

Q&A | Opioid Remediation Grant

The Ohio Attorney General's Office has received some questions about the Opioid Remediation Grant application process whose answers we thought were worth sharing with all county sheriffs.

Q: Can an entity other than a county apply for an Opioid Remediation Grant if services will still be implemented for the county jail, or does the applicant have to be a county sheriff's office? Asked another way: Can the implementation agency (the services provider) be the applicant on behalf of the county jail?

A: A services provider can work with a sheriff's office/county jail to write and even submit the application if the person has the authority to do so. If a grant is awarded, however, the / county sheriff is required to sign the corresponding memorandum of understanding (MOU).

Q: What is the deadline for the Opioid Remediation Grant application?

A: Applications for Calendar Year 2025 grant funding will be accepted through Dec. 1, 2025. Applications are being considered on a rolling basis, with funding for approved applications allocated quarterly on or about the following dates:

- March 31, 2025
- June 6, 2025
- Sept. 30, 2025
- Dec. 31, 2025

Q: Regarding the additional \$50,000 available for medications and supplies for inmates battling opioid withdrawal symptoms, how does this align with Psychotropic Drug Reimbursement provider through OhioMHAS?

A: Per the grant application: "It is important to note that these grants funds *cannot be used to supplant or replace existing spending* on addiction services for inmates." Any funding covered through the Psychotropic Drug Reimbursement program (or other state agency program) is considered "existing spending," so the AGO grant funds cannot be used to replace the funding of this (or other such program/s). However, AGO grant funds spent to purchase additional drugs would comply with the grant requirements.

Q: Are counties that use a regional jail eligible to apply for the grant funding?

A: Yes, as long as the additional money requested by a county is spent on NEW eligible expenses and not used to offset another county's current related expenses.

Q: Are drug-testing kits considered an acceptable use of the medication/medical supplies grant funds?

A: Yes. Drug-testing kits may be purchased with the medication/medical supplies grant money.

As for other related spending, supplies or materials that are integral to the work of an Addiction Services Coordinator (or other similar personnel) are permissible as long as the applicant certifies that they are part of an evidence-informed treatment program. Opioid abatement strategies that provide for evidence-informed treatment – including medication-assisted treatment, evidence-based psychotherapies, recovery support, harm reduction, or other appropriate services to individuals with addiction – are permissible.

Q: Must a county with a population exceeding 125,000 hire a full-time Addiction Services Coordinator? Or can that county contract with an agency to provide such services, whether full- or part-time? And, conversely, can a county with a population of less than 50,000 hire a full-time or part-time Addiction Services Coordinator rather than contract for those services?

A: The grant guidelines are not intended to be restrictive. A county of any size may request grant funding for a full- or part-time Addiction Services Coordinator, and the county may contract for those services or hire the coordinator. This decision and your grant proposal should be driven by the specific needs of your county/ jail.

Q: The grant application, under the Organization Information heading, the Attorney General's Office requests an OhioPays Supplier ID number. I know that the county has an OhioPays number and accepts EFT payments, but our sheriff's office isn't registered or set up to accept EFT payments. What should I do?

A: As soon as possible, your sheriff's office should register/set up an OhioPays profile to accept EFT payments. Timely disbursement of the grant payment is contingent upon the full execution of the MOU and you're the creation of an account to accept EFT payments. If you need help, see the attached "Register in OhioPays" guide. If you have additional questions, please email obm.sharedservices@obm.ohio.gov or call 877-644-6771.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you want the grant-related EFT payment to be sent to a subdivision of your county that is already set up in OhioPays to accept EFT (say, the county treasurer), please indicate in your application (in the OhioPays Supplier ID line) the subdivision and address for us to send the EFT payment. Please also confirm that the payment will be appropriated to the sheriff's office.