



Columbia County Opioid Settlement Fund
Community Wellness Grant Program
Request for Applications

PROGRAM OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Columbia County Public Health is pleased to announce we are seeking applicants for our **2026-2027 Community Wellness Grant Program**, funded through the Columbia County Opioid Settlement Fund (OSF). OSFs originate from national legal settlements related to the opioid crisis and are dedicated to addressing the impacts of opioids and substance use disorder in our communities.

This grant program is designed to support **community-driven projects and activities** that contribute to substance use prevention, education, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery. Columbia County recognizes that substance use intersects with many aspects of community well-being and encourages proposals that respond to **local needs through a variety of approaches, settings, and partnerships**.

AVAILABLE FUNDING

A total of **\$150,000** is available for this funding cycle. Individual awards will range from **\$5,000 to \$50,000**; applicants may request any amount within this range. Requested funding amounts should be proportional to the scope and scale of the proposed project.

Budgets must clearly justify all requested expenses, align with proposed activities, and reflect reasonable and appropriate use of funds.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants include:

- Nonprofit organizations
- Community-based organizations
- Schools and educational institutions
- Local government agencies
- Tribal organizations
- Healthcare or behavioral health providers

Project proposals from community collaboratives, coalitions, or multi-agency partnerships are encouraged; however, the primary applicant must be a legal entity based in or serving Columbia County, Oregon.

Because these funds are time-limited, applicants are encouraged to consider how proposed work could be continued or expanded through other funding sources, partnerships, or integration into existing services both during and beyond the grant period.

For more information about eligible activities and projects, please review [Exhibit E: List of Opioid Remediation Uses](#).

FUNDING PRIORITIES AND ALLOWABLE EXPENSES

Projects must align with allowable uses of Opioid Settlement Funds (per [Exhibit E](#)), including activities related to:

- Substance use prevention and education
- Harm reduction and overdose response
- Treatment and recovery services
- Community resilience and protective factors
- Workforce development and capacity building

Applicants are encouraged to consider **upstream, cross-sector, and community-informed approaches** that strengthen protective factors, address root causes, and improve overall well-being in populations impacted by substance use.

Funds may be used for:

- Program implementation costs
- Supplies and materials
- Personnel supporting project-related work
- Training and capacity-building
- Outreach and engagement activities
- Data collection and evaluation

Funds may not be used for capital construction expenses.

All expenses must be consistent with [Exhibit E allowable uses](#) and clearly connected to the proposed project.

KEY DATES

- **Application Opens:** Monday, April 13, 2026
- **Application Deadline:** Friday, May 29, 2026
- **Award Notifications:** Mid-June 2026
- **Project Start Date:** July 1, 2026
- **Project End Date:** December 31, 2027

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please complete all required sections of the application and submit using the [Columbia County Community Wellness Grant Program Application](#). Responses should be concise but sufficiently detailed to describe your proposed project, intended outcomes, and use of funds.

I. Organization Information

- Organization name, address
- Contact person
- Email and phone number
- Organization type
- Brief description of your organization and the population(s) you serve (300 words)

II. Project Overview

- Project Title
- Requested Amount
- Project Summary (500 words): Provide an overview of your proposed project, including the need it addresses and the activities you plan to implement.

III. Community Need

Describe the need for this project (500 words):

- What issue or gap does your project address?
- Who will benefit?
- Include any relevant local data, community input, or observations and experiences.

IV. Project Design & Activities

Describe your proposed activities and approach (500 words):

- What will you do with the funding?
- What strategies or methods will you use to implement?
- How does your project address, promote, or contribute to substance use prevention, response, treatment, or recovery?

V. Impact

What impact do you expect your project to have (500 words)?

- What changes or outcomes do you hope to see?
- Who will be impacted and how?

VI. Evaluation

Provide 2-4 goals or objectives you will aim to achieve during the project period. Goals should be measurable and related to the activities you propose. For each, specify how progress on the goal or objective will be measured, and how success will be defined.

VII. Budget

Provide a clear budget outlining how funds will be used for your proposed project using the provided template. Include a brief justification for each expense, and ensure the budget reflects the scale of your project and requested funding amount.

VIII. Letters of Support (Optional)

While not required, applicants are permitted to include letters from other partners or community members expressing support or buy-in for the proposed project.

SELECTION PROCESS

Applications will be reviewed by a selection panel and scored based on the criteria outlined in the following section. Final funding decisions will be approved by Columbia County in alignment with Opioid Settlement Fund requirements.

The review process will consider both alignment with funding guidelines and responsiveness to community needs. Efforts will be made to support a diverse range of projects across the following priority areas:

- Youth-focused initiatives
- Prevention
- Treatment
- Harm reduction
- Recovery

Scoring Criteria (100 Points Total)

Category	Description	Points
Project Need & Relevance	Demonstrates a clear understanding of a community need or gap; uses data or lived experience to support the request	20
Project Design & Feasibility	Clear, realistic, and well-planned approach appropriate to the requested funding level	25
Alignment with OSF Priorities	Project aligns with allowable uses and contributes to substance use prevention, response, treatment, or recovery	15
Impact	Potential to create meaningful, positive outcomes in the community	15
Evaluation Plan	Includes reasonable and appropriate methods for measuring success	10
Budget & Use of Funds	Budget is clear, justified, and proportional to project scope	10
Equity & Community Reach	Reaches populations disproportionately impacted or addresses barriers to access	5

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Awarded applicants will be required to:

- Sign a **grant agreement** with Columbia County
- Submit a **mid-project update** (brief narrative and basic metrics)
- Submit a **final report** summarizing activities, outcomes, and lessons learned
- Participate in periodic check-ins with program staff and oversight bodies, as needed

Reporting is intended to support shared learning, accountability, and demonstration of community impact.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Opioid settlement funds related to this project are administered by Columbia County Public Health, with guidance and oversight from the Local Alcohol and Drug Planning Committee (LADPC) and the Columbia County Board of Commissioners. For more information about Oregon's OSF programs, visit the [OHA OSF website](#).

QUESTIONS?

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