Opioid Settlement Funds

Request for Proposal # 2027-005 COAOSF

I. Executive Summary

The City of Auburn is accepting applications for calendar year 2027 Opioid Settlement Fund awards. This funding opportunity is to support Auburn's overall goal of reducing Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)/Substance Use Disorder (SUD) - related morbidity and mortality by strengthening and expanding SUD/OUD prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery service capacity in our region.

Table 1. Overview of Request for Proposals

Funding Opportunity Title:	City of Auburn Opioid Settlement Funds 2027
Due Date for Applications:	**January 8, 2027**
Contact for Inquiries	Jennifer Edwards, Public Health Manager Email: jmorin@auburnmaine.gov Office: (207) 333-6601; ext. 1410
Total Funding Available for this RFP	$150,000
Estimated Number of Awards:	1 or 2
Estimated Individual Award Amount:	Award ceiling of $150,000 for the 1-year period of performance. The City reserves the right to award the full amount to one project, or to split the funds available between two smaller projects.
Period of Performance:	1-Year, beginning on the first of the month following contract execution.
Eligible Applicants:	Maine-based organizations providing services **in the City of Auburn** who are public or private entities, nonprofit or for-profit, are eligible to apply. Domestic faith-based and community-based organizations, educational institutions, tribes, and tribal organizations are also eligible to apply.

II. Abbreviations and Definitions

A. Exhibit E-nationally approved opioid abatement strategies guiding opioid settlement fund spending

B. Harm Reduction- an evidence-based approach that refers to policies, programs, and practices that aim to minimize the negative effects of drug use

C. OUD-Opioid use disorder is a substance use disorder, sometimes referred to as "opioid abuse or dependence" or "opioid addiction" is a problematic pattern of opioid use that causes significant impairment or distress. OUD is a treatable, chronic disease that can affect anyone – regardless of race, gender, income level, or social class."[1]

D. MAT- Medication Assisted Treatment is an evidence-based, comprehensive approach to treatment for substance use disorder that involves medication and behavioral treatment tailored to patient needs. Examples of MAT medications include methadone, suboxone, sublocade, naltrexone and buprenorphine.

E. Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)-Evidence based, comprehensive treatment for Opioid Use Disorder that involves medication (naltrexone, methadone, buprenorphine) and behavioral therapy that fits the patient's needs

F. Prevention- activities and programs that work to educate and support communities and individuals to prevent the use and misuse of drugs and the development of substance use disorders

G. Recovery- a holistic journey where people improve their health and wellness, live self-directed lives, and strive towards their full potential

H. Subdivision- a unit of government created by and under the authority of a higher level of government. In the Maine Opioid Settlement Fund context, the term "subdivision" is referring to the counties, cities, and towns that participated in the lawsuit and received Opioid Settlement money.

   a. Ex: The city of Lewiston is a subdivision of Androscoggin County, and Androscoggin County is a subdivision of the state.

I. SUD- substance use disorder is "a treatable mental disorder that affects a person's brain and behavior, leading to their inability to control their use of substances like legal or illegal drugs, alcohol, or medications. Symptoms can be moderate to severe, with addiction being the most severe form of SUD."[2]

[1] https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/prevention/preventing-opioid-use-disorder.html
[2] https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/substance-use-and-mental-health

J. Treatment- a range of medical, therapeutic, and support services designed to help individuals who are struggling with substance use disorders to safely manage withdrawal symptoms and build skills to stay safe and sober.

a. Example types of treatment

i. Medically Supervised Inpatient Withdrawal Management- refers to the medical and psychological care of patients who are experiencing withdrawal symptoms as a result of ceasing or reducing use of their drug of dependence

ii. Residential- a non-hospital setting where patients live at the facility and can receive various forms of behavioral therapy, education, peer support, and medications in a safe supportive environment

iii. Partial hospitalization- highly structured form of outpatient rehabilitation that offers very similar services to residential treatment, but in a hospital setting where patients can go home at the end of the day

iv. Intensive outpatient treatment-structured treatment program that addresses SUD issues and relapse prevention for patients who do not require medically supervised inpatient withdrawal management or high levels of supervision

v. Outpatient treatment- various counseling, education, and support for substance use treatment while patients live in their own environment.

III. Funding Opportunity Description

1. Summary of Opioid Settlement Funds

In the 1990's, pharmaceutical companies falsely advertised opioids as non-addictive, fueling the Opioid Epidemic. In response, states and local subdivisions across the country sued the major companies that created, distributed, and advertised opioids, including Amerisource Bergen ("The Distributers"), Johnson and Johnson, Walmart, Walgreens, CVS, Allergen, Teva, and the Mallinckrodt bankruptcy estate; this lawsuit ended in a $26 billion nationwide settlement.

Maine is expected to receive over $230 million by 2038. These funds have been allocated between the state, Maine Recovery Council, and local subdivisions, and come with guidance to ensure funds are used for their intended purpose; to abate opioid-related harms through the development, implementation, expansion, and enhancement of evidence-based strategies and practices.

As of September 8, 2026, the City of Auburn has received $755,609.24 from these settlements. Funding amounts will change annually, but estimated payments to Auburn are expected to be approximately $1,744,535.07 through 2038. Therefore, total funds allocated to community organizations and groups may change depending on the application period.

2. Overview of this Request for Proposals

The City of Auburn directly participated in and received funds from the opioid lawsuit settlements. The City incurred and continues to incur costs responding to and combatting opioid addiction in the community. The City of Auburn is seeking proposals from service providers to expand programming in Auburn and/or create new programs in Auburn to combat substance use disorder by addressing identified gaps in support in one or more of the four pillars: prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery.

City staff will recommend up to two projects for funding to Auburn City Council who may award up to $150,000 for this 2027 Request for Proposals. Auburn City Council may choose to review (and fund) any application submitted for funding that meets eligibility requirements and eligible use requirements, up to the amount of funds available for this

round of funding. Applicant(s) selected for recommendation to Council are not guaranteed funding by the Auburn City Council.

As part of the process for selecting priorities for 2027 funding awards, the City of Auburn has reviewed the recent July 2026 document *Needs Assessment: Addressing Substance Use in Androscoggin County – Community-Driven Insights to Inform Opioid Settlement Investments,* published by Healthy Androscoggin with support from the Substance Use Research and Evaluation team at the Catherine Cutler Institute. This document has been sent out with this RFP application for reference.

Projects requesting 2027 Auburn Opioid Settlement funding must:

- Address one (or more) identified current gap or need detailed in the July 2026 *Needs Assessment: Addressing Substance Use in Androscoggin County – Community-Driven Insights to Inform Opioid Settlement Investments,* document.
- Meet all criteria under 'Allowable Uses of Funds and Funding Restrictions' noted below
- Address the City's Spending Priorities for 2027.

3. City of Auburn Spending Priorities for this 2027 Request for Proposal:

Prevention

Prevention refers to activities and programs that work to educate and support communities and individuals to prevent the use and misuse of drugs and the development of substance use disorders.

- **Priority:** Expand evidence-based prevention programs **in Auburn** that help youth, families, and community members prevent substance misuse and reduce the risk of substance use disorders. Priority will be given to projects that address identified local needs, demonstrate collaboration with community partners, and include measurable outcomes to evaluate effectiveness and impact.
    a. Eligible projects should:

i. Include age-appropriate substance use prevention education
ii. Include parent and caregiver education and support programs
iii. Include early identification, intervention, and referrals to support services.

b. Programs may include youth mentoring, leadership development, and positive youth engagement activities that strengthen protective factors.

Harm Reduction and Treatment

Harm Reduction is an evidence-based approach that refers to policies, programs, and practices that aim to minimize the negative effects of drug use.

Treatment is safe withdrawal management from substances, and therapy to develop skills for staying safe and sober.

- **Priority:** Expand access to equitable, evidence-based, and person-centered care for individuals affected by substance use disorders **in Auburn**. Priority will be given to projects that emphasize collaboration, communication, and coordinated service delivery to improve treatment engagement and include measurable outcomes to evaluate effectiveness and impact.
    1. Eligible projects should:
        a. Improve access to treatment and recovery supports
        b. Strengthen care coordination and communication among area providers
        c. Ensure continuity of care during warm transitions and navigation between levels of care, treatment settings, and recovery services
        d. Increase access to care for underserved populations and individuals facing transportation, housing, financial, or other access barriers

Recovery

Recovery is a holistic journey where people improve their health and wellness, live self-directed lives, and strive towards full potential.

- **Priority**: Increase Recovery Ready Community spaces, programming, and recovery supports **in Auburn.** Priority will be given to projects that create or expand recovery-oriented community spaces, programming, and services that increases recovery capital across multiple domains, including:
    a) **Physical and Mental Health**: medical care, behavioral health services, wellness activities, and healthy lifestyle supports
    b) **Social Capital**: peer support, relationship-building, family reunification, and social skills development
    c) **Financial Stability**: education, employment readiness, job training, financial literacy, and life skills development
    d) **Health-Related Social Needs**: housing supports, transportation assistance, food security, and other social determinants of health
- Projects should provide comprehensive support for individuals in recovery and include recovery coaching, peer support, and ongoing community connection opportunities.

4. Applicant Qualifications

Eligible applicants include organizations and groups engaged in opioid prevention, harm reduction, treatment, recovery, and related support services. Applicants must demonstrate the capacity to develop, implement, enhance, or expand programs addressing substance use disorders, polysubstance use, and co-occurring mental health and substance use conditions. Entities providing supportive or wraparound services—such as case management, peer support, housing stabilization, transportation assistance, and other recovery-focused supports—are also eligible.

a) Geographic Requirements: Organizations **must be serving people in Auburn** but may be serving people beyond this geographic area. **All grant-planned activities MUST only target Auburn.**

b) **Organization status**: Maine-based organizations **providing services in Auburn** who are public and private entities, nonprofit and for-profit, are eligible to apply. Domestic faith-

based and community-based organizations, educational institutions, tribes, and tribal organizations are also eligible to apply.

5. Awards

a) Availability of Funds:

The maximum number of awards for this RFP will be: two (2)

The maximum amount of funds to be awarded for this RFP will be: $150,000

The maximum amount of a single award will be $150,000

6. Proposal Requirements

a) Two printed copies of applicant's completed application packet must be submitted in the Auburn City Clerk's office during normal City business hours. **All proposals will be date and time stamped by the Clerk's office, and must be received no later than January 8, 2027 at 4:00 PM**.

b) All planned grant-related activities supported by this program **must** exclusively target and be located in Auburn.

c) Proposals must focus on communities and individuals most profoundly impacted by opioid use disorder and/or co-occurring substance use disorder/mental health conditions

d) Organizations may not submit more than one application per application acceptance period.

7. Awardee Requirements

a) Overall Requirements

i) Utilize funds within the one-year period to be agreed upon and specified in the executed contract

ii) Ensure utilization of funds supplements, not supplants, existing funding

iii) Ensure all funds are used in alignment with the definition of opioid remediation and Exhibit E

iv) Ensure indirect costs do not exceed ten (10) percent of the total requested funds

b) Performance monitoring and reporting requirements

i) Performance Monitoring

(1) Quarterly Project Reports:

(a) Organizations must provide quarterly project reports to the Public Health Manager by the 15th of each reporting month and must include the following:

(i) Staff and staff time on the project
(ii) Community partners involved in the project
(iii) Data on program outputs, outcomes, and/or impacts, based on metrics that will be agreed upon at the selection of the application.
(iv) Program performance to date in comparison to projections, with an accompanying narrative explaining any variances.
(v) Challenges, Barriers, or Unresolved Issues for the quarter
(vi) Accomplishments & Successes during the time frame of the report
(vii) Timeline
(viii) Expected next steps
(ix) Other Relevant Information

(b) Organizations must provide a quarterly financial (budget) report to the Public Health Manager by the 15th of month following the close of a quarter and must include the following, at a minimum:
(i) Expenses for the quarter
(ii) Amount spent to date
(iii) Amount Budgeted
(iv) Justifications for underspent funds
(v) Notes about expenses
(vi) Any additional requirements agreed upon at the selection of the application

(2) Annual Report
(a) Must be provided to the Public Health Manager by the date to be identified in contract and must include all metrics that were agreed upon when funding was awarded, as noted in the executed contract.
(b) Annual report narrative should discuss comprehensively the successes of the project, lessons learned, improvements to programming needed, and sustainability plans.
(c) Grantee may be required to present to the Auburn City Council at the request of the Public Health Manager.

- Reporting Requirements

  - Failure to furnish timely required reports with any invoices sent to draw down funds will impact the timeliness of reimbursement for allowable expenses.

- Failure to furnish timely required reports, and/or failure to deliver on program outcomes may result in the loss of future opioid program funding eligibility from the City of Auburn.
- Invoices should be sent quarterly for reimbursement and must be accompanied by quarterly and/or annual report

8. Allowable Uses of Funds and Funding Restrictions

Specific to the J&J, Distributor, CVS, Teva, Allergan and Walmart settlements, funds must be spent on opioid remediation. Opioid Remediation is defined as:

Care, treatment, and other programs and expenditures (including reimbursement for past such programs or expenditures except where this Agreement restricts the use of funds solely to future Opioid Remediation) designed to address the misuse and abuse 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 epidemic.

Activities MUST meet the definition of opioid remediation, be an evidence-based strategy or promising practice and align with allowable uses outlined by Exhibit E. These strategies include:

1.) Core Strategies

• Naloxone or other FDA-approved drug to reverse opioid overdoses
• Medication-assisted Treatment (MAT) distribution and other opioid-related treatment
• Address the needs of pregnant and postpartum women
• Expanding treatment for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)
• Expansion of warm hand-off programs and recovery services
• Treatment for incarcerated population
• Prevention programs
• Expanding syringe service programs
• Evidence-based data collection and research analyzing the effectiveness of the abatement strategies within the state

2.) Approved Uses - Prevention

- Prevent over-prescribing and ensure appropriate prescribing and dispensing of opioids
- Prevent misuse of opioids
- Prevent overdose deaths and other harms (harm reduction)

3.) Approved Uses - Treatment

- Treat Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)
- Support people in treatment and recovery
- Connect people who need help to the help they need (connections to care)
- Address the needs of criminal justice-involved persons
- Address the needs of pregnant or parenting women and their families, including babies with NAS

4.) Approved Uses – Other Strategies

- Supporting first responders
- Leadership, planning and coordination
- Training
- Research

9. Schedule of Events

Application Posted	November 13, 2026
Deadline to Email Questions to jmorin@auburnmaine.gov	November 20, 2026, by 4:00 PM
City of Auburn Responses to Questions received by the deadline will be uploaded to RFP site as addenda by:	December 4, 2026
Application Due Date	**January 8, 2027, by 4:00 PM**
Anticipated Discussion by City Council date	January 18, 2027
Anticipated Selection Announcement date	January 20, 2027
Anticipated Performance Period	12 months from contract execution

10. Proposal Process

- All questions must be submitted in writing by email to jmorin@auburnmaine.gov **no later than 4:00 PM on November 20, 2026**. Responses to all questions received by

the deadline will be issued/posted in writing on December 4, 2026 on the RFP website: https://www.auburnmaine.gov/departments/finance/bids/index.php Applicants are responsible for checking for updates and addenda prior to submission of completed application. Only written responses issued by the City shall be considered official.

- Two copies of the complete application packet must be delivered to the following address**, and received, no later than January 8, 2027 at 4:00 PM**. Applications received after this time will not be considered.
    - City of Auburn
      City Clerk
      60 Court Street
      Auburn, ME 04210
- Applications will not be accepted by email.
- The City of Auburn reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted.
- To be scored, applications must be complete and have **all** contact information filled out.
- Applications should use a font size of 12, with lines spaced at 1.5
- Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. All fields in the application and on the budget template spreadsheet are mandatory, unless otherwise noted.
- There is no expressed or implied obligation for the City of Auburn to reimburse responding organizations for any expenses incurred in preparing proposals in response to this RFP.
- Proposals submitted will be evaluated by the Public Health Manager and up to two additional reviewers with subject matter expertise. During the evaluation process, the City reserves the right, where it may serve the City's best interest, to request additional assistance from other experts in the field to evaluate proposals and to request additional information or clarifications from applicants, or to allow corrections of errors or omissions. At the request of the City, applicants may be requested to make oral presentations as part of the evaluation and/or the award process.
- The City of Auburn reserves the right to retain all proposals submitted and to use any ideas in a proposal regardless of whether that proposal is selected in this round of funding. Submission of a proposal indicates acceptance by the organization of the conditions contained in this request for proposals, unless clearly and specifically

noted in the proposal submitted and confirmed in the contract between the City of Auburn and the applicant if awarded funding.

11. Scoring Process

The City of Auburn has implemented procedures for assessing the technical merit of applications to provide for an objective review and to assist applicants in understanding the standards against which an application will be reviewed. The review process allows for the objective evaluation of applications by the individuals responsible for making award recommendations. One or two applications will be recommended to the Auburn City Council for consideration of award within available funding ranges. Applications will be reviewed by the Public Health Manager and up to two additional reviewers using a standard rubric. These criteria are the basis upon which the reviewers will evaluate and score the merit of the application. The entire proposal will be considered during the review process. Below are descriptions of the review criteria.

1. **Adherence to Application Instructions**- Application is clear, comprehensive, and professional, has been submitted by the deadline, all fields are complete, and all documents requested are present.
2. **Lead Organization Information and Description**- Organizational mission, purpose, and current community impact are clear, current staff are trained and qualified for current positions, and there is clear evidence of the need for the organization's work. The organization's structure is explained, showing it can implement its proposed project, including existing collaborations for support if necessary.
3. **Project Description**-Project goals, objectives, and expected outcomes are clear. The project is in alignment with strategies in Exhibit E, addresses one (or more) identified current gap or need detailed in the July 2026 Needs Assessment published by Healthy Androscoggin, and addresses one of the City's identified spending priorities for 2027. The project is highly likely to complete expected outcomes and has shown flexibility to adapt to the ever-changing community needs. Project description clearly identifies which specific Core Strategies under Exhibit E the proposed project aims to address and how the program aligns with Exhibit E.
4. **Priority Population and Geographic Area**-Project serves assigned subdivision's geographic area; organization has demonstrated familiarity in working with the priority population.
5. **Data to Support need**- the organization has provided reliable, accurate data that clearly illustrates the need for the program/project they are proposing. The data is easily accessible and readable for reviewers. The evidence-based model or approach is clearly

identified and research and data presented supports the model and proposed activities in addressing the identified need.

6. **Timeline**- Project timeline is feasible to complete within the expected timeframe, aligns with all project guidelines, and is logical and clear.
7. **Scope of work**- The scope of work is feasible for the organization and funding structure, and there is a clear, logical connection between outputs, outcomes, and project timeline. If there are partnerships, the roles of the partnerships are clear, and letters of commitment are complete, signed, and attached.
8. **Data tracking**- Objectives align with Exhibit E and follow SMARTIE guidelines (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timebound, Inclusive, Equitable). Identified tracking measures are clear, feasible, and connected to the objectives.
9. **Sustainability**- The applicant has stated a feasible and logical plan for when funding is fully expended.
10. **Budget**-Narrative for the budget is clear and detailed; overall funding amount requested is feasible for the program.

IV. Application Response Format

Applicant Information	
Lead Organization Information:	
Organization Name	
Mailing Address	
Street Address (if different than mailing address)	
Email Address	
Phone number	
Primary Contact Person for request	
Primary Contact Email and Phone Number	
Fiscal Sponsor Information (if different than Lead Organization)	
Fiscal Sponsor Name	
Mailing Address	
Street Address (if different than mailing address)	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

Project Information	
Project Title	
Project Director	
Title of Project Director	
Authorized Representative	
Title of Authorized Representative	
Signature of Authorized Representative	
Signature Date	

Lead Organization Description (include overview of organization's structure)
Short Bios of Project Personnel (including their qualifications)

Project Description **(4,000 character limit, including spaces)**

Make sure to include:

- ***How this proposal will address harms associated with the opioid crisis***
- ***Which specific Core Strategies under Exhibit E the proposed project aims to address, and explain how the program aligns with Exhibit E***
- ***What specific evidence-based practice or evidence informed approach will be utilized – describe the research basis or model.***
- ***Goals and expected outcomes of the project***
- ***How your organization or group has or will have the capacity to successfully implement this project***

Priority Populations - Specify the target population(s) the project will serve
(1,000 character limit, including spaces)

Geographic Area Served by Project

Rationale/Data to Support Need for Project **(4,000 character limit, including spaces)**

High-Level Project Timeline (brief description)

Scope of Work (See MOSS Center example document sent with RFP information packet)

Activity	Outputs	Outcomes	Expected Timeline

List of partners and their expected roles:

(NOTE: All subcontractors must be identified in the application with their specific role and responsibility identified. A signed Letter of Commitment is required from each.)	
Please list SMARTIE objectives **(specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, timebound, inclusive, equitable)**	
How will you collect and/or track data related to your objectives? **(1,000 character limit, including spaces)**	
How will the project be sustained after this round of funding? **(2,000 character limit, including spaces)**	
Budget-total amount requested from Auburn	**$_____**
Budget Narrative/Spending Plan: Describe how opioid funds will be used **(attach detailed budget plan using required spreadsheet template)**	
New or Existing Project? (Check one)	**___: Existing** **___: New**
Existing- Currently, how many unique individuals are served annually by applicant's program?	
New-is this project evidence-based and/or considered a promising practice?	**__: Yes** **__: No**
Attachments/Supporting Documents	**A. Resume of project director and/or key staff** **B. Completed Budget Template** **C. Letters of Commitment from any partners (if required)** **D. Supplemental materials demonstrating experience, organizational**

	impact/commitment to addressing the overdose epidemic **E. OPTIONAL: Up to 3 letters of support** **F. OPTIONAL: Up to 3 additional 1-page documents to support your application (example: visuals, logic models, etc.)**