



Grants Posting Request for Application (RFA) Template

Bureau of Forensic Services Request for Applications

Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Program Grant

RFA #100: DBH-FY26 Forensic Services

Funding Period: (07-01-2025) – (06-30-2026)

Request for Applications Posting Date: (01-30-2026)

Request for Applications Due Date: (02-24-2026), by 3 p.m. EDT

Grants Posting Evaluation Criteria for Request for Applications (RFA)

30 East Broad Street
36th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215 U.S.A.

614|466 2596
mha.ohio.gov

Forensic Services Request for Applications
Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Program Grant

RFA #: 100

**Applications should be completed using the following information,
guidance, and requirements: SECTION I. Page 4**

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 local Probate Courts, to develop new or expand or support existing Assisted Outpatient Treatment Programs This RFA seeks to select at least 16 grantees. The responsibilities of the selected applicants will include the identification of a program administrator/AOT monitor, and the development of an agreement between the ADAMHS Board and the county Probate Court that defines formal standards for their AOT program to include the development of local rules in alignment with the Supreme Court of Ohio’s Rule of Superintendence 79.01, adopted in July 2025. DBH will award funding only to qualified non-profit organizations or governmental entities that are seeking to implement new or support or enhance existing AOT programs thus reducing rehospitalizations, rearrests, homelessness and incarceration rates for individuals with severe mental illness caught in a cycle of negative outcomes due to diminished awareness of their illness and corresponding need for treatment.

For the purpose of this RFA, the term “applicant” is defined as a nonprofit organization, governmental entity, or individual 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

Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) programs serve individuals with severe mental illness (SMI) caught in a cycle of repeat hospitalizations, homelessness and incarcerations. Individuals who benefit from AOT are generally those with a diagnosis of schizophrenia or bipolar disorder as well as a history of inconsistent engagement with treatment due to a lack of awareness of their need for treatment. Assisted outpatient treatment (AOT) programs provide community-based mental

health treatment under civil court commitment, as a means of: (1) motivating an adult with mental illness who struggles with voluntary treatment adherence to engage fully with their treatment plan; and (2) focusing the attention of treatment providers on the need to work diligently to keep the person engaged in effective treatment.

Benefits of AOT Grant Program

- Encourages counties to implement or enhance existing AOT programs thus reducing rehospitalizations, rearrests, homelessness and incarceration rates for individuals with severe mental illness caught in a cycle of negative outcomes due to diminished awareness of their illness and corresponding need for treatment.
- Saves costs associated with expensive institutional care and frees up bed space for those in greatest need.
- Improves quality of life for thousands of Ohioans living with untreated SMI caught in the revolving door.
- Recognizes and helps address barriers to AOT implementation and operation that mental health and civil court systems face to enhance regular communication between and among the treatment team, court and individual participants.
- Provides for the collection of data on AOT program outcomes via use of a survey tool sent to probate courts
- Provides an alternative to competency restoration in the community for certain low-level misdemeanants who would otherwise likely be found unrestorable.
- Provides a mechanism for communities to maintain supervision of individuals with a history of non-adherence to treatment due to a lack of insight who are transitioning back into the community from jail or prison.

1.3 Issuing Office

This grant is issued by the DBH Bureau of Forensic Services under direction of the Chief Medical Officer.

1.4 Background

In April 2024, Governor Mike DeWine convened the Governor's Work Group on Competency Restoration and Diversion to address the chronic lack of beds for community members in our six state-operated regional psychiatric hospitals. The group was charged with developing solutions that improve the diversion of individuals to community-based behavioral health; delivery of behavioral healthcare in jails, including competency restoration services; efficacy of Ohio's outpatient competency restoration system; and other innovative ideas to address the intersection of mental illness and criminal justice. With this mission in mind, the group convened eight times from April to July 2024, publishing a final report with 15 recommendations in 6 domains in Nov. 2024. One of the recommendations made by this group is to expand Assisted Outpatient Treatment to more counties in Ohio as an alternative pathway to competency restoration.

AOT is a court-ordered, individualized treatment plan that can provide individuals with mental health conditions the support they need to thrive while living in the community, and also potentially avoiding hospitalization and reincarceration. Once the participant demonstrates voluntary engagement in treatment, the court dismisses the AOT order or allows it to expire and care continues. By ensuring regular treatment and medication adherence, AOT helps maintain stability and reduce the onset of symptoms, which can improve an individual's ability to participate in legal proceedings or other aspects of their lives. AOT reduces the likelihood of hospitalization and re-offending by providing ongoing care and support. It can help alleviate the burden on institutional settings and community resources by managing care in an outpatient setting. AOT aims to balance the need for supervision with the individual's right to make decisions about their treatment on their own. Several Ohio counties utilize AOT, but there is room for continued growth of these services. With the development of guidance by the Supreme Court of Ohio under Rule of Superintendence 79.01 in July 2025, DBH is seeking to provide grant funds to local communities to implement, support, or expand AOT programs that can demonstrate a plan to operate under these standards.

1.5 Scope of Work

Deliverables:

Selected applicant(s) will be responsible for implementing an Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Program in alignment with the following deliverables and activities:

1. Program design and Implementation

Applicants bidding on this RFA should be able to demonstrate a plan to operate, or demonstrate the ability to operate, an Assisted Outpatient Treatment program which is defined below.

An AOT program must adhere to the Rules of superintendence for the courts of Ohio RULE 79.01.

A court or division of a court that operates an assisted outpatient treatment program shall adopt a local rule governing the program. The rule shall include all of the following:

- (1) Eligibility criteria for assisted outpatient candidates;
- (2) Procedures for the selection and referral of an individual to the assisted outpatient treatment program;
- (3) Expectations for assisted outpatient participants;
- (4) Procedures for hospitals, treatment providers, county alcohol drug and mental health boards, participants, and attorneys to make confidential filings in the participant's underlying civil commitment pursuant to R.C. Chapter 5122;
- (5) Procedures for notifying the parties and nonparty participants;
- (6) Procedures for conducting the initial review and subsequent reviews;
- (7) Criteria for successful completion of the program.

2. Stakeholder Engagement

Eligible communities will develop an agreement between the local ADAMHS Board and local Probate Court to include:

- Creation of a local rule to govern the AOT program, with adoption by the court or a division of the court operating the program. The local rule must comply with the requirements outlined in Supreme Court of Ohio’s Rule of Superintendence 79.01.
- Identification of a program administrator/AOT Monitor.
- Define desired outcomes in terms of annual numbers served and impact, e.g. reduction in hospitalization, incarceration, and/or homelessness
- ADAMHS Boards must ensure adequate services and contracts with community mental health providers to effectively serve individuals under an AOT order.

3. Data Collection & Reporting

Plan for data collection and reporting outcomes and:

- Collect and submit combined reports on data and key performance metrics in accordance with the data reporting requirements in this RFA.
- Provide outcome data that includes reporting on Data Reporting Requirements below in a FY26 year-end report.
- Collecting and inputting data by completing survey tools as requested.

4. Collaboration and technical assistance

- Participate in learning collaborative meetings hosted by DBH or Ohio Supreme Court.
- Engage in technical assistance opportunities and share lessons learned with other grant program participants.

Data Reporting Requirements

Operations & Utilization	Number of referrals to AOT	Total number of referrals to AOT for current FY
	Number of AOT participants	Total number of AOT participants in the FY
	Number of Successful Completions	Total number AOT participants successfully released from the program in FY
	AOT Monitor/Program Administrator	Name of assigned AOT monitor/Program Administrator
Outcomes & System Impact	Hospitalization	Number of cases requiring re-hospitalization during the FY
	Incarcerations	Number of cases incarcerated during the FY

	Episodes on being unhoued	Number of clients who are unhoued during the FY
Narrative Summary	Key achievements, Challenges and Barriers, Corrective actions/adjustments, Success Stories	

1.6 Eligible Applicants

DBH seeks applications form probate courts in Ohio who are operating or plan to operate an Assisted Outpatient Treatment program, in accordance with Supreme Court of Ohio’s Rule of Superintendence 79.01 .

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

The DBH has released this RFA with the intent of awarding up to 16 probate courts, which will in turn support implementation of new, and support or expand existing AOT programs. Applicants must be a 501-C (3) or (4) entity or a governmental entity.

Awards are expected to be announced for project implementation by [03/3/2026](#). 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 practicable and capable of implementing of new AOT programs or supporting or expanding access to existing AOT programs, inclusive of commitment hearing costs. Probate Courts are encouraged to work in collaboration with their local ADAMH boards in completing their application.

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>
2. All questions must be submitted electronically no later than 02/17/2026, **by 3 p.m. EDT**, to DBH at: ProbateCourt@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> and will be updated frequently.
5. Applications must be submitted electronically to ProbateCourt@dbh.ohio.gov by 02/24/2026 **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.

If a bidders' conference is scheduled, it will be held [2/11/2026, 12-1pm](#) [Join the meeting now](#) for any organization interested in learning more about this funding opportunity.

SECTION III. APPLICATION GUIDELINES

The applicant must submit electronic response to ProbateCourt@dbh.ohio.gov. A copy of the grant *application* must be received by DBH no later than [02/24/2026; 3:00PM](#). *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.

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

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)
- g. **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.

D. Prior

Applications must demonstrate prior experience successfully collaborating with multiple systems, such as criminal courts, ADAMH Board, mental health providers and other community stakeholders.

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.

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

- a. Applications must include a Budget Expenditure Form that identifies all costs to complete the project as described in the Request for Application. Applicants understand that this DBH funding grant is meant to supplement other funding used to support AOT programs.
- 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, the Applicant is confirming that the services and deliverables outlined within this RFA are encompassed within the budget expenditure form. 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 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 02/23/2026.
2. Grant award will not exceed \$100,000 per grant recipient.
3. The grant funding period begins 7/1/2025. All grant funds must be expended by 06/30/2026. Funds may be applied retroactively.
4. Renewals are subject to successful performance and the availability of future funds.

Deadline for submission of all applications is 02/24/2026, 3 p.m. EDT and must be submitted to ProbateCourt@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 [03/03/2026](#) through [06/30/2026](#). 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 and the “application jacket” must be submitted to the GrantsPosting@dbh.ohio.gov following scoring

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.

Note: Please note that the Department of Behavioral Health Bureau of Grants Administration is no longer utilizing weighting. As such, scores from each category will be summed and will not be multiplied by a weighting factor. Recommended point distribution items 1-100.

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

Probate Court Name: _____

Name: _____

Review Criterion	Rating 0-5	Score
Scope of Work	N/A	
Abstract: Summary of the proposed plan	N/A	
Project Description Components:	N/A	

Requirements: Demonstration that applicant meets the minimum requirements to apply for the grant. Applications that do not meet the minimum requirements will not be scored.	10	
Prior experience: Demonstration that applicant has prior experience successfully collaborating with multiple systems, such as criminal courts, ADAMH Board, mental health providers and other community stakeholders.	15	
Program structure: Identify program administrator and key staff positions, assigned duties, and qualifications. Please include names of all collaborative partners. (Proposed if implementing a new program)	20	
Proposed timeline: A realistic timeline for grant deliverables. 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.	10	
Evidence-based and evidence-supported practices (EBPs/ESIs): A discussion of the AOT program model including applicable best practices that will be utilized (ACT Teams, Peer Support, Probate Monitor, etc). The discussion should include whether and/or how the proposed practices will be relevant to the populations served.	15	
Evaluation: A description of the plan for data collection, evaluating outcomes and improvement planning.	15	
Sustainability Plan: Discussion of program sustainability through identification of additional funding sources.	10	
Cost: Cost is reasonable, realistic, and is within the projected annual budget	5	
Total Score	100	

Comments:

Printed Name of Reviewer _____

Signature of Reviewer _____

Date _____