



Grants Posting Request for Application (RFA) Template

Office of Community & Family Resiliency Request for Applications

Ohio Coalition Institute

RFA #: 91, MHA-FY26 Office of Community & Family Resiliency

Funding Period: (01-01-2025) – (09-30-2026)

Request for Applications Posting Date: (10-24-2025)

Request for Applications Due Date: (11-14-2025), by 3 p.m. EDT

Grants Posting Evaluation Criteria for Request for Applications (RFA)

Ohio Coalition Institute, Office of Community & Family Resiliency

RFA #: 91

**Applications should be completed using the following information,
guidance, and requirements: SECTION I.**

GENERAL PURPOSE & APPLICANT INFORMATION

1.1 Purpose

The Ohio Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) releases this Request for Applications (RFA) for the purpose of soliciting applications from institutions of higher education to coordinate, promote, and evaluate the Ohio Coalition Institute (OCI). The OCI is designed to support the continual growth, impact, and collaboration of Ohio's community coalitions that address behavioral health topics (e.g., suicide prevention, gambling prevention, and drug free coalitions). This RFA seeks to select 1 grantee. The responsibilities of the selected applicant will include expanding and building out the OCI and creating a pathway for community coalitions to become grounded in prevention science and coalition best practices. Grantee will evaluate and share OCI and coalition data with DBH to inform future funding and programmatic decision-making in support of coalitions.

For the purpose of this RFA, the term "applicant" is defined as an institution of higher education interested in this opportunity. The terms "application" and "response" may be used interchangeably to indicate materials submitted to DBH by an applicant in order to be considered for award of a grant for services described in this RFA. The terms "grantee" and "selected applicant" may be used interchangeably in reference to an organization selected by DBH through this RFA for award.

1.2 Overview of the Project

The OCI will assess statewide community coalition capacity, identify gaps, and work to increase capacity and sustainability of coalitions across the state. The OCI seeks to create a sustainable and collaborative infrastructure that supports and elevates coalitions through enhanced training, technical assistance, and coaching. This includes assisting with establishing new coalitions in areas without suicide prevention, problem gambling prevention, and drug free coalitions. This will also include the elevation of a coalition network to expand opportunities to strengthen coalitions and advance local strategies. The selected entity will be expected to lead the further development, on-going implementation and evaluation of OCI.

1.3 Issuing Office

The Office of Community and Family Resiliency issues this RFA.

1.4 Background

In federal fiscal year 2021 (FFY21), DBH partnered with several organizations to collaboratively develop the Ohio Coalition Institute (OCI) to empower Ohio's community coalitions through evidence-based education and professional development. The organizations partnered in developing the Foundations in Community Coalition Development curriculum; a cornerstone program of the OCI designed for all established and emerging coalitions. Since its inauguration in FFY21, the OCI has provided several coalition leaders with training, technical assistance, and coaching in coalition and prevention best practices. Additionally, various coalition leaders have been trained to serve as OCI coaches. For FY26, DBH is seeking a statewide entity to build off the existing OCI infrastructure, increasing its reach, evaluation, and sustainability.

1.5 Scope of Work

Goal 1: Establish and Facilitate the OCI Leadership Team

Grantee will establish a Leadership Team (LT) within the first quarter of the grant period. The LT, including DBH representation, will guide the planning, implementation, and sustainability of the OCI's development efforts. The LT should include statewide partners coordinating community coalition initiatives and networks. The team will explore and act on opportunities to collaboratively integrate the OCI into existing community coalition infrastructure, contributing to the collective impact of statewide coalition efforts. To formalize these roles, responsibilities and commitments, the Grantee must secure MOUs with each participating organization or agency represented on the team. MOUs should outline each member's contributions to the OCI.

Objective 1: Collaborate with OCI Leadership Team to Develop Learning Opportunities

DBH will provide grantee will draft OCI curriculum. Grantee will share updated draft OCI curriculum with LT for review and feedback. Grantee will incorporate feedback into final curricula.

1. Grantee will convene Leadership Team by 3/1/26
2. Grantee will send signed MOUs from LT organizations to DBH by 4/1/26

Objective 2: Collaborate with OCI Leadership Team to Collect Coalition Data

Grantee will collaborate with the LT to collect data for the OCI Coalition Heat Map and will incorporate the LT's feedback into the expansion of the Map. Grantee will engage the LT and in assessing existing processes to collect community coalition data, working to avoid duplicated efforts.

Goal 2: Increase Awareness and Engagement of Ohio's Community Coalitions

Grantee will engage and increase awareness of Ohio's community coalitions. Coalition Heat Maps will be shared with DBH to inform programmatic and funding decisions. Additionally, an interactive map on the OCI website will support Ohioans in engaging with community coalitions. Grantee will maintain ongoing outreach and communication with coalitions, promoting OCI resources.

Objective 1: Develop Community Coalition Heat Maps

DBH will provide grantee with preliminary coalition data for heat maps. Grantee will update data and develop heat maps demonstrating saturation of active community coalitions (e.g., suicide prevention, gambling prevention, and drug free coalitions) in each county across the state. At least four heat maps will be submitted:

- Suicide Prevention Coalition Heat Map
 - Drug Free Coalition Heat Map
 - Gambling Prevention Heat Map
 - All Community Coalitions Heat Map
1. Grantee will submit draft coalition heat maps to Leadership Team and DBH by 2/16/26 for initial review.
 2. Grantee will integrate any feedback received and resubmit heat maps to Leadership Team and DBH by 3/1/26.

Objective 2: Expand OCI Communications & Website

Maintain and expand existing OCI website which will serve as a one stop shop for resources and supports for all coalitions. The website will include an interactive community coalition map that will support users in locating coalitions based on topics, strategies, and populations of interest. The map will include contact information for each coalition. Grantee will provide DBH with website metrics. Grantee will coordinate communications with coalitions (e.g., OCI newsletters) to promote OCI resources.

1. Grantee will share updated OCI website, including interactive heat map, with LT for initial review by 5/1/26.
2. Grantee will integrate feedback received by LT into OCI website and interactive heat map by 6/15/26.

Goal 3: Increase Ohio's Community Coalition Capacity

Increase Ohio's community coalition capacity through curricula development, training, coaching, and technical assistance. Offerings will be organized into three tiers; OCI 100, OCI 200, and OCI 300. All three tiers will utilize a Community of Practice (CoP) model and support coalitions in implementing the Strategic Prevention Framework and Collective Impact model. Curricula will be designed as continuing education for prevention professionals. Grantee will update, implement, and evaluate the OCI 100 curriculum, which will be provided by DBH. By the end of FY26, grantee will develop OCI 200 and OCI 300 Community of Practice Scopes of Work. Grantee will support counties in developing coalitions in geographically underrepresented areas. Grantee will incentivize coalition development and collaborate with coalitions to demonstrate outcomes.

Grantee will position the OCI to support coalitions establishing or honing their roles within their county System of Care and within statewide prevention initiatives. Grantee will maintain ongoing communication with DBH to integrate these components into OCI body of work.

Objective 1: Coordinate and evaluate OCI 100 Curriculum: Foundations of Community Coalition Development (OCI 100)

1. Grantee will update and utilize the OCI 100 Foundations for Community Coalition Development curriculum, which will be provided by DBH, and is based on the work of Dr. Frances Dunn Butterfoss, PhD, and the book *Ignite! Getting Your Community Coalition "Fired Up" for Change*. The applicant will coordinate a Community of Practice (CoP) for 8-12 emerging community coalitions to participate in a series of sessions that are designed to enhance coalition infrastructure and capacity. To ensure coalition leaders succeed at integrating and transferring information to a skills-based application benefitting their coalitions and communities, each coalition will be assigned a Coalition Coach who they will meet with on a monthly basis. OCI 100 curriculum will be facilitated through 8 sessions over the course of 4-6 months. In between sessions, coalitions will complete deliverables created to support their work, including:
 - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats Analysis
 - Membership Gap Analysis
 - Membership Recruitment Plan
 - Coalition Communications Plan
 - Coalition Action Plan
 - Sustainability Plan
2. Grantee will share updated draft OCI 100 curriculum with DBH and LT by 2/1/25 for initial review.
3. Grantee will integrate any feedback and resubmit curriculum to LT by 2/15/26 for second review.
4. Grantee will integrate any feedback and resubmit final OCI curriculum to LT by 3/1/26.
5. DBH will provide grantee with a list of existing OCI coaches. Grantee will engage and recruit coaches to participate in OCI 100 during FY26.
6. Grantee will train coaches on OCI 100.
7. Grantee will release Request for Applications (RFA) for OCI 100 and collaborate with LT to select community coalitions.
8. Grantee will disburse capacity building grants to selected coalitions.
9. Grantee will coordinate and evaluate OCI 100 by 9/30/26.

Objective 2: Develop OCI 200 Community of Practice Scope of Work: Data- Driven Strategic Planning

1. Grantee will develop the OCI 200 Community of Practice Scope of Work (SOW) for established coalitions that combines a data-driven, strategic planning process with an emphasis on working collectively across the continuum of care, utilizing a person-centered approach that promotes resiliency. OCI 200 will support coalitions in completing a Gap Analysis, Logic Model, Strategic Plan, and Showcase Presentation. The SOW will include all information and materials needed to coordinate, implement, and evaluate OCI 200, including:

- Training schedule, program outline, training materials, homework assignments
 - Pre- and post-tests
 - Training materials for OCI 200 coaches
 - Request for Interest for OCI 200 coaches (to be released in FY27)
 - Request for Applications for OCI 200 coalitions (to be released in FY27)
2. Grantee will maintain ongoing communication regarding OCI 200 SOW development, and share SOW draft materials with LT by 5/15/26 for an initial review.
 3. Grantee will integrate any feedback received by LT regarding OCI 200 SOW, and submit updated SOW to LT by 7/1/26 for a second review.
 4. Grantee will integrate any additional feedback received by LT and submit finalized OCI 200 SOW to LT by 9/15/26.

Objective 3: Develop OCI 300 Community of Practice Scope of Work

5. Grantee will develop OCI 300 Community of Practice Scope of Work (SOW) that will cover evaluation, sustainability, advocacy, and additional topics supporting the continuous growth of established coalitions. The SOW will include all information and materials needed to coordinate, implement, and evaluate OCI 300, including:
 - Training schedule, program outline, training materials, homework assignments
 - Pre- and post-tests
 - Training materials for OCI 300 coaches
 - Request for Interest for OCI 300 coaches (to be released in FY27)
 - Request for Applications for OCI 300 coalitions (to be released in FY27)
1. OCI 300 will incorporate the Strategic Prevention Framework and Collective Impact model to address social drivers of health. It will be designed to support coalitions with strengthening their roles as integrated and crucial partners with both the local and statewide prevention landscapes. This includes engagement and support of countywide prevention initiatives and systems of care. In between sessions, coalitions will complete deliverables created to support their work, including:
 - Strategic Plan Map incorporating Social Drivers of Health
 - Evaluation Plan
 - Sustainability Plan
2. Grantee will maintain ongoing communication regarding OCI 300 SOW development and share draft SOW with DBH by 5/15/26 for an initial review.
3. Grantee will integrate any feedback received by DBH regarding OCI 300 SOW, and submit updated SOW to DBH by 7/1/26 for a second review.
4. Grantee will integrate any additional feedback received by DBH and submit finalized OCI 300 SOW to DBH by 9/15/26.

Goal 4: Strategic Planning & Evaluation

Grantee will coordinate the strategic planning and evaluation of the OCI.

Objective 1: Develop the 2027 – 2029 OCI Strategic Plan

- Grantee will work with the LT and DBH to develop the 2027 – 2029 OCI Strategic Plan and maintain ongoing communication with DBH throughout the writing process.
- The plan will outline strategies, goals, and objectives associated with expanding the reach and collective impact of the OCI, further integrating it into existing statewide infrastructure. The plan will include strategies for supporting the continual growth of coalition capacity across all Ohio counties. The plan will include a high-level summary of the developmental evaluation approach for measuring progress. The plan will describe how the OCI will support coalitions in establishing or honing their roles within their county System of Care and statewide prevention initiatives.
- Grantee will convene the LT for a strategic planning session by 4/1/26
- Grantee will submit draft plan to the LT and DBH by 5/15/26 for an initial review.
- Grantee will integrate any feedback received by LT and the DBH and resubmit the draft Strategic Plan to DBH by 7/1/26 for a second review.
- Grantee will integrate any additional feedback received by DBH and submit the finalized Strategic Plan to DBH by 9/15/26.

Objective 2: Develop an OCI Evaluation Plan

- Grantee will develop the OCI Evaluation Plan, which will identify qualitative and quantitative data that will be collected, as well as methods and frequency for data collection. The Evaluation Plan will also describe continuous quality improvement (CQI) processes that will be implemented. This will include analyzed pre- and post-test data on knowledge and skills gained for OCI analyzed OCI 100 results, and CQI recommendations. This will also include an analysis of the process used for gathering data for the OCI Coalition Map, along with CQI recommendations for gathering, maintaining, and expanding map data.
- Grantee will submit draft Evaluation Plan to DBH by 7/1/26 for an initial review.
- Grantee will integrate any feedback received by DBH and resubmit the draft Evaluation Plan to DBH by 8/15/26 for a second review.
- Grantee will integrate any additional feedback received by DBH and submit the finalized Evaluation Plan to DBH by 9/30/26.

Deliverables

Grantee will report on progress towards all OCI goals and objectives through monthly reports and meetings with DBH. Grantee will report progress towards the following deliverables:

- Coalition heat maps submitted to DBH by 3/1/26
- Grantee convenes Leadership Team by 3/1/26
- Final OCI 100 curriculum submitted to DBH by 3/1/26
- Grantee sends signed MOUs from Leadership Team organizations to DBH by 4/1/26
- Grantee convenes Leadership Team for a strategic planning session by 4/1/26
- Current and interactive coalition map included in OCI website by 6/15/26

- Final OCI 200 CoP SOW submitted to DBH by 9/15/26
- Final OCI 300 CoP SOW submitted to DBH by 9/15/26
- Final Strategic Plan submitted to DBH by 9/15/26
- Final Evaluation Plan submitted to DBH by 9/30/26
- Coordinate and evaluate OCI 100 for 8-12 emerging community coalitions by 9/30/26

Key Performance Indicators

- Number of communities with access to coalitions in geographically underrepresented areas
- Percentage increase in participant knowledge as demonstrated by pre- and post-tests
- Percentage of Ohio counties engaged through OCI initiatives

1.6 Eligible Applicants

DBH seeks applications from institutions of higher education that demonstrate content expertise in prevention science, Ohio's approach to coalition development; the Strategic Prevention Framework; collective impact; the process of developing and facilitating communities of practice, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention's Strategies; CDC Strategies for preventing suicide; community trauma; and social drivers of health. Applicants must also have the capacity to reach a statewide audience and utilize a developmental evaluation process. Applicants must have the capacity to facilitate the OCI in multiple settings (i.e., virtual, face to face).

Priority will be given to Applicants who are subject matter experts and that demonstrate a strong commitment to statewide collaboration, evidenced by signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with multiple partner organizations across key functional areas, including training and technical assistance, event planning, marketing, and evaluation. Priority will be given to applicants who demonstrate familiarity with Office of Community & Family Resiliency -funded programming and initiatives.

The DBH has released this RFA with the intent of awarding up to \$1,000,000 per year to 1 institution of higher education, which will in turn support the coordination, implementation, and evaluation of the OCI.

Awards are expected to be announced for project implementation by [12-12-2025](#). Future funding award years are contingent upon successful performance and receipt of federal funds.

The actual dollar amounts awarded for selected applications will be based on the amount of state or federal funding made available to DBH, and the number of applications which are both qualified and selected for award. Applications are qualified if they are in accordance with the application submission requirements and earn at least the minimum score requirements for quality and completeness of applications, as specified in this RFA. Scoring and final selections will be completed

by a team selected by DBH. To make its final selection of applications which will receive awards and to determine the size of those awards, DBH may, at its option, take into consideration application quality, reasonableness and appropriateness of the proposed budget, geographic diversity, local collaborations and funding available.

DBH may, at its option, make selections based in part on geographical and demographic criteria in order to provide a wide range of services around the state, and in both urban and rural areas. Applicants are encouraged to prepare and submit applications and budgets which are both practical and capable of coordinating the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the OCI.

Applicants are to be aware that DBH may, at its sole discretion, negotiate with all technically qualifying applicants for a revised Project Budget, if the Project Budgets of all technically qualifying applicants are in excess of the available funding for this project. Please refer to Section 7.1 C. of this RFA for further information on DBH procedures to be implemented if this occurs.

SECTION II. Posting and Award PROCESS INFORMATION

2.1 Anticipated Timetable

1. The RFA, accompanying documents, and all questions and answers will be posted on the DBH website at: <https://dbh.ohio.gov/supporting-providers/apply-for-funding/funding-opportunities>
2. All questions must be submitted electronically no later than (11/7/25), **by 3 p.m. EDT**, to DBH at: PreventionServices@dbh.ohio.gov
3. The FAQ mailbox will close one week prior to the application due date. No questions will be answered after the deadline. You may **NOT** contact any DBH staff member directly with questions regarding this RFA. Contacting staff directly with questions could result in disqualification of an application.
4. Responses to all questions (FAQ) will be posted to the DBH website at <https://dbh.ohio.gov/supporting-providers/apply-for-funding/funding-opportunities> and will be updated frequently.

5. Applications must be submitted electronically to PreventionServices@dbh.ohio.gov by **11/14/25 by 3 p.m. EDT.**
6. Application grant notification letters will be sent approximately fourteen days post grant application closure.
7. DBH agreements are not valid and effective until the issuance of an approved State of Ohio Notice of Sub-Award (NOSA). The NOSA will contain the start and end dates of the award.
8. The grantee(s) must be able to begin work no later than seven (7) working days after the time funds are encumbered and approved by the Office of Budget & Management. The grantee(s) will be notified by the DBH Agreement Manager when work may begin. Any work begun by the grantee prior to this notification may not be reimbursable by DBH.
9. All work must be completed and approved by the DBH Identified Agreement Manager. All work must be completed by 3:00 p.m. of the last day of the programmatic period as it appears on the NOSA.

It is the responsibility of all applicants to check the webpage dedicated to this RFA on a regular basis for responses to all questions, as well as for any amendments, alerts, or other pertinent information regarding this RFA. DBH is not responsible for the accuracy of any information regarding this RFA that was obtained or gathered through a source different from the Q & A process described in this RFA.

Should applicants experience technical difficulties accessing the DBH website where the RFA and its related documents are published, they may contact the DBH Helpdesk at helpdesk@dbh.ohio.gov for guidance.

SECTION III. APPLICATION GUIDELINES

The applicant must submit electronic response to PreventionServices@dbh.ohio.gov. A copy of the grant *application* must be received by DBH no later than **11/14/25**. *Applications* received after this date and time will not be reviewed. Materials mailed or submitted separately from the *application* packet will not be accepted or added to the application/proposal by staff of DBH. Faxed or mailed *applications* will not be accepted. Costs incurred in the preparation of this application are to be borne

by the applicant; DBH will not contribute in any way to the costs of the preparation.

3.1 Page Limit

The page limit for this application is 6 pages, single spaced, one-inch margins, 12-point Times New Roman. The 6 pages do not include the Budget Expenditure Form and Budget Narrative. Each page must be numbered.

Please note that if the application is longer than 6 pages, DBH will evaluate the application based upon the first 6 pages, and the remainder of the application may be disregarded.

3.2 Application Components

Applications must be clearly organized, with each of the following sections individually titled, following the order provided. Refer to scoring rubric to ensure all criteria are addressed within the application.

A. Face-sheet

- a. Name of applicant organization, address, phone number
- b. Executive director name and contact information
- c. Project Director name and contact information
- d. Fiscal officer name and contact information
- e. Applicant's federal tax ID
- f. Title of this RFA
- g. Amount of funding requested

B. Abstract – Summary of services and supports to be provided, the target population(s), number of individuals projected to be served, the goal(s) and object(s) of the proposed services and supports, and the total amount of funding. (400 words or less).

C. Prior Experience

Applications must demonstrate prior experience successfully implementing complex subject projects related to the subject matter. Preference will be given to applications that describe experience with the Strategic Prevention Framework, Collective Impact models, Communities of Practice, curriculum development, strategic planning, heat maps, and coalition evaluation. Share specific examples of experience (e.g., specific relevant projects).

- D. Scope of the Work/Project Description:** Provide a detailed description of the proposed approach to completing each deliverable and timeline for completing each deliverable. In the project description, please also include the following information. Title each subsection individually, following the order provided:
- a. **Vision:** Describe applicant's vision for expanding the OCI to increase coalition capacity, leading to greater sustainability and local impact. Include the role of the OCI in identifying and supporting communities, counties, and regions that are underrepresented within the coalition landscape.
 - b. **Target Population:** Brief summary of prevalence rates (e.g., problem gambling, suicide, and overdose). Identify potential gaps in community coalition landscape, including target counties, communities, or regions that are geographically underrepresented.
 - c. **Number to be served:** Number of coalition members to be served through OCI 100 and OCI outreach and communications.
 - d. **National Outcome Measures (NOMS):** Applications must include a description of the project goals and measures to be achieved during the programmatic project period.
 - e. **Applicant Qualifications:** The applicant must address all the minimum qualifications and fully describe the applicant's experience and qualifications.
 - f. **Staffing & Partnerships Plan:** The applicant's response must identify by position and name, the staff who will be key to the project's success. Include qualifications, the amount of FTE per position, and the service providers' level of subject matter expertise implementing the proposed services and supports. Identify statewide partners; applications including partnerships with coaching networks and signed Memoranda of Understanding will be prioritized.
 - g. **Sub-Awardee** qualifications and staffing plan (if applicable)
 - h. **Adherence to the National CLAS Standards:**
 - 1. Link to National CLAS Standards:
<https://thinkculturalhealth.hhs.gov/clas/standards>
 - 2. How health beliefs and practices will be implemented in a competent and trauma informed manner.
 - 3. How preferred languages will be honored.

4. How to meet health literacy and other communication needs of all populations identified in the proposal.

E. Proposed Implementation

Applications must include a discussion of the evidence-based, evidence-supported, or other practices that will be implemented during the project. Additionally, they must provide a realistic timeline for each month of the project. The timeline should include objectives that are SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound). All key dates, key activities, and responsible personnel should be outlined in detail and align with the proposed phases of the project. Applications should describe any innovative approaches proposed to implement each OCI goal.

F. Outcome Measures

Applications must include a description of the project goals and outcomes to be achieved; a detailed methodology for measuring progress; benchmarks that provide an indication of standards to be achieved; a methodology for tracking progress achievements or shortfalls; and a methodology for analyzing and correcting project errors.

G. Budget Expenditure Form and Budget Narrative

- a. Applications must include a Budget Expenditure Form and Budget Narrative that identifies all costs to complete the project as described in the Request for Application. Include award amounts for capacity-building grants for coalitions participating in OCI 100.
- b. Include the Budget Checklist which can be found on the DBH Funding Opportunity Page.
- c. Applications with an indirect cost rate of 20% or less are preferred.

By submitting a budget expenditure form and budget narrative, the Applicant is confirming that the services and deliverables outlined within this RFA are encompassed within the budget expenditure form and budget narrative. The Applicant acknowledges that if their application is chosen as a result of this RFA, the Applicant will not be entitled to increase the original application's cost breakdown. DBH relies on the budget expenditure form and budget narrative to adequately evaluate and determine awards, and no Applicant shall be entitled to additional funds outside of the cost proposal.

SECTION IV. CRITERIA FOR APPLICATION SCORING

4.1 Scoring Applications

DBH will enter into agreement(s) with a grantee(s) that best demonstrates the ability to meet requirements as specified in the RFA. Applicants submitting a response will be evaluated based on the capacity and experience demonstrated in their Application and Project Budget. All applications will be reviewed and scored by a team from DBH.

DBH is under no obligation to issue an agreement as a result of this solicitation if, in the opinion of DBH and the Scoring Team, none of the applications are responsive to the objectives and needs of DBH. DBH reserves the right not to select any application should DBH decide not to proceed.

DBH may review the highest-ranking Applicants and/or its key team members to ensure that the Applicant is responsible. The award may not be made to an Applicant that is determined not to be responsible. DBH's determination of an Applicant's responsibility may include the following factors: the experience of the Applicant and its key team members; past conduct and past performance on previous contracts or grants; ability to execute this project properly; and management skill. DBH will make such determination of responsibility based on the Applicant's Application, reference evaluations, and any other information DBH requests or determines to be relevant.

Additionally, DBH reserves the right to review the Applicant's previous work or work product prior to awarding a grant.

All applications and any other documents submitted to DBH in response to any solicitation shall become the property of DBH. This RFA and, after the selection of an applicant for award, any applications received in response to a solicitation that have been opened, reviewed and considered by DBH are deemed to be public records pursuant to ORC 149.43. For purposes of this section, the term "application" shall mean both the Technical Application and the Project Budget submitted by an applicant and any attachments, addenda, appendices, resumes, letters of recommendation, or sample products.

A. Criteria for Scoring

All applications will be scored based on the available points per section according to the following scale, based on a proposed plan's ability to meet the objectives outlined in this RFA. The application scoring uses the following point values for rating each requirement:

Technical Performance Scoring Definitions:

- **DOES NOT MEET (0):** Response does not comply substantially with requirements or is not provided.
- **WEAK (1):** Response was poor related to meeting the objectives.

- **BELOW AVERAGE (2):** Response indicates the objectives will not be completely met or at a level that will be below average.
- **MEETS (3):** Response generally meets the objectives (or expectations).
- **ABOVE AVERAGE (4):** Response indicates the objectives will be exceeded.
- **STRONG (5):** Response significantly exceeds objectives (or expectations) in ways that provide tangible benefits or meets objectives (or expectations) and contains at least one enhancing feature that provides significant benefits.

Award

1. Awards are expected to be announced during the week of [12/12/25](#).
2. Grant award will not exceed \$[1,000,000](#) per grant recipient.
3. All grant funds must be expended by [\(9/30/2026\)](#).
4. Renewals are subject to successful performance and the availability of future funds.

Deadline for submission of all applications is [11/14/2025](#), 3 p.m. EDT and must be submitted to PreventionServices@dbh.ohio.gov.

SECTION V. CONDITIONS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

*According to requirements of Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 126.07, DBH agreements are not valid and enforceable until the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) certifies the availability of appropriate funding, as indicated by the approval of the Purchase Order (PO). The selected applicant(s) may neither perform work nor submit an invoice for payment for work performed for this project for any time period prior to the PO approval date. The DBH Agreement Manager will notify the selected applicant(s) when the requirements of ORC Section 126.07 have been met.

* * Subject to all applicable approvals, the agreement period is expected to run from approximately [1/1/2025](#) through [9/30/2026](#). Renewal of the agreement(s) will be contingent upon availability of funding, satisfactory performance, the continued need for the services described herein, and all required approvals.

5.1 Public Release of Records

Public release of any evaluation or monitoring reports funded under this agreement will be made only by DBH. Prior to public release of such reports, DBH must have at least a thirty (30) day period for review and comment.

SECTION VI. ATTACHMENTS AND THEIR USES

- A. Required Applicant Information and Certifications (*To be completed & included in the application as specified*)**
- B. Assurances**
- C. Application Score Sheet (*For applicant reference purposes*)**
- D. Project Budget Form (*To be completed and included in cost application packet as specified in Section 3.2, B.*)**

RFA Scoring Evaluation Instructions

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

EVALUATION TEAM: The evaluation team shall be comprised of three to five individuals, with three being the absolute minimum, who are required to individually review and score each application. The team members should have some knowledge of the RFA's subject matter; however, every member does not need to be knowledgeable in every aspect of the RFA. After each individual separately reviews and scores each application, a consensus meeting will take place to discuss all applications and determine a consensus score on a separate scoring sheet for each application. All finalized scoring sheets must be submitted to the Agency Procurement Officer for review and verification, prior to an award being made.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS, EVALUATION, RATING, AND SCORING: Each application will be scored, and numerical technical point values will be assigned according to the criteria listed below. The scale (0-5) will be used to rate each application response to the RFA on the technical evaluation sections:

DOES NOT MEET	WEAK	BELOW AVERAGE	MEETS	ABOVE AVERAGE	STRONG
0 POINTS	1 POINT	2 POINTS	3 POINTS	4 POINTS	5 POINTS

DBH will score the application responses by adding all categories together for the Offeror's total technical score. Representative numerical values are defined as follows:

- DOES NOT MEET (0): Response does not comply substantially with requirements or is not provided.
- WEAK (1): Response was poor related to meeting the objectives.
- BELOW AVERAGE (2): Response indicates the objectives will not be completely met or at a level that will be below average.
- MEETS (3): Response generally meets the objectives (or expectations).
- ABOVE AVERAGE (4): Response indicates the objectives will be exceeded.
- STRONG (5): Response significantly exceeds objectives (or expectations) in ways that provide tangible benefits or meets objectives (or expectations) and contains at least one enhancing feature that provides significant benefits.

Once each of the Evaluation Criteria's ratings are completed, to calculate the total score, sum all category ratings.

Evaluation Criteria	Rating (0-5)	Score
Example 1	3	3
Example 2	5	10

Total Score: 13

Scoring Rubric

1. Application Score Sheet (For applicant reference purposes). Note that this form may be modified to meet the needs of the project. The Scoring Rubric must be submitted with the RFA to the Legal Office for review.

DOES NOT MEET	WEAK	BELOW AVERAGE	MEETS	ABOVE AVERAGE	STRONG
0 POINTS	1 POINT	2 POINTS	3 POINTS	4 POINTS	5 POINTS

Organization: _____

Name: _____

Review Criterion	Rating 0-5	Score
Applicant Qualifications: Applicant meets the minimum requirements to apply for the grant. Applicant must be an institution of higher education. Applications that do not meet the minimum requirements will not be scored. Application is clearly organized, with each section individually titled, following the order provided in the section 3.2 of the RFA. Face-sheet provides all required information.		
Abstract: Applicant provides a summary of services and supports to be provided, the target population(s), number of individuals projected to be served, the goal(s) and object(s) of the proposed services and supports, and the total amount of funding. (400 words or less).		
Prior experience: Applicant demonstrates prior experience successfully implementing complex projects across multiple organizations, including prior experience developing training curricula, hosting trainings, and leading organizations to improve performance as applicable. Preference will be given to applications that describe experience with the Strategic Prevention Framework, Collective Impact models, Communities of Practice, curricula development, strategic planning, heat maps, and coalition evaluation. Share specific examples of experience (e.g., specific relevant projects).		

Vision: Applicant clearly describes a vision for expanding the OCI to increase coalition capacity, leading to greater sustainability and local impact. Applicant describes the role of the OCI in identifying and supporting communities, counties, and regions that are underrepresented within the coalition landscape.		
Target Population & Number to be Served: Applicant provides a brief summary of prevalence rates (e.g., problem gambling, suicide, and overdose) and identifies potential gaps in community coalition landscape, including target counties, communities, or regions that are geographically underrepresented. Applicant provides a goal for the number of coalition members to be served through OCI 100 and OCI outreach and communications.		
Staffing & Partnerships: Applicant provides a plan for recruiting staff, including a list of staff positions, assigned duties, proposed qualifications, and the amount of FTE for each position on the project. Applications that demonstrate partnerships with coaching networks and other statewide entities will be prioritized, as evidenced by signed Memoranda of Understanding.		
Proposed Implementation: Applicant provides a realistic timeline for each month of the project, showing activities and dates for each individual month from January through September of 2026. The timeline should address each Goal and Objective within the OCI Scope of Work and include activities that are SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound). All key dates, key activities, and responsible personnel should be outlined in detail and align with the proposed phases of the project.		
Evidence-based and evidence-supported practices (EBPs/ESIs): Applicant provides a discussion of proposed EBPs and ESIs. The discussion should include whether and/or how the proposed practices will be relevant to the populations served. If practices will need locally adapted to the populations served, then please provide a description of those approaches.		
Evaluation: Applicant describes a detailed methodology for measuring progress, evaluating fidelity, and correcting errors.		
Sustainability: Applicant describes how sustainability will be incorporated throughout their implementation approach to sustain the OCI beyond grant funding.		

Funding Restrictions: Applicant identified that projects and programs follow funding restriction set forth in the funding restrictions.		
Cost: Cost is reasonable, realistic, and within the projected annual budget. Cost includes capacity building grants for coalitions participating in OCI 100.		
Indirect Cost Rate: Budget includes an indirect cost rate of 20% or less. Applications with an indirect cost rate of 20% or less are preferred.		
Total Score		

Comments:

Printed Name of Reviewer _____

Signature of Reviewer _____

Date _____