



Innovative Mini-Grants Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- 1. We primarily provide holistic support for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment for women, but also work with unhoused men and women. Given our focus on women, are we eligible for grant funding that prioritizes men and other impacted groups?**

Yes! Your organization is eligible and encouraged to apply. The Innovative Mini-Grants program prioritizes initiatives for groups disproportionately affected by SUD, including men, but also recognizes the need for support across all demographics impacted by the opioid crisis. To strengthen your application, we encourage you to emphasize your innovative approaches and describe how your services support anyone affected by fentanyl use, including your target population as well as identified priority populations.

- 2. Is it okay if more than one person from an organization creates an account to view the application or should only the person who is completing it register?**

Yes! Multiple people from your organization can register for an account and access the application to view its progress, to collaborate, or to provide input. However, we recommend that one person be designated as the primary applicant responsible for completing and submitting the application. This helps ensure clarity and smooth communication throughout the process. If there are multiple collaborators involved in completing different sections of the application, please make sure that the primary applicant consolidates and finalizes the submission to ensure there is “one voice” as well as consistency and alignment with your organization's goals.

- 3. What specific activities or programs does this grant cover, and are there any restrictions on how the funds can be used?**

This grant can support a wide range of activities and innovations related to addressing opioid substance use disorder (SUD) in Alameda County, with a priority focus on sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations, Black / African American Men, incarcerated or recently incarcerated individuals, vulnerable youth, and people

of color. There are a wide range of eligible High Impact Abatement Activities, Core Opioid and Remediation Strategies and outlined under [California Opioid Settlements Allowable Expenditures](#) that could be considered.

4. What are the reporting expectations for this grant? How frequently do we need to provide updates?

The reporting expectations for this grant include a mid-term (six-month mark) formal grant progress update, that may include site visits. Grant recipients are required to have a final grantee check-in which will include a combination of reporting and data collection covering the full implementation period between April and May 2026. We encourage you to stay in touch with 3VCF's Grant Administrator via the [3VCF HelpDesk](#) for any potential questions, requests for additional information, or updates during the grant period. Please review the complete application timeline [here](#).

5. What key performance indicators (KPIs) or outcomes will be used to measure the success of our program?

In your grant application, please outline the specific goals and measurable outcomes your program aims to achieve. Include how you will assess the program's effectiveness and its impact on addressing the opioid crisis in Alameda County. Progress will be evaluated based on whether your program meets specific goals and timelines during the grant implementation period (over the next 12-14 months). This includes tracking progress against the milestones outlined in your project plan, and demonstrating how the innovations you developed are contributing to a reduction in opioid-related harm in the communities you serve.

6. Are there other organizations or initiatives 3VCF might recommend we collaborate with to enhance our impact?

At 3VCF we believe that collaborative efforts are likely to provide a more holistic response to community challenges than any single organization working alone. When diverse and multi-talented teams with various skills unite around a shared goal, the potential for meaningful impact increases. Presenting a coordinated approach in a collaborative grant proposal strengthens the case and makes it highly competitive. We recommend collaborating with organizations that can amplify the impact of the proposed project by complementing and/or leveraging the collaborating partner's expertise and community connections, expanding the outreach and effectiveness of the program. This could include but is not limited to -

broader representation, serving a larger demographic, or extending the program's impact to overlooked communities in Alameda County.

7. How should we communicate our progress and challenges to 3VCF? Is there a preferred format or frequency for these updates?

While formal updates will be required throughout the grant period, we also encourage you to share any challenges, changes, or successes with us in real time. Whether it's a setback, a shift in your project timeline, a leadership transition, or a milestone achievement, keeping us informed helps us offer support when needed. Please feel free to reach out via email or by phone as things arise. We are here to celebrate your successes and assist with any challenges along the way.

8. We are a city located in Alameda County that is already receiving opioid settlement funding that we are using to implement State-approved harm reduction strategies. Are we eligible to apply for a mini-grant?

Yes! You are eligible to apply.

9. Is a school district eligible to apply?

Yes! School districts located in Alameda County are eligible to apply. You may apply independently or in collaboration with a community-based nonprofit organization serving Alameda County.

10. We are a nonprofit organization based in another state, and we provide Parent Handbooks to families nationwide that cover important topics such as drug use, mental health, and adverse childhood experiences. We also offer a program that focuses on preventing early opioid and drug use by supporting parents of children in elementary, middle and high school levels. Would this program be eligible for funding from 3VCF?

When selecting grantees, 3VCF aims to support a broad range of organizations, approaches, and outcomes that are in alignment with our [opioid innovative mini-grant focus](#). Even though your organization is located outside the geographic region of Alameda County, CA, given that your organization's target population and focus aligns with the goals of the Innovative Mini-Grant program, you are still eligible to apply. However, your proposal should include a well-defined partnership with a local nonprofit or community-based organization and/or local school district.

11. Is it possible to be a collaborating partner on a 3VCF Community Health Impact grant while also applying independently as a primary applicant for this 3VCF Opioid Innovative Mini-Grant?

Yes!

12. We are applying for Innovative Mini-Grant Funding through 3VCF. However, we want to confirm whether we can submit our own application independently, even if our fiscal sponsor is also applying separately. Would we still be eligible to submit an application for our own project in this case?

Yes! You may certainly apply independently from your fiscal sponsor. However, you must acknowledge them as your fiscal sponsor and include their EIN # and additional details as requested in your application.

13. Is it possible to allocate administrative expenses in our project or program budget?

Yes! You can allocate up to 10% of administrative expenses to your project budget. If the amount exceeds 10%, you will be required to provide detailed rationale and supporting documentation.

14. We are working on a collaborative application for the mini-grant. Are any letters of commitment or other documentation from our collaborating partner(s) needed to accompany our application?

Your letter(s) of commitment do not need to be attached to the application; however, the partnership and collaboration should be outlined in your proposal and solidified in advance with documentation (e.g., partnership letter, MOU, etc.), available upon request.

15. Would a research project qualify for an Innovative Mini-Grant through 3VCF?

Yes! Both fellowships and opioid abatement research proposals qualify for this grant funding opportunity. For more details, please refer to guidelines on page 7 (fellowships) and pages 17 and 18 (research) of the [California Opioid Settlements Allowable Expenditures](#).