

First Responders – Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (FR-CARA) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Webinar

Shannon Hastings, MPH
NOFO Lead, Division of Targeted Prevention (DTP)
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP)
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
Shannon.Hastings@samhsa.hhs.gov

March 15, 2024

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Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

Agenda

Opening Remarks

CDR Cara Alexander, Director, Division of Targeted Prevention (DTP), Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Program Overview

Riley Lynch, Public Health Advisor, DTP, CSAP, SAMHSA

Participant Protections

Devin Sweat, Public Health Advisor, DTP, CSAP, SAMHSA

Application Evaluation Criteria

Shannon Hastings, NOFO Lead, DTP, CSAP, SAMHSA

Review & Clarification of Frequently Asked Questions

Shannon Hastings, NOFO Lead, DTP, CSAP, SAMHSA

Closing Remarks

CDR Cara Alexander, Director, DTP, CSAP, SAMHSA

Opening Remarks

CDR Cara Alexander, PhD, LCSW, BCD
Director, Division of Targeted Prevention
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Cara.Alexander@samhsa.hhs.gov

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Before We Get Started

Please use the Q&A box to submit questions

Questions may be submitted at any time during the presentation

Time will be allotted at the end of the webinar to answer questions in the Q&A box

This webinar will be recorded. A link to the recording and the presentation slides will be posted on [SAMHSA's Grants Dashboard](#) within 5 business days.

Program Overview

Riley Lynch, MPH
Public Health Advisor, Division of Targeted Prevention
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Riley.Lynch@samhsa.hhs.gov

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Program Overview (NOFO pg. 5 & 6)

Funding Opportunity Title: First Responders – Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (Short Title: FR-CARA)

Funding Opportunity Number: TI-24-006

Estimated Total Available Funding: Up to \$6.2M (\$2.5M for rural communities and \$3.7 for nonrural communities)

Estimated Number of Awards: Up to 15 awards (At least three awards will be made to tribes and tribal organizations, pending adequate application volume.)

Award Amount: \$300,000-\$800,000 per award, per year

Cost Sharing/Match Required: No

Authorizing Statute: Section 546 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, (42 USC 290ee-1), as amended

Anticipated Award Process (NOFO pg. 5)

Award Posted Date: February 14th, 2024

Due Date for Applications: April 15th, 2024

Anticipated Award Date: No later than September 29th, 2024

Anticipated Project Start Date: September 30th, 2024

Length of Project Period: Up to 4 years

FR-CARA Grant Purpose (NOFO pg. 7)

Support first responders and other key community sectors to:

**Train, administer, and provide
FDA-approved overdose
reversal medications or devices**

**Establish processes, protocols,
and mechanisms for warm hand-
off referrals**

**Provide safety education
around fentanyl and synthetic
opioids**

**Provide resources to populations
disproportionately impacted by
overdose**

Priority Populations (NOFO pg. 7)

An additional 10 points will be awarded in the peer review process to applicants who document that more than 50 percent of their service population will include:

**Underserved
communities
([defined by E.O.
13985](#))**

**Communities
disproportionately
impacted by overdose**

**Individuals residing in
communities with a
Social Vulnerability
Index (SVI) score
between 0.75 and 1.0**

Priority Populations Cont. (NOFO pg. 7)

For applicants proposing to serve rural communities:

Applicants must certify and identify in Attachment 9 the catchment area, defined as a nonmetropolitan statistical area; an area designated as a rural area by any law or regulation of a state; or a rural census tract of a metropolitan statistical area, known as a Rural Urban Commuting Area (RUCA).

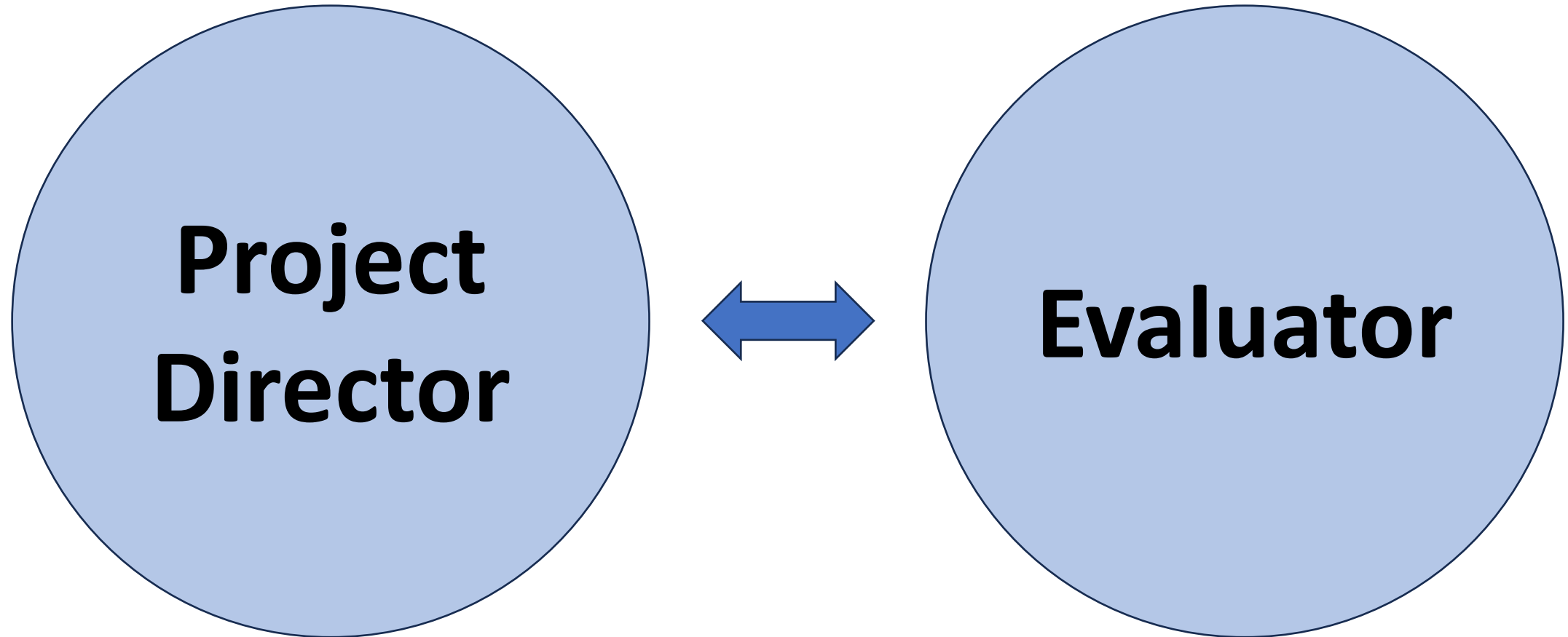
Eligible Applicants (NOFO pg. 17 & 18)

States

American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) tribes and tribal organizations

Local government entities

Key Personnel (NOFO pg. 7 & 8)



Required Activities (NOFO pg. 8 & 9)

Provide FDA-approved overdose reversal medications and/or devices

Train and provide resources for first responders and other key community sectors

Establish procedures for the implementation of evidence-based, trauma-informed practices

Form or join an advisory committee

Required Activities Cont. (NOFO pg. 8 & 9)

Conduct and submit the results of resource mapping	Identify "community anchors"	Establish culturally appropriate mechanisms for referral	Develop strategies to enhance service access for underserved populations
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Allowable Activities (NOFO pg. 9 & 10)

Facilitate field initiation of low-threshold medication

Purchase and distribute naloxone and drug-checking supplies

Develop and implement tobacco cessation and alcohol misuse programs

Allowable Activities Cont. (NOFO pg. 9 & 10)

Provide community first aid or CPR training

Promote health equity

Conduct capacity building activities

Data Collection/Performance Measurement (NOFO pg. 11-13)

Indicators for Quarterly Reporting:

Number of naloxone kits purchased

Number of naloxone kits distributed

Number of naloxone doses administered

Number of first responders and other key community sectors trained

Number of known or suspected opioid overdose events

Number of opioid overdose victims and families who received information and linkages to care

Number of responses to service requests

For reporting purposes, “naloxone” refers to naloxone or other FDA-approved opioid overdose-reversing medication or device

Participant Protections

Devin Sweat, LSW, LAC
Public Health Advisor, Division of Targeted Prevention
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Devin.Sweat@samhsa.hhs.gov



Required Application Components (NOFO pg. 19-24)

Applicants must submit the standard and supporting documents outlined below:

SF-424

SF-424A – BUDGET INFORMATION FORM

PROJECT NARRATIVE

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION AND NARRATIVE

ATTACHMENTS 1-10

Required Application Components Cont. (NOFO pg. 19-24)

Attachments 1-10:

1) Letters of Commitment & Statement of Certification

2) Data Collection Instruments/Interview Protocols

3) Sample Consent Forms

4) Project Timeline

5) Biographical Sketches & Position Description

6) Letter to the State Point of Contact

7) Confidentiality & SAMHSA Participant Protections/Human Subjects Guidelines

8) Documentation & Nonprofit Status

9) Statement of Certification (Rural Communities)

10) Form SMA 170

Purpose of Participant Protections (NOFO pg. 23)

Purpose

- Ensure that the rights, privileges, and privacy of participants are protected throughout a study or program.

Applications

- Must address the **seven** Participant Protection (PP) elements included in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

Participant Protections

1. Protect Participants and Staff from Potential Risks

- Identify and describe the foreseeable physical, medical, psychological, social, and legal risks or potential adverse effects participants **and** staff may be exposed to because of the project.
- Describe the procedures you will follow to minimize or protect participants and staff against potential risks, including risks to confidentiality.
- Identify your plan to provide guidance and assistance if there are adverse effects to participants and/or staff.

2. Fair Selection of Participants

- Explain how you will recruit and select participants, ensuring all populations have equitable opportunities to participate in the program.
- Identify any individuals in the geographic catchment area where services will be delivered who will be excluded from participating in the project and explain the reasons for this exclusion.

Participant Protection (Cont.)

3. Absence of Coercion

- If you plan to compensate participants, describe how participants will be compensated for incentives
- Provide a justification that the use of incentives is appropriate, judicious, and conservative and the incentives do not provide an “undue inducement” that removes the voluntary nature of participation.
- Describe how you will inform participants in a culturally competent manner that they may receive services even if they choose to not participate in or complete the data collection component of the project.

Participant Protections (Cont.)

4. Data Collection

- Identify who you will collect data from (e.g., participants, clients, family members, teachers, others).
- Describe the data collection procedures and specify the sources for obtaining data. Identify the type of specimens that will be used, if any. State if the specimens will be used for purposes other than evaluation.
- In **Attachment 2**, “Data Collection Instruments/Interview Protocols,” you must provide copies of all available data collection instruments and interview protocols that you plan to use. Include any culturally adapted data collection instruments and interview protocols.

Participant Protections (Cont.)

5. Privacy and Confidentiality

- Explain how you will ensure privacy and confidentiality. Describe:
 - Where the data collected will be stored;
 - Who will have access to the data collected; and
 - How the identity of participants will be kept private, for example, using a coding system on data records, limiting access to records, or storing identifiers separately from data.
- Applicants include a statement regarding maintain the confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse client records according to the provisions of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part II, Subpart B.

Participant Protections (Cont.)

6. Adequate Consent Procedures

- Explain how you will obtain consent for youth, the elderly, people with limited reading skills, and people who do not use English as their first language.
- The sample consent forms must be included in Attachment 3, “Sample Consent Forms.” If needed, provide translated forms.
- Consent forms should be written at no higher than 8th-grade reading level.
- Include, as appropriate, sample consent forms for:
 - Informed consent for participation in the service intervention.
 - Informed consent for participation in the data collection component of the project, including that participants are informed that they may receive services even if they choose not to participate in or complete this component of the project.
 - Informed consent for the exchange (releasing or requesting) of confidential information.
 - Informed consent for youth participants.

Participant Protections (Cont.)

7. Risk/Benefit Discussion

- Discuss why the risks you have identified in Element 1. Protect Participants and Staff from Potential Risks are reasonable compared to the anticipated benefits to project participants.
- This can be provided in the form of a risk/benefit list or chart.

Application Evaluation Criteria

Shannon Hastings, MPH
NOFO Lead, Division of Targeted Prevention
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Shannon.Hastings@samhsa.hhs.gov

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Evaluation Criteria (NOFO pg. 26 & 27)

SECTION A: Population(s) of Focus and Statement of Need

(Up to 20 points – approximately 2 pages)

A1

Identify and describe your population(s) of focus and the geographic catchment area. Provide a demographic profile of the population(s) of focus.

A2

Describe the extent of the problem in the catchment area. Document the extent of the need and identify the source of the data.

Note: An additional 10 points will be awarded to applicants who document (in A.1) that more than 50 percent of their service population will be underserved communities, as defined by E.O. 13985, and that the communities have a Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) between 0.75 and 1.0.

APPLICANTS THAT DO NOT PROVIDE THIS DOCUMENTATION CAN ONLY OBTAIN A MAXIMUM OF 10 POINTS FOR THIS SECTION.

Evaluation Criteria Cont. (NOFO pg. 27)

SECTION B: Proposed Implementation Approach

(30 points – approximately 4 pages, not including Attachment 4, Project Timeline)

B1

Describe the goals and measurable objectives of your project.

B2

Describe how you will implement required activities, including the community anchor approach

B3

Provide a graph or chart detailing a realistic timeline for the entire 4-year project period

Evaluation Criteria Cont. (NOFO pg. 27 & 28)

SECTION C: Proposed Evidence-based, Adapted, or Community-defined Evidence Service/Practices

(25 points—approximately 2 pages)

C1

Identify the EBPs, culturally adapted practices, or CDEPs that you will use. Discuss how each intervention is appropriate for your population(s) of focus and describe any modifications.

C2

Describe the monitoring process you will use to ensure fidelity.

Evaluation Criteria Cont. (NOFO pg. 28)

SECTION D: Staff and Organizational Experience

(15 points—approximately 1 page)

D1

Demonstrate the experience of your organization with similar projects.

D2

Identify other organization(s) that you will partner with in the project, including community anchors.

D3

Provide a complete list of staff positions for the project.

Evaluation Criteria Cont. (NOFO pg. 28)

SECTION E: Data Collection and Performance Measurement

(10 points— approximately 1 page)

E1

Describe how you will collect the required data for this program and how such data will be used to manage, monitor, and enhance the program

Review and Selection Process (NOFO pg. 29)

Decisions to fund a grant are based on:

The strengths and weaknesses of the application as identified by peer reviewers

Approval by the CSAT National Advisory Council

Availability of funds

Review and Selection Process (NOFO pg. 29)

Decisions to fund a grant are based on:

At least three awards will be made to tribes/tribal organizations, pending adequate application volume

Submission of all required documentation

Responsibility/Qualification (R/Q) information about your organization in SAM.gov.

Review and Selection Process Cont. (NOFO pg. 29)

Note for current FR-CARA recipients:

Current FR-CARA recipients may apply for this funding opportunity, but the population of focus and geographic/catchment area must be different from their funded application.

For organizations submitting multiple applications:

In addition, new applicant organizations may submit more than one application; however, each application must focus on a different population of focus and a different geographic/catchment area(s).

If an applicant applies with the same population of focus or geographic/catchment area(s) as their funded application, they will be screened out.

Funding Limitations/Restrictions (NOFO pg. 25)

Food can be included as a necessary expense for individuals receiving SAMHSA-funded mental and/or substance use disorder treatment services, and/or substance use prevention services, not to exceed \$10.00 per person per day.

Grants Management Overview

Linda Kim
Grants Management Specialist, Division of Grant Management
Office of Financial Resources
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Linda.kim@samhsa.hhs.gov



Grant Application Resources

[How to Apply for a SAMHSA Grant](#)

[FY 2024 NOFO Application Guide](#)

[Application Forms and Resources](#)

[Preparing a Strong Grant Application](#)

[VIDEO: SAMHSA Funding Opportunity Announcement Applicant Tutorial](#)

[eRA Commons Guidance Slides](#)

Applicable Policies and Regulations

Code of Federal Regulations 2
(CFR) §200

45 CFR §75

HHS Grants Policy Statement

FR-CARA NOFO

Detailed Budget Narrative Justification

All applications require a detailed budget & narrative justification for only the first year of your project. The following will reflect the same total requested amount for the first project year:

Section #18a of your SF424

Detailed budget and narrative justification (see *SAMHSA Budget Template*)

SF424A Budget Summary form (Sections A, B and D)

NOTE: Cost Sharing/Match is not required for this grant program so leave related fields blank.

Detailed Budget Justification Narrative Cont.

Your budget with narrative justifications must be concrete and specific in alignment with your proposed goals and objectives.

You must demonstrate costs as allowable, allocable, reasonable and necessary to the grant with sufficient narrative to explain how each cost relates to achievement of the goals and objectives of the grant along with calculations/ detailed breakdowns of the materials, quantities, number of persons, cost per unit/hour, number of hours/levels of effort, or other relevant basis to explain how each of the budgeted amounts was determined.

SAMHSA Budget Template

To expedite review of your application, it is highly recommended you use the following PDF budget template to complete the Detailed Budget and Narrative for submission with your application.

[SAMHSA's Application Forms and Resources Site](#)

NOTE: If you need accessibility assistance when using SAMHSA's Budget Template, please contact terry.valladares@samhsa.hhs.gov.

Review and Clarification of Frequently Asked Questions

Shannon Hastings, MPH

NOFO Lead, Division of Targeted Prevention

Center for Substance Abuse Prevention

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Shannon.Hastings@samhsa.hhs.gov



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Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility

Current FR-CARA
Recipients

Program Activities

Data Collection

Evaluation Criteria

Peer Review

Closing Remarks

CDR Cara Alexander, PhD, LCSW, BCD
Director, Division of Targeted Prevention
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
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Cara.Alexander@samhsa.hhs.gov



Anticipated Award Process (NOFO pg. 5)

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Contact Information for Follow-Up Questions

Program/Eligibility

- Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, SAMHSA
- Email: DTPFRCARA@samhsa.hhs.gov

Fiscal/Budget

- Office of Financial Resources, Division of Grants Management, SAMHSA
- Email: FOACSAP@samhsa.hhs.gov

Review Process/Application Status

- Office of Financial Resources, Division of Grant Review
- Email: toni.davidson@samhsa.hhs.gov

Contact the Grants.gov Helpdesk for support submitting an application:

- Email: support@grants.gov
- Phone: 1-800-518-4726 (1-800-518-GRANTS)

Contact the eRA Service Desk for eRA Commons Technical Questions

- [Web Support](#)
- [Submit a Web Ticket](#) (preferred method of contact)
- Toll-Free: 1-866-504-9552