



**Department of  
Behavioral Health**

**Grants Posting Request for Application (RFA)**

Office of Treatment Services Request for Applications

Integrated Maternal Wellness Pilot Project

RFA #96: DBH-FY26 Bureau of Behavioral Health Treatment

Funding Period: 01-20-2026 – 09-29-2026

Request for Applications Posting Date: 12-12-2025

Request for Applications Due Date: 1-16-2026 by 3 p.m. EDT

## **Grants Posting Evaluation Criteria for Request for Applications (RFA)**

Office of Treatment Services – Integrated Maternal Wellness Pilot Project

RFA #: 96

**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 qualified public hospital systems, public universities, county Departments of Health, and nonprofit Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) to replicate an integrated maternal wellness pilot hub and spoke model focused on provision of care of pregnant and parenting women who are at risk of or diagnosed with a substance use disorder (SUD). Grantees will build or enhance an existing medical program with services directed at pregnant and parenting women (particularly during the perinatal period) with substance use disorders. Awardees will receive technical assistance from a field expert in the model of care to assist in program implementation, staff education, and systems level change.

For the purpose of this RFA, the term “applicant” is defined as a public hospital system, public university, county Department of Health, and non-profit FQHCs 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 Ohio Department of Behavioral Health has worked to prioritize the treatment needs of pregnant and parenting women, with a focus on integrated care. The Department is proud of growth made in this area but recognizes the gap of care access for perinatal women residing in rural Northwest Ohio. Healthcare organizations in rural areas have produced benefits such as increased access to treatment, improved health outcomes, and cost-savings. DBH plans to utilize this model of care to promote recovery and improved outcomes for pregnant and parenting women in this area, who otherwise may have difficulties accessing care for SUD. The responsibilities of the selected applicant(s) will include outreach to women in Northwest Ohio communities, provision of telehealth services, and enhanced care coordination with other healthcare providers and social services when needed. DBH will provide funding to non-profit organization(s) that provide medical care with care coordination and SUD treatment to pregnant and postpartum women.

### **1.3 Issuing Office**

The DBH Bureau of Behavioral Health Treatment, Office of Treatment Services is issuing this RFA and overseeing the resulting grant.

### **1.4 Background**

In Ohio, women during the perinatal period remain at risk for death from their behavioral health conditions including SUD, overdose, depression, and other psychiatric conditions. There is a combination of systemic barriers to pregnant and parenting women accessing substance use care, particularly in rural areas. These include lack of integrated and specialized programs, stigma, and fear of legal or state intervention. Further barriers include a shortage of providers trained in perinatal care, limited treatment options, transportation issues, and a fear of being reported to child protective services, which can cause women to avoid seeking help.

Ohio's rates of unintentional overdose death vary substantially by county and region of the state. Generally, the northwest region of the state has lower unintentional overdose deaths than other regions; however, this region does not have uniformly low rates. Unfortunately, northwest counties with high rates of unintentional overdose typically do not have the same level of access to medications for opioid use disorder, which is considered a gold-standard for treatment. For example, the age-adjusted unintentional overdose death rate for Hardin between 2020 and 2023 County was 44.0 with a buprenorphine prescription rate of 12.86 per 100,000 people. In contrast, Athens County in Southwest Ohio had a nearly identical unintentional overdose death rate (43.0), but the buprenorphine prescription rate was substantially higher at 20.08 per 100,000 people. Similar comparisons between counties in the northwest region can be found throughout the state. Additionally, access to federally recognized opioid treatment programs (OTPs) is also limited. There are only 11 OTPs scattered within the northwest region of the state, but every other region has more facilities, which means that medication access to methadone is also limited.

### **1.5 Scope of Work**

#### **Integrated Development of the Maternal Care Pilot**

The selected applicant(s) will partner with or hire behavioral health staff to build or enhance an existing medical program by adding services to address the substance use and related behavioral health needs of pregnant and parenting women. Selected applicants will identify proposed areas in the Northwest catchment region of Ohio to provide outreach, screening, care coordination, linkage to treatment, telehealth for prescription of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) including buprenorphine and naltrexone, and other services to remove barriers to care and recovery.

To view counties located in the Northwest catchment area, please visit here: <https://dbh.ohio.gov/about-us/regional-psychiatric-hospitals/resources/catchment-areas>

The selected applicant(s) are expected to recruit pregnant and parenting women who are at risk of or diagnosed with an SUD to ensure they receive quality, integrated care. This model will use

a “no wrong door approach” where women can get the services they need when they need them on site or through referral. There should not be any exclusion criteria for women to be part of the program (e.g., trimester).

The selected applicant(s) will partner with the Department of Behavioral Health and the chosen consulting vendor to implement the Integrated Maternal Care Pilot. Within the model, implementation will focus on the following across the identified catchment area:

- Reduce stigma for individuals with substance use disorder, with particular focus on stigma specific to pregnant and parenting women;
- Enhance collaboration between primary medical, mental health, and SUD care within overall system of care;
- Educate prescribers across system on MAT for pregnant women and improving MAT initiation practices to increase access;
- Enhance collaboration with children's services, the criminal justice system, vocational rehabilitation and employment services, and other entities;
- Identify and track methods of service utilization for all participants; and
- Conduct training for medical system staff on integration of behavioral health into all areas of care.

### **Program Expectations**

The Integrated Maternal Care Pilot will serve as the “hub” of a hub and spoke model where the grantee focuses on coordination and the full range of integrated health and behavioral health services to ensure necessary support activities for women and their children. For example, they should:

- Actively work with organizations that provide supportive, holistic care for women, including, but not limited to obstetrician-gynecology (OB-GYN) providers, primary care providers, dental providers, pediatricians, and others. Where feasible, work with established organizations to engage in memorandum of understandings (MOU), business associate agreements (BAA), and/or qualified service organization agreements (QSOA);
- Demonstrate enhanced collaboration with local partners including children’s services, the criminal justice system, vocational rehabilitation, Alcohol, Addiction, and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) boards, and other entities serving low-income individuals;
- Utilize care coordination strategy for persons served that will assist in accessing resources from federal, state, and local programs that provide a range of treatment and support services, including substance use disorders, health, mental health, housing, employment, education and training;
- Work with organizations and partners to identify women in need of services and develop a pipeline to services;
- Offer outreach to rural perinatal women with substance use disorder;
- Offer telehealth to access a prescriber(s) of Medication Assisted Treatment; and

- Offer peer support services for women in treatment.

### **Staffing Expectations**

To successfully implement this project, staff members should include at a minimum:

- Program Coordinator: This position is responsible for the implementation, data collection, and supervision of care coordinator;
- Care Coordinator: This position is responsible for providing outreach and enhanced care coordination of women served. The care coordinator should ensure linkage has occurred by verifying scheduled appointments with partnering agencies, ongoing follow up and assessment of needs, and ensuring communication between care providers is occurring;
- Peer Support: This position is responsible for outreach and recruitment of perinatal women into program, provision of peer support services, and advertisement throughout identified communities. This staff member may also facilitate telehealth appointments in the Integrated Maternal Care Pilot; and
- Prescriber: This position prescribes/initiates Medication-Assisted Treatment for substance use conditions and psychiatric medication, if appropriate. This activity may occur via telehealth.

### **DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING**

As authorized in Ohio Revised Code Section 5119.61, the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) will collect information and data from awardees. Reporting requirements, such as expenditure reports and quarterly program summary reports, will be reviewed by DBH staff. Failure to comply with reporting requirements may be considered a breach of the funding award and shall result in action by DBH.

The awardee and their sub-awardees must participate in evaluation and data collection, and a program evaluation plan must be submitted at the time of application. Consulting vendor will assist in evaluation of fidelity to the hub and spoke model. Additional information will be collected to ensure the federal and state requirements listed above are being met.

#### **1.6 Eligible Applicants**

Ohio DBH seeks applications from qualified public hospital systems, public universities, county departments of health, and nonprofit Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) with the ability to build or enhance an existing Integrated Maternal Care Pilot program that includes elements identified in the scope of work.

Only organizations that have the resources to complete each item under “Scope of Work/Deliverables” should apply. Applicants must be a 501-C (3) or (4) non-profit or government entity.

#### **1.7 Award**

DBH has released this RFA with the intent of awarding eligible non-profit entities which will in

turn support integrated care to pregnant and postpartum women with SUD. Applicants must be a 501-C(3) or (4) entity.

Awards are expected to be announced for project implementation by 01/21/2026. Funding award years are contingent upon 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 DB. 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 practicable and capable of providing care coordination and holistic SUD care to pregnant and postpartum women.

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 1/9/2026, **by 3 p.m. EDT**, to DBH at: [womenstreatment@dbh.ohio.gov](mailto:womenstreatment@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 [womenstreatment@dbh.ohio.gov](mailto:womenstreatment@dbh.ohio.gov) by 1/16/2026 **by 3 p.m. EDT**.

6. The Ohio Department of Behavioral Health 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.
7. 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.
8. All work must be completed and approved by the DBH 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. The Ohio Department of Behavioral Health 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](mailto:Helpdesk@dbh.ohio.gov) for guidance.

### **SECTION III.                    APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

The applicant must submit electronic response to [womenstreatment@dbh.ohio.gov](mailto:womenstreatment@dbh.ohio.gov). A copy of the grant *application* must be received by DBH no later than 1/16/2026 at 3 p.m. *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 10 pages, single spaced, one-inch margins, 12-point Times New Roman. The 10 pages do not include the Budget Expenditure Form and Budget Narrative.

Please note that if the application is longer than 10 pages, DBH will evaluate the application based upon the first 10 pages, and the remainder of the application may be disregarded.

#### **3.2      Application Components**

##### **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. Specify whether applicant is a 501 C (3) or (4) non-profit or government entity
- g. Title of this RFA
- h. 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 in the first and second funding period, the goal(s) and object(s) of the proposed services and supports, and the total amount of funding requested for the first and second funding period. (400 words or less)

**C. 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.

a. **Target Population**

b. **Number to be served**

c. **National Outcome Measures (NOMS):** Applications must include a description of the project goals and measures to be achieved during the programmatic project period.

d. **Applicant Qualifications:** The applicant must address all the minimum qualifications and fully describe the applicant's experience and qualifications.

e. **Staffing 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.

f. **Sub-Awardee qualifications and staffing plan (if applicable)**

**D. Prior Experience**

Applications must demonstrate prior experience successfully implementing complex subject projects related to the subject matter.

**E. Proposed Implementation Approach**

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, at a minimum, also include the following:

- Reasonable plan to ensure adherence to the hub and spoke model of care. Discuss monitoring, data collection, and quality assurance process regarding program.
- Initial plans on the development of a sustainable program after the grant ends.

#### **F. 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.
- b. Include a signed Notice of Award/Sub-awardee Statement of Assurances including budget and budget narrative for each sub-awardee.
- c. Include the Budget [Checklist](#) which can be found on the DBH Funding Opportunity Page.

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. The Ohio Department of Behavioral Health 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. The Ohio Department of Behavioral Health 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.

### **Criteria for Scoring**

All applications will be scored based on the available points per section according to the scoring rubric at the end of this document.

### **Award**

1. Awards are expected to be announced during the week of 01/19/2026.
2. All grant funds must be expended by 09/29/2026.
3. Renewals are subject to successful performance and the availability of future funds.

**Deadline for submission of  
all applications is 1/16/2026  
by 3 p.m. EDT**

**and must be submitted to [womenstreatment@dbh.ohio.gov](mailto:womenstreatment@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 Ohio Department of Behavioral Health 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 01/20/2026 through 09/29/2026. 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 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 everyone 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.

## Scoring Rubric

Application Score Sheet (For applicant reference purposes).

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

| Review Criterion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Possible Score | Score |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------|
| <b>Face Sheet</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 5              |       |
| <b>Abstract (400 word limit):</b> Summary of the proposed plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 5              |       |
| <b>Scope of Work/Project Description:</b> 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.                                                                                                 | 25             |       |
| <b>Applicant Qualifications:</b> Demonstration that applicant meets the minimum qualifications to apply for the grant. Applications that do not meet the minimum qualifications will not be scored.                                                                                                                                                       | 10             |       |
| <b>Prior Experience:</b> Demonstration that applicant has 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.                                                         | 10             |       |
| <b>Staffing Plan:</b> 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. Include sub awardees if relevant.                                                                                                                                 | 10             |       |
| <b>Proposed Implementation Approach:</b> 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. | 25             |       |
| <b>Cost:</b> Cost is reasonable, realistic, and is within the projected annual budget                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 10             |       |
| <b>Total Score</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>100</b>     |       |

Comments:

Printed Name of Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_