



**New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH)
Office of Opioid Response and Policy**

**Rapid Referral Platform for Medications for
Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD):**

Telehealth Provider

REQUEST FOR APPLICATION (RFA)

IMPORTANT DATES	
Request For Application Release Date	July 7, 2025
Application Open Date in Sage	July 14, 2025
Application Close Date in Sage	August 4, 2025
Notification Date	August 18, 2025
Start Date	September 1, 2025

RFA ISSUED BY:

New Jersey Department of Health
Office of Opioid Response & Policy
Trenton, New Jersey 08608
Date: July 7, 2025

RFA CONTACT:

Name: Kerry Griffin
Office of Opioid Response & Policy
Trenton, New Jersey 08608
Email: Kerry.Griffin@doh.nj.gov

SUMMARY

The goal of this Request for Applications (RFA) is to fund one provider for emergency assessment and initiation of MOUD to patients via telemedicine.

RFA Type: Grant Application

Approximate Number of Awards: One (1) award

Funding for state fiscal year (SFY) 2026: Up to \$1,000,000

Budget Period: September 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028

Project Period: September 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

BACKGROUND

The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) Office of Opioid Response and Policy (OORP) is issuing this solicitation to provide funding to one telehealth provider for emergency assessment and initiation of MOUD to patients via telemedicine. This effort is part of the State's comprehensive strategy to address and reverse the overdose crisis, reduce substance use related risks, and provide improved, equitable access to high quality substance use disorder care statewide. Medications such as buprenorphine and methadone are FDA-approved, evidence-based, lifesaving treatments for those with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). Yet, only a small fraction of those with OUD in our State have adequate access to this treatment. The State seeks to spread and scale the uptake of this lifesaving treatment via strategic investments in low barrier MOUD care.

NJDOH has been awarded \$6.5 million annually over three years of Opioid Settlement Funds to address barriers to accessing MOUD by expanding a rapid referral electronic platform and collection of resources to facilitate expedited access to a vetted network of prescribers and harm reduction supplies ("Rapid Referral Platform"). This funding will support multiple components, including staffing at NJDOH to build the network of care, software and electronic platform support, transportation and medication vouchers, harm reduction supplies, and 24/7 telemedicine MOUD prescribers. The platform will be available to first responders, emergency departments, treatment providers, correctional settings, and community-based organizations that encounter individuals experiencing an overdose or otherwise seeking care.

REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

Funding will be awarded to one telehealth provider for emergency assessment and initiation of MOUD to patients via telemedicine. The provider, at a minimum, will:

- *Establish telehealth infrastructure, workflow, and platform integration:* Work collaboratively with NJDOH and the Rapid Referral Platform Vendor to establish integration within the Platform and to maintain partnerships with referral/receiving sites for ongoing MOUD care. Specifically, provider will build the telehealth entry point and integration with the platform; establish workflows, protocols for care and quality improvement; and establish a referral plan for ongoing care in consultation with NJDOH and the Rapid Referral Platform Vendor.

- *Provide medical direction:* Grantee will provide medical direction to the Rapid Referral Platform initiative by creating participant criteria and standards of care/service; supporting county launches through vetting of providers, meeting with providers and answering questions; and assisting NJDOH with onboarding, as needed.
- *Provide telehealth services:* Beginning no later than month seven (7) of the grant period, provide initial telehealth coverage through prescriber(s) and navigator(s) to be available a minimum of 10 hours per day Monday-Friday and 8 hours per day Saturday-Sunday. Grantee will refine and finalize initial hours of coverage during the grant period in consultation with NJDOH and Rapid Referral Platform Vendor. Grantee will be expected to assess and plan for a buildup to 24/7 or near-24/7 coverage commensurate with demonstrated need beginning in SFY27, if awarded renewal funding.
- *Hire/onboard staff:* Hire and onboard telehealth providers (MD/DO and/or APP); administrator, medical director and telehealth coordinators/navigators.
- *Report to and collaborate with NJDOH:* Grantee will submit quarterly progress (including narrative progress summary and aggregate data) and expenditure reports to NJDOH and meet regularly (at minimum, monthly) with NJDOH Rapid Referral Platform staff and leadership to discuss progress and continuous improvement.
- *Collaborate with experts:* Grantee will collaborate with relevant state and regional training centers, including the Northern and Southern MAT Centers of Excellence, and other local, state or national experts to leverage resources, expertise, and networks, as necessary.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants are non-profit New Jersey Hospitals or Health Systems. Applicants must have prescribers on-staff with board certification in Addiction Medicine and experience prescribing MOUD. Eligible applications will also have experience employing navigators to support patients with substance use disorder. Applicants must have experience providing low-barrier MOUD care and telehealth services and extensive referral networks for transitioning care and meeting the needs of people who use drugs (PWUD).

AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

An award of up to \$1,000,000 will be granted to one recipient during the 10-month period (September 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026). Funding under a grant is expressly dependent upon the availability of funds to the Department. The Department shall not be held liable for any breach of this agreement because of the absence of available funding appropriations. The grant award will further be contingent upon the fiscal and programmatic completeness of the application, as well as the satisfactory fulfillment of

the grant objectives.

APPLICATION

Submission of Applications

Please refer to the cover of this document for important grant application dates. Applications must be submitted via the SAGE site, which is accessible at www.sage.nj.gov.

Application Guidelines

- Program must follow best practices and evidence-based models in substance use disorder care, including harm reduction approaches.
- Proposed activities should prioritize highly impacted populations, with specific attention to racial and health equity.
- Proposed activities should demonstrate the program's ability to respond to emerging needs within its geographic area and client population(s).
- Applications should demonstrate an effort to include people who use drugs in program design, service delivery, and program evaluation and improvement.
- Proposed activities should be client-centered, low-barrier, and address social determinants of health through adequate referral networks.
- Continuation of the award will be based on satisfactory performance and availability of funds.

Proposal Narrative: the proposal narrative should be no longer than five (5) pages, single spaced (the Budget Narrative is not included in the page requirement) and should be uploaded as one attachment under the Attachments section. Please address the following:

1. *Contact Information*
 - Provide applicant contact information for the Project Director/Lead.
2. *Needs assessment*
 - Describe demographics and characteristics of target population.
3. *Organizational Capacity/Project Team*
 - Describe organizational structure and experience in engaging target population and collaborating with other agencies that provide services for PWUD. Describe any community partnerships.
 - Describe prior relevant experience in providing MOUD care and services to people who use drugs.

- Describe experience providing telehealth services, particularly for PWUD and/or patients from historically underserved communities.

4. *Methods/Work Plan*

- Provide deliverables specific to identified project goals and activities.
- Describe work plan, methods, and timeline for accomplishing project activities and deliverables.

5. *Evaluation/Data*

- Describe a plan for using data to inform program planning/implementation and impact.

Fields within SAGE that are duplicative of proposal narrative sections can reference the proposal narrative attachment (i.e., applicants need not copy/paste narrative sections into SAGE drop downs and can simply state “see Proposal Narrative”).

Detailed Budget: Applicants must provide a detailed budget describing how potential funds will be allocated and expended. The budget should reflect work that will be completed during the grant period. In SAGE, the Detailed Budget will be included in the sections titled “Schedule A. Personnel Costs” and “Schedule B. Other Direct Costs.” In the Support Document section, please upload a detailed budget narrative describing the requested budget categories.

Attachments: In the SAGE Attachment sections, applicants must include: (a) proposal narrative; (b) letter of support from organizational leadership on letterhead; (c) proof of non-profit status.

Application Technical Assistance

NJDOH applicants may contact the NJDOH SAGE Help Desk by phone at (609) 376-8508 or email at njdoh.grants@doh.nj.gov. SAGE technical support is available Monday to Friday, 9:00AM to 4:00PM. The SAGE User Manual can be found at: https://njsage.intelligrants.com/documentation/NJSAGE/NJDHSS_Applicant%20Manual.pdf.

Inquiries regarding this funding opportunity can be directed to Kerry Griffin, Deputy Director, Office of Opioid Response and Policy at kerry.griffin@doh.nj.gov.

Application Scoring Criteria and Selection Process

Applications will be scored on a scale of 0 to 100. An application must receive a minimum score of 70 points to be eligible for consideration.

SECTION

POINTS

Needs Assessment	15
Organizational Capacity/Project Team	35
Methods/Work Plan	35
Evaluation/Data	15
Total	100

NJDOH Terms & Conditions for Administration of Grants

Refer to <https://www.nj.gov/health/grants/resources/> for the New Jersey DOH Terms and Conditions and other resources for grant requirements and administration.