2. Creating new or expanded substance use disorder (SUD) treatment infrastructure.
3. Addressing the needs of communities of color and vulnerable populations (including sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations) that are disproportionately impacted by SUD.
4. Diversion of people with SUD from the justice system into treatment, including by providing training and resources to first and early responders (sworn and non-sworn) and implementing best practices for outreach, diversion and deflection, employability, restorative justice, and harm reduction.
5. Interventions to prevent drug addiction in vulnerable youth.
6. The purchase of naloxone for distribution and efforts to expand access to naloxone for opioid overdose reversals.

Eligibility & Funding Amounts

Nonprofit organizations with service delivery in Santa Cruz County are eligible to apply. Government agencies are not eligible for this grant program.

A total of \$810,000 will be distributed in this round. Awards will be granted up to \$400,000 and grantees will have a grant performance period of up to 2 years to spend the grant funds; funds must be expended by 6/30/27.

In addition to the HIAA described above, OSF are allowed for purposes described in Exhibit E of the settlement agreement.

To be eligible for an award of these funds, applicants must detail how these funds will be spent within the County of Santa Cruz. Round 1 awardees are welcome to apply for continued support or a new project. If successful, Round 2 funds would be issued to a prior awardee only after Round 1 funds are expended in full.

Timeline

July 25 – Application period opens, Foundation staff available to answer questions [here](#)

September 25 – 11:59 PM - Requests due in the [grant portal](#)

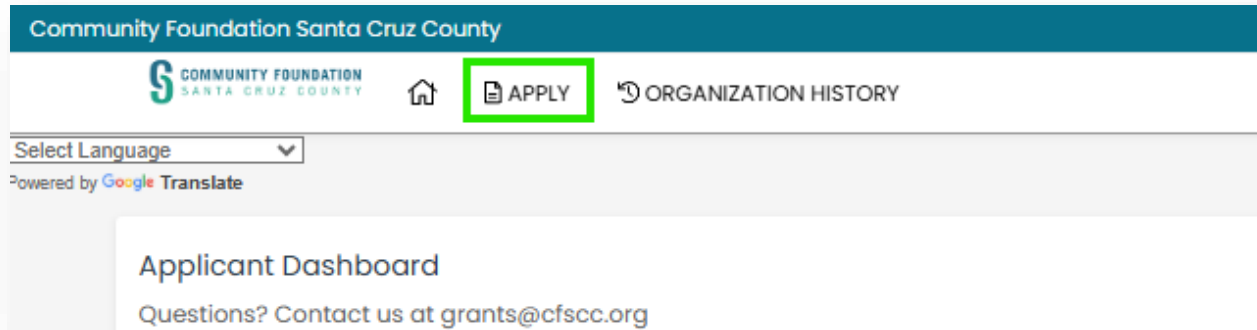
October – Funding decisions announced, grant payments issued.

June 30, 2027 – Funds must be expended

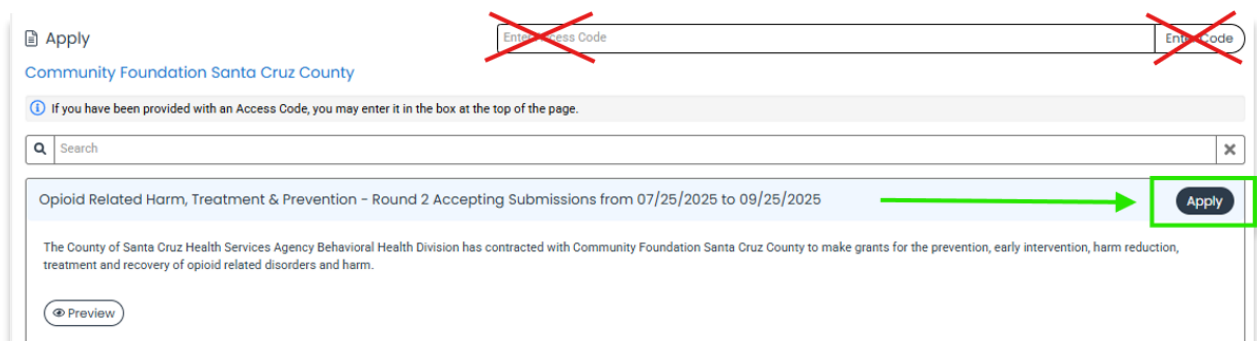
How to Apply

To respond to this call for proposals, access the Foundation's grant portal (www.cfsc.org/grantsportal). Create an organizational profile if you don't yet have one.

From the Applicant Dashboard, navigate to the 'Apply' button in the header:



Next, click the 'Apply' button within the Opioid Related Harm, Treatment & Prevention opportunity:



Next, you'll be brought directly to the application where you'll submit responses to the prompts below and upload a project budget and recent financials. The application will save periodically, but you can save manually by scrolling to the bottom of the page and clicking 'Save Application'.

Proposal Questions

1. Please describe in detail how you will use this grant if awarded (detail the project scope, promising or evidence-based practices, program, service provision or novel approach that would be funded).
2. Please describe your organization's experience with substance use prevention, early intervention, harm reduction, treatment and/or recovery?
3. Please describe the services your organization already has in place for substance use prevention, early intervention, harm reduction, treatment and/or recovery?
4. If you do not have experience with substance use prevention, early intervention, harm reduction, treatment and/or recovery, how would a grant allow your organization to broaden services to include it?
5. Which of the six High Impact Abatement Activities (listed above) will you address?

6. Please tell us how many people you would serve in any of the High Impact Abatement Activities including demographic information for your current and projected program participants. Please describe in as much detail as possible how many people you intend to serve and with what level of programming (for example, how many trainings you will provide, how many people will receive treatment, etc.).
7. Please describe how you intend to measure the quality of the services you provide.
8. Please describe at least 3 SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound) objectives that will be accomplished with these grant funds.
9. Please include a detailed budget for your program including any funding sources in addition to OSF.
10. Please describe your proposal's long-term sustainability plan.

How to Learn More

Questions? Review our FAQs and ask a new question [here](#) or contact Kevin Heuer, Community Foundation Santa Cruz County at kheuer@cfsc.org or 831-662-2030.

Attachments

Exhibit E Allowable Uses:

[Exhibit E PDF](#)



Exhibit E.pdf

Budget Template:

[Grant Request Budget.xlsx](#)



Grant_Req
est_Budget