



Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund Mini-Grant Program 2025 -2026 Requests for Proposals (RFP)

RFP Issued	Monday, October 27, 2025
Virtual Information Session (<i>optional</i>) Meeting ID: 827 3862 5691 Passcode: 675319	Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 3pm
Applications Due	Monday, December 8, 2025 at 5pm
Funding Decisions Notifications	Friday, January 16, 2026

Technical Assistance and Questions

Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Justin Chellman at JChellman@springfieldcityhall.com All questions and answers will be posted publicly on the SDHHS website - Springfield-MA.gov/HHS/ORRF



ORRF Mini-Grant Program

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ORRF Mini-Grant Program

Introduction

The Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund (ORRF) was established in 2020 to manage funds from legal settlements with companies connected to the opioid crisis. The Springfield Department of Health and Human Services (SDHHS) will receive a multi-year settlement to invest in substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery.

The purpose of these investments is to save lives, promote health equity, and address the root causes of opioid use disorders (OUD) by building a sustainable and coordinated network of care and resources for Springfield residents.

To ensure that funding priorities reflect the community's most pressing needs, SDHHS led a year-long community needs assessment (2023–2024), engaging residents, stakeholders, and individuals with lived experience.

Through this process, SDHHS established a Request for Proposals (RFP) to distribute ORRF funds to local organizations, with the goal to enhance Springfield's recovery ecosystem, strengthening networks and partnerships while creating effective, sustainable pathways for individuals seeking treatment and recovery. The first round of awards, released in April 2025, provided funding to Tapestry Health, Gandara, and New North Citizens Council to support multi-year programming in Springfield. These projects focus on:

1. Resource Navigation and Assertive Linkages
2. Comprehensive Case Management
3. People-Centered Design and Solutions Led by People with Lived Experience (PWLLE) and Their Families

All initiatives funded by SDHHS must align with the [Massachusetts State Sub-Division Agreement for Statewide Opioid Settlements](#), which prioritizes the following areas:

1. Opioid Use Disorder Treatment
2. Support People in Treatment and Recovery
3. Connections to Care
4. Harm Reduction
5. Addressing the Needs of Criminal Justice-Involved Persons
6. Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families, including Babies
7. Preventing Misuse of Opioids and Implement Prevention Education

SDHHS is committed to transparent, accountable distribution of these funds to achieve meaningful and lasting community impact.



ORRF Mini-Grant Program

ORRF Mini-Grant Program

The Springfield Department of Health and Human Services is proud to introduce the ORRF Mini-Grant Program, designed to support community-based organizations across Springfield. The overarching goal of the Mini-Grant Program is to enhance and expand prevention initiatives that work upstream to reduce the prevalence of OUD while complementing ongoing harm reduction, treatment, and recovery services. By focusing on prevention, we aim to:

- Reduce burdens on individuals and families, allowing people to remain employed, contribute to the economy, and support their loved ones.
- Strengthen the community's social fabric by fostering positive social connections and creating supportive networks that build resilience.
- Engage youth and families where they live, learn, and play, helping young people avoid OUD and remain on a path toward a healthier, more successful future—ultimately strengthening the community's human capital.
- Strengthening the opioid use disorder continuum from prevention to recovery.

SDHHS is committed to supporting organizations with deep, trusted connections to the neighborhoods and populations most impacted by the overdose crisis. Through this work, SDHHS seeks to increase access to OUD care and treatment while addressing root causes such as racism and poverty, fostering collaboration with historically underserved communities that have long faced systemic barriers and limited opportunities.

Investing in neighborhood-focused services and neighborhood-based organizations ensures that prevention efforts reflect the unique needs, lived experiences, and cultures of the people they serve. This locality-based approach creates a foundation for more impactful and sustainable outcomes by meeting residents where they live, learn, work, and play.

The ORRF Mini-Grant Program focuses on CDBG-Eligible Block Group neighborhoods, as defined by the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#) — areas with limited opportunities that require targeted investments in education, housing, economic development, and infrastructure. These targeted investments are essential to addressing the social and economic challenges that contribute to opioid use disorders and related disparities.



ORRF Mini-Grant Program

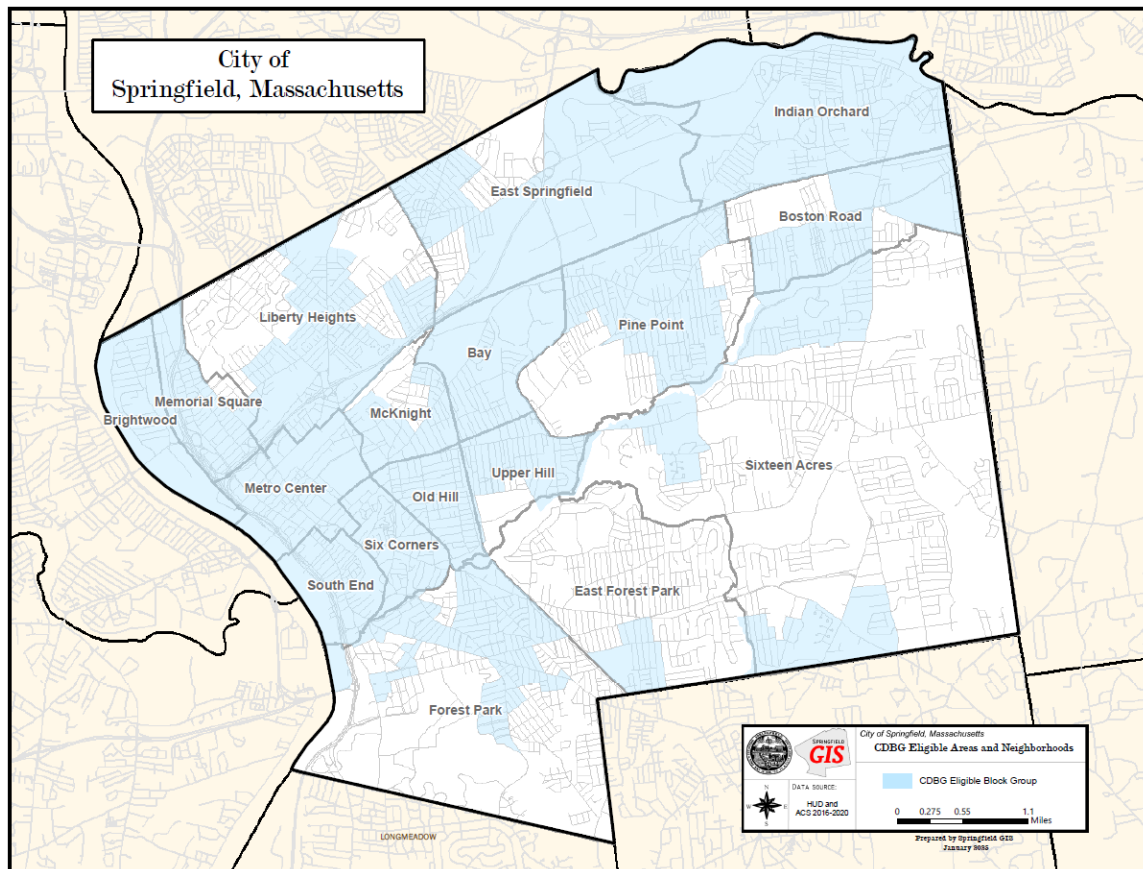


Figure 1. CDBG-Eligible Block Group neighborhoods in Springfield, MA in 2025.

Social Determinants of Health

Proposals should explain how the proposed services address the Social Determinants of Health (SDoH)—the social and economic conditions that influence health outcomes and can either reduce or increase the risk of opioid use disorder (OUD). SDoH encompass the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age, all of which shape overall health and well-being.

In many CDBG-eligible neighborhoods, residents face systemic barriers—such as limited access to healthcare, social support, and economic stability—that heighten vulnerability to OUD. The Mini-Grant Program emphasizes the need for prevention strategies that address these interconnected factors and help close gaps in services and resources. Proposals will be strengthened by clearly showing how projects respond to these underlying challenges and promote healthier, more resilient communities.



ORRF Mini-Grant Program



Figure 2. [Social Determinants of Health | Public Health Gateway | CDC](#)

Funding Overview

The ORRF Mini-Grant Program will award one-time, nonrenewable grants of up to \$50,000 per organization for up to eight to ten organizations. The grant period is 12-months.

Funding Focus Areas

Projects should target at least one of the following focus areas, which represent strategic investments to strengthen Springfield's prevention to recovery ecosystem:

- **People (Workforce Development):** Strengthen the behavioral health workforce through training, recruitment, and retention of professionals and peer recovery specialists.
- **Places (Built Environment):** Improve or expand community spaces and facilities that support prevention, recovery, and overall community well-being.
- **Things (Equipment and Facility Upgrades):** Acquire tools, technology, or facility improvements to enhance service delivery, expand prevention capacity, and improve access to care.
- **Activities (Social Environment):** Develop and deliver programs or initiatives that provide support systems for families, youth, young adults, and caregivers impacted by the opioid crisis.



ORRF Mini-Grant Program

Eligible Applicants

To be eligible for funding, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- **Nonprofit Status:** Be a nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) status, currently serving and committed to prioritizing residents in CDBG-Eligible Block Group neighborhoods.
- **Program Capacity:** Demonstrate the capacity to implement and manage programs related to opioid/substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment, or recovery.
- **Community Engagement:** Show evidence of community engagement and a commitment to serving disproportionately affected populations.
- **Data and Outcomes:** Be willing and able to collect, track, and report program data and outcomes to SDHHS.
- **Alignment with Strategic Focus Areas:** Deliver primary and/or secondary prevention initiatives that align with at least one of the seven strategic focus areas outlined by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts's Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund (ORRF) guidance.
- **Evidence-Informed Approach:** Projects using evidence-based or evidence-informed models to address substance use and OUD prevention will receive priority consideration.
- **Applicants must identify at least one primary target population for their project.** While the main focus should be on this group, SDHHS recognizes that a holistic, systemic approach may also involve others connected to that population. Target populations include:
 - Children and youth
 - Hispanic/Latino and Black/African American individuals
 - People with low and moderate incomes
 - People experiencing homelessness
 - Individuals with lived and living experience
 - Returning citizens re-entering the community after incarceration
 - LGBTQIA+ community members
 - Older adults
 - Immigrants and/or refugees
 - People with disabilities
 - Individuals with dual or multiple diagnoses
 - Veterans

Ineligible Applicants

Organizations currently receiving funding from the most recent SDHHS ORRF RFP (2024–2025) are not eligible to apply for this Mini-Grant Program.

Use of Grant Funds

Grant funds may be used to support the implementation and operation of approved programs, including reasonable and necessary expenses.



ORRF Mini-Grant Program

Allowable Uses

- Program operations and related expenses essential to carrying out proposed activities
- Salaries and benefits for program personnel
- Agency overhead and administrative costs (not to exceed 10% of the total program budget)

Non-Allowable Uses

- Capital expenses or construction projects
- Capital campaigns or fundraising campaigns
- Debt reduction or retroactive funding for previously incurred expenses
- Direct delivery of reimbursable healthcare services
- Establishing or contributing to endowments
- Fundraising events, including purchase of tickets, sponsorships, or courtesy advertising
- Grants or scholarships awarded to individuals
- Activities intended to directly or indirectly influence legislation, policy, or election campaign



ORRF Mini-Grant Program

ORRF Mini-Grant Application

A. Contact Information

1. Lead organization name
2. Employer Identification Number (EIN)
3. Primary contact person
4. Organization address (Street, City, County, Zip Code)
5. Email address
6. Phone number
7. Amount of funding requested

B. Priority Populations (Who)

8. Identify the priority population(s) to be served by the proposed project.
9. Provide a rationale for selecting this population.
10. Describe connections to others in their immediate circle, such as families, friends, neighbors, and peers, and how these relationships will be considered in the project design.

C. Geographic Priority – Springfield CDBG Neighborhoods (Where)

11. Describe the OUD challenges within the selected CDBG-eligible neighborhood(s).
12. Explain any current or proposed partnerships with local neighborhood organizations or associations that will support project strategies and implementation.
13. Describe how the project will leverage community resources to strengthen OUD prevention efforts and encourage broad community participation.

D. Social Determinants of Health (SDoH)

14. Identify the primary Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) domain that is most relevant to your proposed project. Refer to Figure 2 for guidance.

E. Evidence-Based Models

15. Describe the evidence-based or evidence-informed model your project will use to prevent or address opioid use disorder (OUD), including the research or emerging evidence that supports its effectiveness.

F. Upstream Solutions (Program Description)

16. Describe the prevention services and strategies your project will implement.
17. Explain how your project addresses neighborhood-level challenges, such as gaps in resources or barriers faced by residents in low-income, limited-opportunity areas.
18. Identify potential obstacles to success and describe how you will overcome them.



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H. Staffing

21. Identify the staff responsible for executing the project, including specific roles and responsibilities.

I. Funding Request and Budget

22. Complete and submit the SDHHS budget template, including a budget narrative, with your application.
23. Explain how the funds will be managed and overseen, including internal controls.
24. If the project cost exceeds the requested amount, identify other funding sources (committed or pending).

J. Expected Outcomes and Impact

28. Clearly state the measurable outcomes your project aims to achieve.
29. Explain how you will measure and evaluate success, such as pre/post surveys, participation tracking, or qualitative feedback.
30. Describe the overall impact your project will have on individuals and the broader community.

K. Sustainability

31. Given that this is a one-time mini-grant, explain if the project will be sustained beyond the grant period, or how this funding will create lasting benefits for the community.

L. Required Attachments

32. W-9 or proof of tax-exempt status.
33. Budget using the attached template.
34. Signed agreements by project collaborators as necessary.



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Review Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed and scored by the review committee based on the following criteria:

Review Criterion	Weight	Description
Alignment with ORRF Mini-Grant Goals	30%	Evaluates how clearly and strongly the proposed project aligns with the ORRF Mini-Grant priorities and focus areas. The proposal should demonstrate a direct connection between the project's goals and the overall mission of addressing opioid use disorder prevention and community resilience.
Community Need and Impact	30%	Assesses the applicant's understanding of the target community's needs and the anticipated impact of the project. Reviewers will consider the clarity of identified needs, the potential for measurable positive outcomes, and the likelihood of making a meaningful difference for the population served.
Project Design and Feasibility	30%	Reviews the clarity and organization of project activities, the logic of the implementation plan, and the feasibility of achieving objectives within the proposed timeline and budget.
Budget and Sustainability	10%	Evaluates whether the budget is realistic, justified, and aligned with project goals. Reviewers will also consider the applicant's fiscal management plan and strategies for sustaining project benefits beyond the grant period.

Reporting Requirements

Organizations awarded funding will be required to submit both interim and final reports that document:

- Program activities and progress
- Expenditures and use of funds
- Outcomes and measurable impacts achieved

Specific reporting templates, instructions, and deadlines will be provided at the time of award notification. Consistent data collection and reporting are critical for demonstrating the impact of ORRF funds, promoting transparency, and ensuring accountability in addressing the opioid crisis. Please be advised that the City of Springfield operates on a cost-reimbursement system.