

Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program

Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) Webinars

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**NOTE: These FAQs pertain to the following NOFOs:
CDC-RFA-CE26-0061 and CDC-RFA-CE21-210206CONT26**

Eligibility/Application

Would opioid abatement councils be considered eligible and sufficient to be seen as "coalitions"? Especially if we form a subgroup that is focused on youth prevention strategies that include the 12 sectors for representation?

The DFC program funds community coalitions to prevent youth substance use. Please review the statutory eligibility requirements to see if you meet all of them. Please note: One of the statutory eligibility requirements is that your coalition needs to have a mission statement focused on youth substance use prevention.

How often do coalitions have to meet per year?

There is no set requirement for a number of meetings per year, however, regular engagement is important for coalitions. Many coalitions meet monthly.

Can members of the coalition be paid staff at the fiscal agent organization or 501(c)(3) if they are not being paid by the grant and are not key personnel? Or do all members have to be from outside of the fiscal agent organization and 501(c)(3)?

Individuals that are listed as key personnel should not serve as sector representatives. If we see someone listed as key personnel and we see the same name listed as a sector representative, this indicates that you do not meet that statutory eligibility requirement.

Do we need to include in the Work Plan the seven strategies mentioned on page 23 in the "Program description" section of the NOFO?

The seven strategies is a framework that outlines a comprehensive approach and provides examples. We recommend including them in your work plan. In addition, please make sure to review how the application will be reviewed and scored. We are looking for a comprehensive approach to address youth substance use prevention in your community.

What if we don't hear back from SAM by the deadline?

Follow up with the SAM.gov help desk well in advance of the application deadline. SAM.gov registration is required to submit an application for the DFC Program.

Is there priority given to rural areas?

Per the DFC statute, ONDCP has the authority to waive the statutory eligibility requirements for coalitions in rural areas if they choose to do so.

It is difficult in our state to gather data from students at schools about substance misuse. We can find data at the county level about adults, but do you have a suggestion that other communities have used to meet the cross-sector evaluation requirements for a sub-county level coalition?

You don't have to be in compliance with the national cross-site evaluation at the time of application.

If you are a successful applicant, there is an evaluation team that provides training and technical assistance to you to help you meet that requirement.

If we applied for the NOFO which was due a couple of months ago (0220), can we still apply for this one (0061)?

If you have already submitted an application, we would not recommend you submit another. We only award one DFC grant at a time and we don't want to inadvertently fund a recipient with 2 different DFC awards. The review process is the same, so it won't increase your chances of receiving the award. If you have already applied, then you don't need to apply again.

Where can we find our Federal Entity Identifier number?

Your organization's Federal Entity Identifier is also referred to as a Unique Entity ID (UEI). This can be found when you login to SAM.gov.

Are youth still considered age 12-17? Can we work with younger children?

DFC coalitions normally work with middle and high school students. This also aligns with the age group that is required for the DFC core measures. Please note, the youth sector representative must be 18 years of age or younger.

Do we need to include a logic model?

You are not required to submit a logic model with your application.

What is the required time frame for the meeting minutes?

Meeting Minutes need to be from a coalition meeting that occurred between January 2025 – April 2026.

What budget template should we use?

CDC's budget preparation guidelines can be found at: www.cdc.gov/grants/documents/Budget-Preparation-Guidance.pdf. Use the budget narrative attachment form in www.grants.gov.

The Budget Narrative is a Word document. The SF-424A, which is also required, is a template where the requested amount is broken out by cost category. The SF424A also requires the match amount to be entered. If you are having difficulty with the forms, please reach out to the grants.gov help desk. Phone: 1-800-518-4726 Email: support@grants.gov

Do attachments have to be in PDF format?

Attachments do not need to be in a PDF format.

Match

Can local/County level government funds (e.g., Children's Services millage funding) be used as a match, and what documentation is required?

Local or county level funds can be used as match, as long as they are not federal funds. Federal funds may not be used as match. You will outline your match in your budget and budget narrative in your application.

Can the 100% match include funding supporting the Coalition from another entity?

Yes, the match requirement can be fulfilled with funding from another entity as long as those funds are not federal funds. Please note: the match does not have to be in dollars. It can also be in-kind. Please see the "Eligibility" section of the NOFO for more information on the match requirement.

Do opioid abatement community grant funds count toward match funds?

You may use opioid settlement funds to satisfy the match requirement under the DFC program. This is allowed because it meets the criteria of "not paid by the Federal Government under another Federal award" under applicable grant regulations, 2 CFR 200.306(h). Using funds in this way is subject to applicable law, including state, local, or other provisions that apply to these opioid settlement funds.

Fiscal Agent

If you are a 501(c)(3) organization, can you also use a fiscal agent?

Yes.

Does the fiscal agent need to be a 501(c)(3)?

The fiscal agent does not need to be a 501(c)(3). In addition to 501(c)(3)s, fiscal agents can include but are not limited to state governments, county governments, city or township governments, special district governments, independent school districts, public and state-controlled institutions of higher education, Native American tribal governments and organizations, and private education institutions.

If you have a fiscal agent, should the coalition or the fiscal agent register in SAM?

The fiscal agent would register for SAM.

Sectors

If the youth representative turns 18 before the first year is over, would they need to leave the coalition?

No, the youth representative would not need to leave the coalition during that year, but it's important to have some additional youth under the age of 18 for subsequent years who would be willing to serve as a youth representative.

If our youth sector representative is not affiliated with a particular organization, is that OK?

Yes.

Can a sector member be a representative for more than one coalition, for example, someone from a regional health agency?

A sector member can be a representative for more than one coalition; however, they can only represent one required sector for a coalition.

Do we need sector representative signatures?

No.

Six Month Existence

What documentation best demonstrates that a coalition has been active for at least 6 months?

You will be stating the date and year that the coalition was established in one of the attachments. You will also provide meeting minutes within a designated timeframe that illustrates that you have worked together on youth substance use issues.

Do all 12 sector members have to have worked together on substance use prevention for at least 6 months prior? Or can it be just some of the 12 that have been meeting for the past 6 months? In other words, could this funding be used to create a new coalition that has not received funding before?

The 6-month requirement does not apply to all 12 sectors. If you have a coalition made up of some sectors that has worked together for 6 months and then you identify others that agree to work with you as part of the DFC grant and align with the 12 required sectors, that would meet the requirement for 12 sectors.

Zip Code Overlap

For the zip code overlap requirement, would this be only Coalitions that are DFC-funded?

Yes. The zip code requirement only applies to DFC coalitions. If you do have a zip code overlap with a DFC coalition, you will need to submit a letter of mutual cooperation that is signed by a representative of each coalition.

How do we find out if there is a zip code overlap?

You can find the zip codes covered by currently-funded coalitions here: <https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/php/drug-free-communities/coalitions.html>. Type the state, city, or zip code in the search bar to see if a DFC coalition is serving your area.

Other

If an organization, whether applying for the grant or providing matching funds, has previously funded harm reduction projects, would that make the program ineligible?

Applicants need to be in compliance with executive orders and the policy priorities of the Administration. Please review pages 12-19 in the “Agency priorities” section of the NOFO for more information on administration and agency priorities. Both the fiscal agent and the coalition should be in compliance.

As executive orders potentially are added that apply to this grant, will we receive notice on changes to stay up to date?

If there are additional executive orders that apply to federal funding, CDC will inform all DFC recipients.

Do Year 6 applicants only compete with other Year 6 applicants for funding, or are we also competing with Year 1 applicants?

All year 1 and year 6 applicants are reviewed using the same evaluation criteria and are assessed together, not separately.

How many Year 6 coalitions will be awarded?

ONDCP estimates awarding up to 100 new (year 1) and competing continuation (year 6) grants this application cycle.

Could you explain the Paperwork Reduction Act? Do we need to get approval before conducting surveys with our students?

The Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) is a law governing how federal agencies collect information from the American public. Recipients do not need OMB approval to collect core measure data for the DFC program.