



Alameda County Opioid Settlement Innovative Mini-Grant Funding

Applicant Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in applying for Alameda County Opioid Settlement Innovative Mini-Grant funding from Three Valleys Community Foundation (3VCF). This document covers:

- An overview of 3VCF and our Opioid Settlement Innovative Mini-Grant funding round;
- Eligibility and selection criteria;
- Our mini-grant process and timeline

ABOUT THREE VALLEYS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Established in 2020, Three Valleys Community Foundation serves as a regional philanthropic anchor, seeking to strengthen our vibrant region through inclusive leadership, thoughtful funding, informed giving, and collaborative action. We partner with donors who care about our community and connect them with impactful local organizations to make a real difference to the communities we serve. We envision a community where everyone has the opportunity to live a full and rewarding life.

INITIAL OPIOID CRISIS INNOVATIVE MINI-GRANT FUNDING ROUND

Local community members, leaders, and stakeholders have identified the opioid crisis in Alameda County as a silent, devastating and pervasive challenge, impacting many more than those directly in addiction. Every overdose in our region is more than just a statistic; it represents a family broken apart, children left without parents, loved ones bereaved, and a community left with a profound void.

Data obtained from Behavioral Health Department, Alameda County Health has surfaced alarming statistical trends:

- **Opioid deaths are on the rise.** Opioid overdoses make up the largest number of drug deaths in Alameda County; cases have been steadily and dramatically increasing since 2017. Synthetic opioids like fentanyl are the primary driver of overdose deaths in the United States.
- **High mortality among the unhoused.** People experiencing homelessness account for about 30 percent of all overdose deaths.
- **Impact on vulnerable communities.** Overdose deaths and opioid-related hospitalizations are disproportionately higher among communities of color, especially African American/Black individuals, incarcerated people, and men. During the pandemic, opioid overdose death rates increased by 44 percent among Black Americans.

–Source: [Alameda County Healthcare Services Agency](#)

While the opioid crisis impacts all demographics across all genders, races, age groups, and communities, the sheer number of overdose deaths due to opioid addiction, poisoning, and substance use disorder (SUD) is staggering – and disproportionately higher among certain populations. It is a nationwide crisis – as well as one that significantly impacts Alameda County.

For this funding round, 3VCF is collaborating with Alameda County Health, Behavioral Health Department to invest available resources in nonprofit organizations providing prevention, treatment, recovery, and/or overdose reversal programming for opioid use disorder among individuals and communities in Alameda County.

3VCF is committed to investing in community-based organizations whose approach includes proven as well as innovative opioid remediation and prevention strategies. Opioid remediation is “the care, treatment, and other programs and expenditures designed to:

- Address the use and misuse of opioid products;
- Treat or mitigate opioid use or related disorders; or
- Mitigate other alleged effects of, including on those injured as a result of the opioid crisis.” Source: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/CSD/CA-OSF-Allowable-Expenses.pdf>

Prevention strategies include, but are not limited to reducing opioid exposure and supply through public education, prioritizing evidence-based treatments, reducing harm, and providing recovery support. Prevention plays a vital role in combating the epidemic, as does development of leading-edge therapeutic approaches to prevent and treat opioid overdose and deaths in Alameda County – especially in underserved and marginalized communities.

OUR FOCUS

We are taking a broad and inventive approach, and welcome applications that propose new, innovative, and promising solutions to address the opioid epidemic throughout Alameda County. Community-based organizations that are implementing and promoting emerging approaches, increasing access to services, reimagining current strategies, and transforming existing practices in creative ways to address substance use disorder, are encouraged to apply. We are particularly interested in supporting collaborative approaches between two or more organizations. Some examples of broad approaches we will consider for funding include, but are not limited to:

Prevention. Early intervention strategies can reduce the impact of substance use and mental health disorders. By removing stigma through education, we can promote opioid-related primary prevention in our communities and schools. By eliminating unnecessary prescription drug exposure, we can aim to stop substance misuse before it begins. By increasing awareness of racial and ethnic disparities in health care among the general public, we can improve outcomes for populations most at risk for opioid addiction through preventative measures.

Harm reduction. Harm reduction strategies can minimize negative consequences of SUD by connecting people who use drugs with the services and resources they need to improve their physical, mental, and social well-being. Through increased access to affordable substance use and mental health disorder treatments, harm reduction can help reduce negative consequences for people who use drugs, especially those in underserved communities.

Treatment. Evidence-based medical treatments combining medications, counseling, and therapy are often the most effective choice for opioid addiction and part of recovery. The use of medications in combination with behavioral therapies and social supports to provide a holistic “whole person” treatment approach holds promise.

Recovery. Community-based organizations are uniquely positioned to meet people where they are: by helping individuals secure safe and effective recovery housing; by honoring and responding to the individual needs of people seeking treatment and connecting them to appropriate recovery resources to help meet their recovery goals; and by promoting wellness through recovery resources and centers in our most vulnerable neighborhoods and communities.

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

3VCF will consider applications from:

- 501c3 nonprofit entities, or fiscally sponsored projects / community-based organizations of any size or stage of development. Cities and school districts in Alameda County are eligible to apply independently or in collaboration.
- Collaborative initiatives / applications of two or more organizations led by a 501c3. Collaborations are strongly encouraged, but not required.
- Priority consideration will be given to applications that serve Alameda County’s most vulnerable communities, and populations that are disproportionately impacted by SUD, as outlined in 3VCF’s *By the Numbers – Communities in Crisis – with Disparate Consequences*. Priority will also be placed on applications that include [California’s High Impact Abatement Activities](#) priority areas which include but are not limited to:
 - Operating or matching funds for SUD facilities within the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program;
 - Creating new or expanding SUD Treatment infrastructure;
 - Addressing the needs of **communities of color** and **vulnerable populations (including sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations)**;
 - Diversion of **people with SUD from the justice system** into treatment, including by providing training and resources to first and early responders (sworn and non-sworn) and implementing best practices for outreach, diversion and deflection, employability, restorative justice, and harm reduction;
 - Interventions to prevent drug addiction in **vulnerable youth**;
 - The purchase of naloxone for local entities including for distribution and efforts to expand access to naloxone for opioid overdose reversals.
- All applications must be designed to directly benefit and serve Alameda County.

SELECTION CRITERIA

In selecting grantees, the evaluation committee will look to build a slate of diverse organizations, approaches, and outcomes that are in alignment with our opioid innovative mini-grant focus. Some may work across multiple focus areas, while others will go deep in one area. There will be a mix of budget and staff sizes. What ties them together is:

- **Creativity and Innovation**
We are open to considering a broad array of creative approaches, especially those introducing a new practice or approach to address the opioid crisis, or improvement to an existing approach as long as the impact results in improved outcomes relative to the opioid crisis in Alameda County. Innovation efforts can be applied to services, programs, products, or partnerships.
- **Collaboration for collective impact**
Community-based organizations are especially poised to contribute to the collective solutions needed for our communities to thrive. We aim to uplift efforts that develop and test ideas to help reduce barriers, create affordable and accessible treatment options, and then spread the best ideas / solutions across our communities to help solve the opioid epidemic. We welcome the opportunity to support grantee partnerships, coalitions, and strategic alliances across multiple community stakeholders to join hands to meet shared goals and achieve meaningful impact.
- **A feasible plan to achieve progress in the next 1-2 years**
We understand that many nonprofits and community-based organizations work in arenas where progress is incremental and flexibility is critical. We look for organizations that have a plan for reaching self-defined milestones within a 12-14 month timeframe, and a well-defined approach through innovations that can demonstrate how they are decreasing opioid use and deaths.
- **Sustainability beyond the grant**
We want to commit to lasting, transformative solutions to address the opioid epidemic in our communities. Strong proposals would illustrate how the organization plans to prioritize long-term learning and impact over short-term gains, by leveraging relationships and resources, and demonstrating how community needs would continue to be met through diversified strategies beyond the grant.
- **Demonstrating impact**
We do not have a single definition of impact. A project can be impactful for many reasons, including scale, innovation, or breakthrough ideas. We will look for applications that define the impact, and measure progress along the way. We encourage grant proposals by those who think collectively and act collaboratively to leverage and sustain relationships, resources, and impact.
- **Focus on priority populations** A project that engages and serves one or more of our high priority populations that are disproportionately affected by the opioid crisis will receive priority consideration. We are open to unique and creative ways to reduce stigma, expand outreach, increase access / provide flexible access to services and resources, and meet vulnerable populations where they are.
- **Organizational effectiveness**
We are interested in your organization's track record of success or, if the organization or approach is new, there is reason to believe that the strategies identified show promise of success, with a defined and well thought-out implementation plan and intended impact of the work clearly defined. We recognize that not everything important can be empirically measured and that organizations have different capacities for evaluation.
- **Confidence-inspiring leadership**
We want to support leaders who are inspired to lead with authenticity, collaboration, and vision to help design innovative and creative projects in new ways and with new groups of

people. Exemplifying trust, effective and accountable partnerships, a strong reputation among peers, and an inclusive working environment, are some of the ways we think confidence-inspiring leadership manifests.

- **Reflective representation in leadership and implementation**

Do people from the communities served play a key role in programmatic or organizational decision-making and/or governance of the organization?

- **An award of up to \$250,000 will make a difference to program or project success; (collaborative projects are eligible for up to \$300,000 in funding)**

We are interested in grants where a timely injection of funds will enable an innovative collaboration or take the project, organization and/or community benefit impact to a new level.

HOW THE PROCESS WORKS

AMOUNT AND TERM

3VCF plans to award multiple grants. Grants will be for 12 - 14 months, with an estimated start date of March 2025. Payments will be made in two installments – the first upon full execution of a grant agreement with the selected applicants and the second midway through the grant term and upon completion of a midyear check-in. Grants will range in size from \$50,000 - \$300,000. Single organization applicants may submit for up to \$250,000 and collaborative applications of two or more organizations may submit for up to \$300,000.

SELECTION PROCESS

We invite organizations who meet the eligibility criteria to submit an application through our online portal [HERE](#). The RFP is scheduled for release on **October 15, 2024**. The deadline for submission of an application is midnight, Pacific Time, on **December 10, 2024**. 3VCF will hold a virtual information session for interested applicants on **October 22, 2024** at noon Pacific Time. To sign up for this webinar, register [HERE](#). The webinar will be recorded and shared with those unable to join. Applicants may reach out to 3VCF team members with questions, requests for support and/or troubleshooting in use of our application portal at info@3vcf.org 3VCF will be available from **October 16, 2024 - December 9, 2024** to respond to requests for support.

Submitted applications will initially be screened to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria. Those that meet the eligibility criteria will advance to the formal evaluation phase by a committee of health professionals, subject matter experts, and community members who represent Alameda County, and who have diverse backgrounds and expertise, including expertise in behavioral health services, substance use disorder abatement, non-profit management, and more. The committee members will evaluate the applications against the selection criteria noted above. A financial review of each applicant will also be conducted, including review of tax returns and the project budget. The Committee may reach out with follow up questions or requests for supplemental materials from applicants if needed to complete a thorough evaluation. These requests will be kept to a minimum as we respect the time of our non-profit and community-based partners.

TIMEFRAME

October 15, 2024: *Application process opens; RFP released*

October 22, 2024 at 12 Noon PT: *Virtual information session for prospective applicants*

October 16, 2024 - December 9, 2024: *Technical Support / Applicant HelpDesk, info@3vcf.org*

December 10, 2024 by midnight PT: *Grant applications due*

December 2024 - January 2025: *Potential requests for supplemental information*

End of January 2025: *Applicants notified of status*

February 2025: *3VCF Meets with Grantees and Grant Agreements Signed*

Grants will be awarded publicly at 3VCF State of Giving Gathering. Grant recipients are expected to have a representative attend this weekday evening event in February. The date will be shared once finalized. All applicants are also invited.

March 2025: *First payment on approved grants*

March 2025 - April 2026: *Grant implementation*

September 2025: *Mid-term formal progress check-in with grant recipients, site visits conducted as needed; final payment on approved grants*

April - May 2026: *Final grantee check-in, reporting, and data collection*

ONCE GRANTS ARE AWARDED

Organizations selected for grant funding will enter into a grant agreement with 3VCF. We will celebrate beneficiaries publicly at our State of Giving Gathering in February 2025, via our website, social media, quarterly e-newsletter and County-wide media release.

Reporting will consist of a written or verbal narrative report as well as a financial update at the six-month mark and a final written narrative report and financial report at the 12-14 month mark.

QUESTIONS?

For questions on the process or the application, please contact our 3VCF Grant Administration Team at info@3vcf.org.