

Request for Proposals (RFP)

Project Name: Sustaining Central Oregon Peer Services in Substance and Alcohol Misuse Settings

Access Code: [PEER20201](#)

Organization Name: Central Oregon Health Council; Regional Health Improvement Plan (RHIP)

Regional Health Improvement Workgroup: [Substance and Alcohol Misuse: Prevention and Treatment](#)

Future State Measures: [By December 2024, 30% of Medicaid members \(ages 13 and older\) who are newly diagnosed with alcohol or other drug dependence and who began treatment within 14 days of the initial diagnosis will have two or more additional services for alcohol or other drug](#)

[By December 2024, Mental Health/Substance Abuse Emergency Department visits per 1,000 will be reduced by 25% in the highest rate locations: Warm Springs 35.3, Prineville 15.0, Madras 13.8](#)

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About the Central Oregon Health Council

The [Central Oregon Health Council](#) (COHC) is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt public and private community governance organization. We partner with our communities to guide and align vision, strategy, and activities across industries for a healthier Central Oregon.

The Central Oregon Health Council is responsible for funding projects that improve the health priorities of the [Regional Health Improvement Plan](#). These priorities were decided by the diverse people of our region before COVID-19.

We recognize that when we invest and support long-term, preventative solutions we build a Central Oregon that is better able to respond to present and future crises. Therefore, we reserve most of our funds for projects whose impact can be measured over decades. The goal of this Request for Proposal is to support long-term, system level change.

We also provide smaller funding opportunities for \$5,000 or less called mini grants [HERE](#).

Description of Grant Opportunity

The *Substance and Alcohol Misuse: Prevention and Treatment RHIP Workgroup* seeks to provide one-time grants for organizations who are currently struggling to fund Substance and Alcohol

Use Disorder (SUD) focused peer services. For ease of communication, we will refer to these diagnoses as SUD throughout the RFP.

This is the first of two coordinated RFPs intended to improve the financial viability of Central Oregon organizations currently using peer services for substance and alcohol misuse. The second RFP is to fund a consultant to create financial sustainability plans in collaboration with the funded organizations from this first RFP.

Why are these efforts needed?

The majority of Central Oregon's community-based organizations (CBOs) utilizing peer-based SUD services have insufficient infrastructure to navigate complex funding and auditing systems like Medicaid. The Workgroup wants to provide immediate financial support to shore up these smaller organizations by adequately funding peer salaries and benefits to provide a living wage in Central Oregon. There are long-term peer services funding improvements happening, but Central Oregon organizations need short-term financial help. Central Oregon CBOs work tirelessly to engage people effectively in SUD treatment and help people live a life centered around recovery principles. CBOs need short-term financial support and long-term subject-matter expertise and proactive consultation to create a financial template for sustainability.

Additionally, CBOs struggle to fund peer services sustainably for the following reasons:

The third-party billing process is complicated and smaller CBOs find it challenging to set up billing for peer mentor services. Therefore, these organizations have to find wage grants which is not a secure or sustainable model. If CBOs were supported and trained on sustainable billing practices for peer mentors it could create a sustainable form of employment for peers.

Currently, smaller CBOs in Central Oregon are not receiving adequate funding for peer wages. This creates a situation in which the organization can't offer effective support staff to provide evidence-based peer services. Many of these organizations use volunteers or incentives to counteract this problem. For example, some use incentives like paid certification, a small stipend, use of a car, gas, phone, and room and board without charge to replace a comprehensive living wage.

Peer-based recovery supports are part of an emerging transformation of systems and services addressing substance use disorders. Acute care substance use treatment without other recovery supports has not been sufficient in helping individuals to maintain long-term recovery. Substance use disorders are currently understood to be chronic conditions that require long-term management, like diabetes. These supports help people in recovery build "recovery capital"—the internal and external resources necessary to begin and maintain recovery (Best & Laudet, 2010; Cloud & Granfield, 2008).

(source: https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/programs_campaigns/brss_tacs/value-of-peers-2017.pdf)

The priority population for this RFP is all people experiencing SUD in Central Oregon. The RHIP future state measures prioritize people living in Warm Springs, Prineville and Madras, so the grantee must serve residents from these areas of Central Oregon, in addition to other areas of Central Oregon. The grantee must also serve, but not limited to Medicaid members. The Workgroup also recognizes that there is a regional need to prioritize specific groups of people experiencing SUD, like people who are bilingual, veterans, homeless, or a combination. The Workgroup would like to call out the importance of using diplomacy and cultural sensitivity in approaching these specific populations.

Proposal Requirements

Your proposal must include these qualities:

These one-time grants are meant as a stopgap measure for organizations who are currently struggling to fund SUD-focused peer services sustainably. Grantees are expected to work with the Workgroup hired consultant to improve overall peer service financial sustainability.

Grants will be contingent on the following requirements:

- Simple data collection in order to capture current reasons for financial instability and to prevent further peer services attrition
- Participation in future consultative guidance about implementing sustainable financial models
- Provide a list of the organization's Board of Directors
- Disclose the number of peers employed
- The peers employed by grantee are already Certified by the State of Oregon as Traditional Health Workers, or have a documented plan to obtain Certification shortly after being hired

The Workgroup will prioritize applicants that:

- Offers a variety of peer services in different settings and focus on the entire spectrum of SUD services
- Has foundational philosophies built on evidence-based recovery principles like harm reduction
- Uses evidence-based strategies like Motivational Interviewing to effectively engage people experiencing SUD
- Willingness to participate in a collaborative with other organization that offer SUD-focused peer services. The consultant hired with the second RFP will coordinate the collaborative.
- Are smaller organizations with limited infrastructure and resources

Evaluation Criteria:

The *Substance and Alcohol Misuse: Prevention and Treatment RHIP Workgroup* will review your grant application using this [scorecard](#). We encourage you to use it to help build your proposal.

Funding Details and Important Information

Number of Awards: 5

Maximum Individual Award Amount: \$60,000

Project Duration: 12 months

Anticipated Selection Schedule:

Application Due Date: January 6, 2022 by 12PM PST

Decision Notification: February 15, 2022 by email

How to Apply

This Request for Proposal is posted on our website: <https://cohealthcouncil.org/standard-grants/>

For instructions on how to access the application, please visit:

<https://cohealthcouncil.org/wp/apps/uploads/2021/02/Accessing-A-Restricted-Request-for-Proposal-Application.pdf>

Once registered and logged into the grant platform, use this access code to apply for this grant: **[PEER20201](#)**

Support

If you have questions about this Request for Proposal, please contact:

MaCayla Arsenault, Project Manager at macayla.arsenault@cohealthcouncil.org or 541-306-3523

If you have questions about the application, parts of the application, or using the grant platform please contact:

Rebeckah Berry, Grant and Metrics Manager at rebeckah.berry@cohealthcouncil.org or 541-306-3523

Resources

2019 Regional Health Assessment [HERE](#)

2020-2024 Regional Health Improvement Plan [HERE](#)

Central Oregon Health Data website [HERE](#)