

Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program

Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Recompete Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) Webinars Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

NOTE: These FAQs pertain to the following NOFOs: CDC-RFA-CE26-0220 and CDC-RFA-CE26-0208

General

What is the due date for this NOFO?

The due date is February 12, 2026, at 11:59pm ET.

What will be the timeframe for awarding and funding for this grant?

Notification of awards will occur June 1st, and the first budget year is July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027.

Do Years 1-5 and 6-10 go until June 2031?

Yes. Five years starting in July 1, 2026 going through June 30, 2031.

What is the difference between CDC-RFA-CE-26-0220 and CDC-RFA-CE-26-0061?

These NOFOs are essentially the same, but the timing is different. Both are for applicants that have never received DFC funding.

- [CDC-RFA-CE-26-0220](#) has already been published and is due February 12th. The period of performance is from July 1, 2026 – June 20, 2027.
- CDC-RFA-CE-26-0061 has not yet been published and is currently [forecasted](#). We anticipate that the NOFO will be posted in February and the applications will be due in April. The period of performance is from September 30, 2026 – September 29, 2027.

You only need to apply to one of these NOFOs.

What is the difference between CDC-RFA-CE-26-0208 and CDC-RFA-CE21-210206CONT26?

- Coalitions that competed in 2025 for years 6-10 should apply to [CDC-RFA-CE-26-0208](#). The applications are due February 12. The period of performance is from July 1, 2026 – June 20, 2027.
- Coalitions that are funded for their 5th year through September 29, 2026, and are planning to apply for years 6-10, should apply to CDC-RFA-CE21-210206CONT26. This NOFO is currently [forecasted](#). We anticipate publishing this NOFO in February and the applications will be due in April. The period of performance is from September 30, 2026 – September 29, 2027.

Will we be getting feedback on the first application we submitted?

We will not be providing feedback on the first application. Please review the requirements of this updated NOFO. Many of them are the same as the previously published NOFO.

Are we allowed to apply for two NOFOs in the same year?

No.

Is there an annual opportunity to apply for this funding?

We release NOFOs every year, so there is an opportunity to apply every year.

How many awards will be given to coalitions for those re-applying?

The NOFO states we are looking to fund approximately 50 for Year 1 and 50 for Year 6. The final number will depend on the applications that come in, the final scores, the alignment with the executive orders and policy requirements.

For those applying to CDC-RFA-CE-0208 for Years 6-10, are we able to use these funds retroactively going back to September/October of 2025?

The period of performance for this NOFO is July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027. These funds cannot be used retroactively.

Is CDC-RFA-CE-26-0220 open to all new grantees or open to just those who applied for the FY25 grant?

It is public and open to all new grantees.

Eligibility and Application Requirements

Are public schools eligible entities?

Yes - public schools are eligible to apply but they need to have an agreement with a coalition that contains the 12 required sectors. See the eligibility criteria on page 7 of the NOFO.

Is it possible for a school district to apply as a coalition?

There are statutory requirements that indicate what makes up a DFC coalition, which consists of 12 required sectors. See the eligibility criteria on page 7 of the NOFO.

Must you already have a full coalition of 12 sectors prior to application submission? As a public school we have a coalition working on this, but it does not have representatives from all 12 sectors and/or for over 6 months. Does this mean we are automatically ineligible because we haven't had all 12 sectors in our coalition for the last 6 months?

You are not automatically ineligible. A coalition needs to be in existence for 6 months, but it is not required that all 12 sectors have worked together for 6 months. For the 12 required sectors, you will need to get an agreement from all 12 sectors at the time of application.

If the relationship between sectors is over 6 months old, but hasn't been a formal coalition for that amount of time is the application still eligible?

Not all 12 sectors have to be working together the 6 months. We just need evidence that there is a group that has been working together on youth substance use prevention for 6 months. This can be a formalized group, even if you didn't call it a coalition.

We have a general applicant information form that asks for the date that the coalition was established. If it's less than 6 months, then the application is ineligible. We also review meeting notes to ensure that the group has been working together on youth substance use prevention strategies.

Can we apply if we recently created our coalition (not fully 6-months ago), have the 12 required sectors represented, and hold a meeting with our minutes before submitting?

We have a general applicant information form that asks for the date that the coalition was established. If it's less than 6 months, then the application is ineligible. We also review meeting notes to ensure that the group has been working together on youth substance use prevention strategies.

Page 44 in the NOFO states meeting minutes from January 2025 to now are okay to submit, which seems to contradict the requirement that meeting minutes need to show the coalition has existed for 6 months. To clarify, the meeting minutes can be from a meeting that is from a date within that time frame. You will also be providing the date at which your coalition was established on the General Applicant Information form.

Regarding the coalition mission statement, can it state youth and adult prevention, or does it need to be only focused on youth?

The mission statement can state youth and adult prevention, but we would like to see a primary focus on youth substance use prevention per the DFC statute. We will be looking at your meeting minutes and work plan to provide evidence of this focus on youth substance use prevention.

Could you please confirm whether changing fiscal agents between Years 1–5 and Years 6–10 is permissible? Additionally, we would appreciate guidance on whether this change needs to be explicitly indicated in the application, and if so, where or how it should be documented.

You can apply for years 6-10 with a different fiscal agent than you did for years 1-5. This does not need to be explicitly indicated in your application.

Where can I find a list of active DFC coalitions or determine if there is a coalition serving my community?

You can visit the [Drug-Free Communities Coalitions webpage](#) to locate additional information about active coalitions within your area.

If your coalition is a new 501(c)(3), can it still decide to partner with a nonprofit as the fiscal agent that served as its fiscal agent in the first 5 years of funding?

Yes, you can still partner with a fiscal agent. Just make sure you follow the NOFO requirements, including submitting an MOU that is signed by both the coalition and the fiscal agent

How does the AOR for fiscal agent work?

A fiscal agent manages the grant funds and administrative tasks and is legally responsible for the award.

Is a table of contents required for year 6 applications?

Yes - a table of contents is required. You will see this in the NOFO.

Do we need to update all attachments and documents for the application if we had everything ready for the previous application period? Does everything have to be updated (signatures and dates) since this is a re-compete?

It's important to review the requirements in the NOFO before submitting documents from a previous NOFO. We would recommend reading through the requirements carefully to see what needs to be submitted. The dates in your workplan, for example, will need to be changed.

SMART objectives are mentioned only in the Work Plan section (RFP p.18-20,41). Since the Work Plan is 12 months, should these SMART objectives have 1-year outcomes or 5-year outcomes?

The SMART objectives for the workplan should be for 1-year outcomes and align with the period of performance outlined in the NOFO.

Also, objectives are not mentioned in the Approach section discussion (p.40), although Goals are. Should SMART objectives be excluded from this section? If included, should they have 5-year outcomes?

Please review the review criteria to see how the different sections will be reviewed and scored. This provides you with an idea of what you should include in each section.

The NOFO states that the AOR must be an employee of our organization. Would a Board member be able to serve as the AOR?

A member of the board of directors cannot serve as an AOR for a federal grant.

Do we need to submit a resume for the AOR or only for PD/ PC?

Please submit resumes for your key personnel as outlined in the NOFO.

Can a continuing coalition—same geographic scope, same coalition members—change the name of its coalition?

Yes. You will identify in your application if you have completed five years of DFC funding, so we will know that you are applying for year 6, even if your coalition's name is different.

Our scope originally focused only on our city, but the coalition is looking to expand to the whole county. Would that be acceptable for those applying to Year 6?

You can expand the scope of your community for Years 6-10. However, it is important to consider the level of funding we are providing and not spread yourselves too thin. There is nothing in the NOFO that restricts you from expanding your scope.

Are signatures required for sector representatives?

No. You just need to fill out the sector table.

Budget

The Budget Narrative format instructions are conflicting on pages 29 and 43. Which page should we follow?

The budget is not a scored part of your application. If there is a slight difference between what you're seeing on pages 29 and 43, we recommend looking at the [CDC Budget Guidance](#) for the required cost categories.

If you are successful in being awarded, we do outline in your notice of award what additional information we require.

Do we need to include future budget narratives in our application?

No, we are only interested in the first year of the program. We have a process for subsequent years.

The online SF 424 form does not allow me to change #2 application, it says "New" is that correct since it is continuation?

Since you are applying for a new five-year funding period, "New" is correct on the SF 424 form.

Are we required to have a PC?

You are not required to have a PC. The same person can serve as the PD/PI and PC.

What is the approved de minimis indirect cost rate? Is it a percentage of the entire award amount or a portion of the award amount?

Recipients may charge up to 15% of the de minimis rate of modified total direct costs in accordance with [2 CFR Part 200.414\(f\)](#).

Are indirect costs mandatory or optional?

If you have a current approved indirect cost rate agreement, then you would want to charge indirect costs. If you don't have that, you can elect a 15% de minimis cost. You are not required to, but most organizations would want to.

How do organizations create or get an indirect cost rate agreement established? Is there a specific process?

You can submit an HHS Indirect Cost Proposal. It can take 18 months to get approved. Consider requesting the de minimis rate while your indirect rate application is under review. You can find more information here: [Indirect Cost Negotiations | HHS.gov](#)

Can you please define modified direct costs?

CFR 200.1 defines MTDC as: “all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and up to the first \$50,000 (effective October 1, 2024) of each subaward (regardless of the period of performance of the subawards and subcontracts under the award).” MTDC excludes: equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs, and subaward expenditures in excess of \$50,000.

How is the risk review conducted?

There is a number of things we look at to ensure applicants are in compliance, starting with SAM.gov registration. If you are a 501(c)(3), please make sure you are filing your tax returns, so your 990 form. Those are the types of things we will be looking at to make sure you are overall in compliance.

Other

If we have different personnel for the AOR, PD/PI, & Project Coordinator, will the Project Coordinator have their own access to Grant Solutions?

They can request their own access. Every individual who is working on the award should have their own access.

Is new recipient training required for applicants applying for years 6-10?

The new recipient training is required for everyone. This is a virtual training.

How will compliance with the Executive Orders (EOs) be evaluated and measured for DFC grant applicants and grant awardees?

Federal grant programs have always been subject to EOs. Applications are going to be reviewed in accordance with the NOFO, federal grant regulations, and applicable federal requirements. Both the coalition and the legal applicant need to be in compliance with EOs. The best resource for all the details is Step 6 of the NOFO—we have hyperlinked all of the EOs that we believe are most relevant to the DFC program. Please read those carefully.

Compliance with EOs is an ongoing process. It’s not something that is only relevant during the application phase—it applies throughout the life of the grant project period.