

Geauga County  
Opioid Settlement Funds  
Grant Cycle 2  
Request for Proposals

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Geauga County Board of  
Mental Health & Recovery Services  
13244 Ravenna Road, Chardon OH 44024  
(440) 285-2282  
[www.geauga.org](http://www.geauga.org)

## Executive Summary

This Request for Proposals (RFP) solicits applications for the use of opioid settlement funds originating from the State of Ohio Opioid Settlement. The purpose of this funding is to support evidence-based and community-driven strategies that prevent opioid misuse, reduce overdose deaths, expand access to treatment and recovery supports, and address the broader impacts of the opioid epidemic in alignment with state settlement requirements and identified local needs.

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners will make \$100,000 available per calendar year, as funding remains, for an approved purpose. The Geauga County Board of Mental Health & Recovery Services will accept applications from organizations for funds that support an approved purpose which directly benefits Geauga County. Applicants must demonstrate that they have pursued or considered other reasonable funding sources and explain any barriers encountered in securing those funds. This expectation applies to program, service, and equipment requests.

## RFP Overview and Key Dates

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| RFP Title                    | Opioid Settlement Funds Grant Cycle 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Proposal Submission Deadline | November 27, 2026, by 3:00 PM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Anticipated Award Date       | December 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Funding Period               | January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2027                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Issue Date                   | October 23, 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Eligibility                  | <p>Eligible applicants from Geauga County must be entities authorized to receive and administer Ohio Opioid Settlement Funds and may include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Local government agencies</li><li>Nonprofit organizations</li><li>Behavioral health treatment providers</li><li>Recovery housing/recovery support providers</li><li>Healthcare providers and hospital systems</li><li>Community-based organizations with demonstrated experience addressing substance use disorders</li></ul> <p>All applicants must be in good standing with the State of Ohio and demonstrate the administrative and fiscal capacity to manage public funds in compliance with applicable state and local requirements.</p> |

|           |                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Questions | Contact Christine Lakomiak at <a href="mailto:clakomiak@geauga.org">clakomiak@geauga.org</a> no later than <b>November 18, 2026.</b> |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### Funding Priority

The approved use ("Approved Purpose") of the Funds shall be directed toward evidence-based programs, services, and equipment, provided that the equipment directly addresses a documented need in Geauga County.

Funding priorities include:

- Expanding access to treatment for individuals affected by substance use disorders;
- Developing, promoting, and implementing evidence-based substance use prevention strategies;
- Providing substance use awareness and prevention education;
- Reducing the oversupply of licit and illicit opioids;
- Supporting addiction recovery services provided by qualified and appropriately licensed providers; and
- Specialized tactical and field equipment used by outreach personnel and first responders to rapidly assess, respond to, and mitigate acute substance use related medical emergencies in the field.

### Components of the Proposal

#### A. Organization Face Sheet

Introduces the applicant and should include the following information:

1. Name of organization, address, and federal tax ID
2. Name of Executive Director, or CEO, and email address
3. Amount of funding requested
4. Title of Proposal

#### B. Project Narrative (1-page limit)

Describe the applicant's plans; should include the following:

1. A short description of the proposed project or activity. Include the target population, goals, and objectives associated with the project.
2. Specifically what the requested amount will be used for.
3. Data that supports the need for this project in Geauga County.
4. A project timeline and, if applicable, how it will be evaluated. Describe the evaluation instruments and state the program's intended outcomes.
5. For equipment-only proposals, describe the equipment's intended use, who will benefit, identify whether equipment purchases will involve ongoing expenses (such as maintenance, software subscriptions, licensing, supplies, or

replacement costs) and explain how those expenses will be sustained after the grant period.

**C. Program Budget**

Submit a detailed budget outlining all proposed expenditures associated with the funding request. The budget must clearly identify each expense, its associated cost, and its direct relationship with the proposed project and approved opioid settlement purposes.

**Submission Information**

All proposals should be emailed as a PDF to [tslater@geauga.org](mailto:tslater@geauga.org). Applicants will receive an email confirming receipt of their application within five business days of submission. If a confirmation email is not received, applicants should call the Geauga County Board of Mental Health & Recovery Services at (440) 285-2282 to follow up.

**Review and Selection Process**

The Geauga County Board of Mental Health & Recovery Services (GCBMHRS) administers the opioid settlement funding process, including issuing requests for proposals (RFPs), providing technical assistance, reviewing, and scoring proposals for alignment with settlement-permitted uses and community needs, and making funding recommendations. The Geauga County Board of Commissioners retains authority over the approval and allocation of opioid settlement funds and will review the Board's recommendations to ensure compliance with applicable statutory requirements, settlement terms, and county priorities.

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to amend or cancel this RFP at any time; reject any or all proposals; request clarification or additional information; and negotiate with any applicant whose proposal is determined to be in the best interest of the community and consistent with Ohio Opioid Settlement requirements. The Board also reserves the right to seek clarification regarding any aspect of a submitted proposal.

Funding awards are contingent upon the availability of Ohio Opioid Settlement Funds and approval by the Geauga County Board of Commissioners. Award recipients may be subject to reporting, auditing, and performance-monitoring requirements consistent with applicable Ohio Opioid Settlement terms and oversight requirements.

## Scoring Rubric for Programmatic Proposals

Please Note: A high score does not guarantee funding, and all awards remain subject to funding availability, eligibility requirements, and the Board's applicable settlement spending priorities.

| Funding Inquiry                | Selection Considerations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Reviewer Input<br>Yes = 2<br>Maybe or unsure = 1<br>No = 0                                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Program or Project Goal        | Does the goal align with the approved opioid settlement purposes and stated funding priorities?                                                                                                                                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> Maybe/Unsure |
| Program or Project Description | Does the proposal have a clear and realistic plan for execution?<br><br>Does the project description align with the stated goal?                                                                                                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> Maybe/Unsure |
| Target Population              | Does the project target individuals with substance use disorder, including co-occurring mental health conditions, their families, and/or the Geauga County community?<br><br>Is the projected number of individuals served appropriate for the amount requested? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> Maybe/Unsure |
| Success                        | Are the intended results realistic, measurable, and achievable?<br><br>Is the intended impact needed in Geauga County?                                                                                                                                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> Maybe/Unsure |
| Sustainability                 | Does the applicant have a feasible plan to sustain the services after the project period ends?                                                                                                                                                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> Maybe/Unsure |
| Use of Funds                   | Will funds supplement, rather than replace funds already appropriated or allocated for the same purpose?<br><br>Is the request consistent with settlement requirements and does it maximize the use of funds?                                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> Maybe/Unsure |
| Budget                         | Is the budget clear, reasonable, and aligned with the activities of the proposal?<br><br>Is the requested amount appropriate for the proposed activities and desired results?                                                                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> Maybe/Unsure |
| Evidence                       | Does the proposal make it clear that the planned approach has some basis in existing evidence or proven practice?                                                                                                                                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> Maybe/Unsure |

|                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                        |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Reviewer Comments<br>/Questions/Concerns     | Note strengths, concerns, missing information,<br>or questions for clarification.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                        |
| Overall Rating/<br>Funding<br>Recommendation | Do you recommend this project for funding?<br><input type="checkbox"/> Strongly do not recommend funding<br><input type="checkbox"/> Do not recommend funding<br><input type="checkbox"/> Neutral<br><input type="checkbox"/> Recommend funding<br><input type="checkbox"/> Strongly recommend funding | <b>Total<br/>Score</b> |

## Scoring Rubric for Equipment-Only Proposals

Please Note: A high score does not guarantee funding, and all awards remain subject to funding availability, eligibility requirements, and the Board's applicable settlement spending priorities.

| Funding Inquiry                      | Selection Considerations                                                                                                                                                                                   | Reviewer Input<br>Yes = 2<br>Maybe/unsure = 1<br>No = 0                                                 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Alignment with Funding Priorities    | <p>Does the equipment directly support the purpose and priorities of the opioid settlement funding?</p> <p>Does it address substance use, prevention, treatment, recovery, or related community needs?</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> Maybe or unsure |
| Demonstrated Need                    | <p>Has the applicant clearly identified the need for the equipment?</p> <p>Is there evidence of a gap in current resources, capacity, or service delivery?</p>                                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> Maybe or unsure |
| Equipment Justification              | <p>Is the requested equipment clearly described?</p> <p>Is it appropriate, necessary, and directly related to the identified need?</p>                                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> Maybe or unsure |
| Target Population & Community Impact | <p>Will the equipment benefit individuals with substance use disorders, people at risk, affected families, or other eligible populations?</p> <p>Is the anticipated reach or benefit reasonable?</p>       | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> Maybe or unsure |
| Cost-Effectiveness & Budget          | <p>Is the cost reasonable and supported by quotes or other pricing documentation?</p> <p>Is the quantity requested justified?</p> <p>Does the purchase maximize the value of the funding?</p>              | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> Maybe or unsure |
| Implementation & Readiness           | <p>Does the applicant have a realistic plan to purchase, install, implement, and use the equipment?</p> <p>Are staffing, training, space, and other necessary resources available?</p>                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> Maybe or unsure |

|                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sustainability & Maintenance            | <p>Does the applicant have a plan to maintain, repair, replace, or operate the equipment after the grant period?</p> <p>Are ongoing costs and responsibilities identified?</p>                                                                                                                                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> Maybe or unsure |
| Other Funding Sources                   | <p>Has the applicant identified other funding sources pursued or considered?</p> <p>Are barriers to obtaining those funds explained?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> Maybe or unsure |
| Expected Impact                         | <p>Is the anticipated benefit of the equipment realistic and measurable where feasible?</p> <p>Will it improve access, capacity, efficiency, safety, or quality of services?</p>                                                                                                                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> Maybe or unsure |
| Community Readiness                     | <p>Is the equipment a good fit for the community's needs and existing service infrastructure?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> Maybe or unsure |
| Remarks from reviewer                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                         |
| Overall Rating – Funding Recommendation | <p>Do you recommend this project for funding?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Strongly do not recommend funding</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Do not recommend funding</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Neutral</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Recommend funding</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Strongly recommend funding</p> | <b>Total Score</b>                                                                                      |

## Reporting Requirements

Grant recipients must submit biannual programmatic and financial reports, due on July 15, 2027, and January 15, 2028. Acceptance of awarded funds constitutes the recipient's agreement to all reporting and monitoring requirements.

The Geauga County Board of Mental Health & Recovery Services reserves the right to request supplemental information, conduct in-person site visits, and/or hold virtual meetings as needed to report outcomes to the Geauga County Board of Commissioners.

The Geauga County Board of Commissioners may withhold payments or terminate grant agreements if recipients fail to meet reporting requirements or violate the terms of the grant agreement.



Opioid Settlement  
Program Evaluation T