

# Webinar Transcript - FY24 COSSUP Solicitation

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Hello, everyone. Thank you for joining us for today's webinar on the Bureau of Justice Assistance Fiscal Year 2024, Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Site-Based Program, or COSSUP, funding opportunities for tribes. My name is Paul Fuentes, and I am a project coordinator with the National Criminal Justice Training Center of Fox Valley Technical College. And I will be your moderator and one of your copresenters today. I would now like to introduce and turn it over to Julius Dupree to kick off today's presentation.

Good afternoon, everyone. As Paul mentioned, my name is Julius Dupree. I'm a Policy Advisor with the Bureau of Justice Assistance. And I'm actually responsible for managing the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program tribal training and technical assistance component. And I also manage or work on policy in that area as well.

On behalf of BJA, I would really like to thank you all for joining today's meeting. It's really going to be a treat. And we have some great presenters today. You're going to hear from Justine Souto. She's a Program Manager with Fox Valley Technical College.

Her, along with Paul, who you just met, will be walking you through the application process and really talking about application requirements as well as resources are available. And then we also-- and then they'll be providing an overview of really some tribal-specific data that really kind of substantiates the need for this kind of programming and funding.

You're also going to hear from Lauren Savitskas. She's a senior research associate with the Institute for Intergovernmental Research. And so Lauren's going to talk about how the COSSUP funds-- we'll be referring to it as COSSUP-- how these funds can be used to support overdose fatality reviews, if you will, overdose fatality reviews processes. And it's just a great-- it's a great thing to really help with reducing overdoses. It's a great tool. And Lauren is going to talk to you about how this works, how this process works, as well as how the COSSUP funding can be used to support those kinds of efforts.

And then I guess we'll go to the next slide. And then we can walk you through what today's presentation is going to look like. So I'm going to talk a little bit about the Office of Justice Programs and the Bureau of Justice Assistance as part of the introduction. We're going to go-- we're going to have an overview of the COSSUP program.

Then also, we're going to talk about the requirements and the components of the application. And then we're going to talk about application resources, things that can help you really improve your application and make sure you get the information that you need to be able to apply successfully. And then we'll talk about other funding opportunities that are out there that really kind of complement the COSSUP program that, they may be similar or they may be able to complement, but they're not necessarily the same. But we'll kind of walk you through those processes.

And then, as a-- I know it says Q&A at the end, but we really want you to ask questions as they come up, like if you-- when you have questions during the presentation, please feel free to put them in-- as Paul mentioned, the Q&A piece part of the webinar. And then we'll try to get to your questions as we go along.

We really want to make sure this is an interactive process. And I know Justine and Paul are going to do a great job at that. But we want you to feel free to be able to ask questions at any time.

Great. So the Office of Justice Programs is actually an office that really has-- houses, a number of our grant-making components. So the goal is to really provide resources around funding to support criminal justice initiatives and efforts within communities, as well as training and technical assistance, and also research as well. You can kind of see we have-- there are three grant-making components with the Department of Justice.

OJP, the Office of Justice Programs, is actually one of those. And we also have the Office on Violence Against Women. That's another Department of Justice component that offers grant program funding. And then there's also the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, also known as the COPS office, which really provides a lot of law enforcement-based funding to help support community policing efforts and those sorts of things.

Real quickly, just to kind of walk through the Office of Justice Programs-- so the Bureau of Justice Assistance, which is the program that I'm with, is really the arm that provides a lot of funding really across the justice continuum. And we'll talk a little bit about that later. The Bureau of Justice Statistics is our statistics office that-- and some of you may be familiar with the Jails in Indian Country Report, which is really a tribal-specific type of statistical report that comes out annually from the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

We also have our National Institute of Justice. That's our research arm that does a lot of the evaluations around the integrity and the effectiveness of the programs that we fund. Then there's the Office for Victims of Crime, which is really focused on providing assistance to victims.

Our Office of Justice Juvenile Delinquency Program is really targeting more youth types of programs and initiatives. And then we have our SMART office, which is our Office of sex offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking, which is really charged with overseeing the implementation of the Sex Offender Reentry Notification Act and efforts to support that as well.

So the Bureau of Justice Assistance, as I kind of mentioned briefly, we do focus on a lot of efforts that span the justice continuum. Our mission is really focused on providing support in grants administration, as well as policy development to support states, tribal governments, local governments, to really achieve safer communities.

And the way we do that is we provide assistance to governments, nonprofit organizations, community organizations, to really focus on efforts to reduce crime, reduce recidivism, really promote safe and fair community justice-- or criminal justice systems, and hopefully prevent unnecessary confinement. And I'm sure you'll find with the COSSUP program, a lot of that funding-- a lot of the goals and objectives with COSSUP are consistent with that mission.

The BJA was actually created in 1984. And that was really-- the purpose there was to reduce violent crime and create safer communities and also reform the criminal justice system. And actually, the assistance that we provide as far as programmatic and policy-related efforts really focuses on law enforcement, courts, corrections, treatment, reentry, justice information sharing, community-based partners, to really kind of address chronic and emerging criminal justice challenges nationwide.

So how do we do what we do to support the field? So the big thing is investments. And so the way we-- what we consider investments is our funding opportunities that we provide to communities to really help accomplish goals.

And that includes a site-based funding that we offer, as well as training and technical assistance through programs such as the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation, which is our primary funding stream to support tribal initiatives, the COSSUP, which we're talking about now, Adult Treatment Courts Program, and then Second Chance Act Reentry Program as well. We also share knowledge to help advance efforts in the field.

There are certain-- we actually have information around emerging and promising tribal justice-related programs in Indian country that we share through our BJA-funded Tribal Access to Justice Innovation website, which is [www.tribaljustice.org](http://www.tribaljustice.org). And when you get that particular-- when you get this particular presentation, you'll have that information available to you. Also, the National Institute of Justice, they have-- there's a crime solutions website that also features some tribal justice-related programs that are promising practices.

Engagement is another way we support the field. And when I say engagement, that really revolves-- or really is around our consultation with tribal representatives, our tribal training and technical assistance providers, and our other federal partners, such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs and as well as SAMHSA and other agencies as well.

And then we really partner with our representatives and our providers and federal partners to actually host events such as the American Indian Justice Conference, Alaska Tribal Justice Conference, as well as our tribal intergovernmental reentry workshops that we provide that are statewide to really provide training, facilitate coordination, and encourage peer-to-peer engagement, which is very important to us.

Oh, I'm sorry. I think we had a question that came up. And I think I can go ahead and answer that one. What is the difference between COSSAP and COSSUP? And you're right. What it is, is it was just an evolution of the name, just because the negative connotations associated with abuse, which would be like the A part of COSSAP.

We really thought it was timely to evolve and actually change it to use instead of abuse. So they're the same program. You may hear different titles-- or different names or acronyms used interchangeably, but COSSUP is the one that BJA currently uses. And that's the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, Substance Use Program. But thank you for that excellent question and we'll make a point to actually make that distinction early on for future presentations.

So now we're going to provide an overview of the COSSUP program. So we try to simplify kind of what COSSUP is. We don't want it to-- make it sound too complex. But what you can see in this chart, this image, this visual-- and I think it really does a great job of really kind of capturing how COSSUP is really meant to increase access to prevention, treatment, and recovery support services. And it's meant to reduce deaths associated with opioid use.

So that does kind of paraphrase it. But COSSUP is really focused on providing financial and technical assistance to support states, tribal governments, local entities, and territorial efforts to respond to illicit substance use and misuse, reduce overdose deaths, promote public safety, and support access to prevention, harm reduction treatment, and recovery services in the community justice system.

And really, the cornerstone around COSSUP is its emphasis on partnerships and collaboration across public health, behavioral health, and public safety sectors. So it's really-- you really have to engage all those partners to really develop effective community responses to really address these profound issues around illicit substance use and misuse. And so it's really important that all these disciplines get on the same page and really come up with a unified, coordinated strategy.

And Julius, we have a couple of questions. I think the next slide kind of responds to one of them. And it's, What if there isn't any current data on tribal practices and it doesn't have best practices going for it? Does BJA disqualify for the non-Western practice?

I'll tackle the first part. I don't know if you have a comment on the second part. I did go to the next slide, and it's because I think one of the things that we wanted to do is just provide a resource for our audience, at least a few places where they can find some national data. And I know a lot of times when we're writing grants, and of course on the peer review end, we're wanting to find some local data. And so that can sometimes be hard.

But one of the things that I try to do when grant writing was like start out by giving the national data first and making a case for that, and then kind of zeroing in on how it affects us locally or what we're seeing locally. And so sometimes those data were-- those data points were some of the things that were happening. Like if I could say there was so many deaths recently or in the last year.

But yeah, so we have a few slides on data and definitely write those sources down. And you'll have the slides within a certain-- 10 days, I guess. And then go back and look for that and see what's relevant to your application. So that was my part in a nutshell, Julius, but I'm bouncing it back to you if you wanted to respond to the second part. Does BJA disqualify the non-Western practice, I think is--

Right. Yeah, no. Not at all. And actually, we-- BJA supports the integration of the non-Western practices and evidence-based practices. And so, yeah-- so we definitely do support that.

And so there's-- as Paul mentioned, there's data out there. There's data from SAMHSA. There's data from the Center for Disease Control. There's NIH, I believe, has some data, National Institute of Health, around the impacts of opioids on American Indian and Alaska Native populations.

So to the extent that you can maybe provide information, you can provide data that way. Like if your state doesn't have data to support it or if your local community doesn't, then there are other data sources that you can rely on to help bolster your-- your needs statement, if you will. And I know Justine and Paul will talk a little bit more about that later, but hopefully that answers your question there.

Thank you so much for the questions. And let's just explore these few data points briefly. And I'll probably just highlight one or two. But again, you have the text to go back to.

But three times as many are diagnosed with substance use disorders compared to white Americans. And so, again, as you're writing, I feel like that is a good point to your case, just depending what the focus of your application is. And that's from SAMHSA's National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

This one's data on American Indian-- it's a continuation, but the higher opioid mortality rate than any other racial and ethnic group. And just having visited a few places even lately, I can think of like a tribe I visited in Wisconsin, and then-- and even just some of the conversations that were had with some tribes in South Dakota.

These are huge concerns, and so gray areas that could be addressed through this application and one of the reasons why this funding opportunity is so important. So I would definitely encourage those of us-- those listening and even if it's not the grant writer on the call, definitely forward the information to them and encourage them that this would be a really important one to apply for, especially because I feel like-- and we'll look in a minute-- but there's so many things that can be done with this funding.

I will highlight this one-- this next one, too. But the medication-assisted treatment, and it's significantly lower than the general population. And again, having visited a tribe recently who was putting in a lot of work into this area, it just made it so evident that this is needed. They had a large number of folks that were coming in and receiving MAT services. And so really important area that I think, again, tribes can explore.

A lot of us, a lot of our programs are focusing or are working with youth. Sometimes we-- our funding sources restrict us from either adults or youth. But in this case, I believe that we can make a case to serve either population and be able to do so. I think the only one I'll point out on this one is just the first one. Nearly 1 in 5 Native American young adults has substance use disorder. And so I think that that's important.

And in the context of where we find data, a lot of times if we-- a lot of times, some of our states actually do data collection with their high school students. And a lot of those-- it's not every state that does that and it's not always done by the state. Sometimes like a prevention program is the one doing it. But you can find a lot of useful information as far as young people's attitudes towards substance use and what they're using as it relates to those surveys. So definitely check with your own state to see if those types of data sources are available.

I think that this chart is really telling. And it's from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It just shows the huge-- I mean, this is huge, as far as the increase. And from 2010, being at 9.4 as it relates to overdose deaths involving opioids among Native Americans from 2010 to 2020.

And then looking at that spike, really around that 2018, 2019-- I mean, we're thinking like during those COVID times, but a huge spike to 27.4%. So again, as you're thinking about, What data can I use to push my project forward? or to add to your grant application, I feel like these could be great sources. Again, you don't have to go with them, but definitely things you could use.

This was my comment about a lot of times, we want to develop a case for the local data. And it's really-- it can be difficult. Sometimes we have a local and not the national, sometimes we have the national and not the local data. But I would just definitely use these sources as it relates to the national one.

In this specific one that we're referencing here from the National Congress of American Indians, the Policy Research Center, they're making a point to note that national data doesn't always reveal what's happening in local areas. And of course, a lot of our tribes are very rural. And so needing that local information, it can be different.

You can say the national data shows opioids, but what we're experiencing is an alcohol issue, or what we're experiencing is opioids or whatever substance abuse is happening. And so that's OK to show what national data shows and to show the distinction on how it's affecting your tribe specifically. And I will pause before I go to the next slide just to include Justine to see if-- I kind of went through those kind of quickly, Justine, but did you want to share anything up to this point as it relates to data?

Sure. I just wanted to reassure you that if you don't have specific tribal data, then liken it to maybe the county or the state that you reside in. If the county has that kind of data, and you know that 53% of the county's population are tribal, then you can sort of extrapolate from that the severity of the challenges that your tribe faces.

And another example might be-- somebody just talked about the CDC does not monitor this chart any longer. So what would you suggest? If you have anecdotal evidence that points to maybe a high level of opioid-related deaths, but you don't know for sure, maybe that's the evidence that you use to justify why you might want to use the grant dollars to create your own like overdose fatality review board. So you can just change those negatives, if you don't have all of the data, to how it relates to you specifically.

And another example is if you don't have data maybe on the number of youth involved, let's say, but you do have information on the number of people who are on a waiting list trying to get substance misuse support or treatment, so you might not have all of the data or the information on how many people are struggling with an addiction or challenges with alcohol misuse, but you might know how many people are waiting to get assistance based on your own resources that are available. If your resources aren't sufficient to be able to meet the need, then that's a justification for your application. I hope that helps.

It does, thank you, Justine. I really like that you-- like I can just think of one instance where I was trying to make a case for a problem in our tribal community. And when I asked like Department of Corrections for stats, they didn't break it down by our tribe. But they did show that they were tribal or not tribal. And then they also showed what area they were from or what area they were going back to.

And so knowing our tribal population, I was able to-- kind of like you said, kind of cross-reference those-- cross-reference that source with our information. And I was able to indicate what those numbers were. And so I felt like that was an important piece. So really good. Thank you, Justine.

OK, so if we don't have the exact data, I think that this next slide is really important as well. So maybe you don't have the exact-- those exact numbers, but you can make a case for this, whether it be the poverty and economic instability in your area. A lot of those numbers oftentimes, whether it be the Department of Labor, but those numbers can kind of sometimes be a little easier to find.

The mental health-- the behavioral health, when you're looking at all those things, you can always ask if you have a treatment center, hey, What's your waiting list like? and use that as information. The decreased ability to parent, trauma, including exposure to violence and victimization.

So a lot of times these factors, again, they coincide or go with addiction. And so being able to demonstrate these factors, I feel like is really important, especially in a minute, we'll see-- we'll kind of talk about which areas of the grant you may want to do most of your focus as it relates to showing data and showing that there is a problem area.

I see a few Q&A questions that have come through. I didn't know if there was one that we needed to pause and address.

Thank you for that, Paul. Yes. So there was something that popped up in the chat. The question is, Since all of this data is known, like the national data, I presume, isn't it beneficial for writers to move ahead and talk about what they hope to accomplish with the funding? And Julius, do you want to take a stab at that one before I chime in?

Sure, Justine. And I said an answer in the chat, but basically, there's a statement of need that's in the application. And that's really kind of paramount to substantiate the need for why the funding is made necessary. And that's where the data comes in, to help to substantiate that need. It's also going to help with-- because these applications are going to be peer reviewed by a panel. And these panelists may not necessarily know your jurisdiction or your community.

And so to the point-- to the extent that you can provide them with data around your arrests or your police calls or your overdoses, those kinds of things, that's really going to help paint the picture for the peer reviewer as far as how important it is for you all to-- or for your community to receive that funding. So that's kind of why it's helpful to bring that data-- and to the extent you can get the most localized information, the better.

And so that's just-- so I just kind of sent-- that's a summary of what I sent in the chat. But hopefully that helps.

Absolutely. I agree, Julius. And especially from a peer reviewer's perspective, I want to see what the impact is of these challenges on the local community. So sometimes we talk about the scope and the nature of the challenges that your community is facing. And just think about it like this.

So you might have-- you're trying to describe an animal. You want to know how many of them there are, and you also want to know, How do they present themselves? Like, are these-- are these animals that you're trying to tackle, are these a menace to the community, and how so? Or are these just not a challenge at all. Is it just maybe there's a large number of them, but they're really harmless?

That's maybe a poor example because we know that alcohol and substance misuse is harmful to our communities. But I just want you to be able to explain that animal to the best way you can.

Justine. No, I really dig it, because I think that's one of the things that like-- again, as peer reviewer, when you're looking at the applications, if someone is writing and like eager to jump into, hey, these are our solutions, but if you didn't truly define who your enemy is, or who the animal is, in this case, if it's like-- if it's alcohol or the overdoses, then we really don't know what we're-- like we know what we're doing, but we don't know why we're doing it.

I feel like building out the problem really does that. It helps to define like why it is we're doing what we're doing. And so-- OK, I will continue. But if we need to pause for more Q&A, please-- please feel free to let me know.

Actually, Paul, let me get on to one more data question here in the chat. Someone is asking, can I use current jail incarcerations for data?

I don't know. I mean, I would say yes. I would use-- that would be a great source of information. And if it's your tribe and you're able to use that, or if it's even the state information, I mean, again, it probably-- what will make that determination may be like what you're trying to implement.

So for example, if there was data on the jail and prisons and my program is kind of reentry focused or prevention to prison or stuff like that, then those numbers would go really well with what I'm trying to address in my application. So that's one answer. But I don't know if Julius or Justine, if you also had an answer for that.

I agree with you, Paul. Julius, what do you think?

Yeah. No, definitely. I think that's great information to include. And I mean, especially if you're implementing a medication-assisted treatment jail-based program, then that would really be very helpful as well.

I agree, too. It's interesting, too, sometimes you hear people refer to substance misuse as a criminalized offense. And in Indian country, we try to decriminalize addiction challenges. So absolutely, if you had this incarceration data, then you might be able to justify like how many of your tribal community are incarcerated for offenses that are completely related to their substance misuse.

So that's really good justification for why you want to try different programming as well as alternatives to incarceration and justifying the need for alternatives to incarceration. And as Julius said, like defer to things like medicated-assisted treatment.

Good. Thank you, Justine. I appreciate it. Again, if I need to pause, just let me know. But I am going to the next slide.

I feel like this is a great visual. It's the sequential intercept model. And if you'll see at the top, there's intercept 1, and it says law enforcement. Intercept 2, and we're talking about detention and maybe initial court hearings. Intercept 3, this is the jail and courts. And that last question on jails and prisons, I feel like that really falls under this intercept 3. And then we have intercept 4, which is reentry, intercept 5, which is community corrections.

And so we can see through this visual that usually, it starts with a 911 call. And that that individual may work through the process, going from left to right, going through the different intercepts or crossing the different programs. And I also like this model because it can be a really good visual-- whether you put that in your application or not, but I think a really good visual for when we're talking to, say, tribal council or the tribal leadership and being able to kind of explain, depending on your program, what you're trying to-- what interest you're trying to get-- push across.

But you can say, hey, we're law enforcement and we're at the front end where this is where we're getting all our calls and these are the problems we're experiencing. And so I feel like this is a great chart that kind of illustrates that.

The next one I feel like is really good, and for those of us who may be more comfortable with a-- kind of like this wheel model. It hits a lot of the same points. But one of the things that I like about this one is that maybe-- the other one's a great one, too, but in this one, there is that possibility of a cycle where someone just keeps getting into trouble, goes through court, goes through prisons.

And maybe-- for example, in this one, maybe your program, your tribe is missing a reentry part. And so you may find they're going through intercept 1, intercept 2, intercept 3, and then they start the process again. But maybe what you're pushing in this application is that if you're able to incorporate a reentry program, then that may disrupt this cycle. And so for all those reasons, I really like this tribal adaptation of the model as well.

So consider those in your planning for this application. And again, when you have the slides, you'll have direct access to it.

The thing I really like about this sequential intercept model is that you can also use this to identify where your gaps are. So if you find that in any one of these intercepts, there's a lot of outside of the tribe services, maybe county services or state, and you're lacking in those areas within your own tribe, your own community, that's a source for justifying why you need to fill that gap.

Or maybe it's OK if they go through these other options outside of the tribe, but maybe there's not as good of an outcome as you hope. For example, maybe there's just a lack of culturally relevant treatment services. So that could be a gap that you'd want to fill by working with those other organizations or filling that gap yourself and creating your own type of treatment program, just as an example.

So this could be mapped out further to identify where your strengths are in your justice system and where those gaps are in services. And that will help when you're creating your objectives for the program implementation.

Yeah. It's really, really good. Justine and I visited a tribe not too long ago, and they don't have a court. They have law enforcement, but no court. And so like, for them, that would be a really-- maybe something for them to tackle. Not that they're on this call, but just to demonstrate that maybe you have all these other services, but you're missing that one important one. Great visual for that. So with that, I will pass it on to Julius.

Thank you, Paul. So there's a number of different categories in COSSUP that I'm going to briefly review. But as far as, I think, what's going to be most important to highlight is that tribes are able to apply under category 1C. And I'll talk a little bit about that a little bit more.

And then there's also a category 2, although only state administering agencies are eligible to apply for that. But they can apply on behalf of tribes in counties and municipalities and localities as well. So I will talk a little bit about that as well.

So as you can see, like there's the subcategories here for category 1. 1a is really targeting urban or large counties with a population greater than 500,000. Then there's the suburban purpose area, 1b, which you can see the populations between 100,000 and 500,000.

And then for subcategory c, that is the category for rural jurisdictions as well as federally recognized tribes. And you can see the amounts for funding there. And it's really kind of, I guess, based on size, if you will. So the funding cap for subcategory 1c is actually \$1 million, and that's for a 36-month grant period.

So there are 11 different focus areas that I just want to talk about as far as like what's allowable for funding under COSSUP. And I saw a question in there around-- or Bobby Dorton from Alaska, thank you for your question. And I think I'll be able to address your question as I go through these allowable uses for funding.



But you can actually apply for funding for only one of those purpose areas, or focus areas, or a number of different focus areas. And so it's just we really want to make sure-- and hence the name Comprehensive Opioid Substance Use-- Stimulant and Substance Use program, we want you to look at your justice system comprehensively, figure out where the gaps are, what the needs are.

This could involve bringing in multiple partner agencies, could involve talking to folks from the courts, from law enforcement, from probation, from the defense, from counsel from prosecutor's office. We really hope that you look at this in a comprehensive manner.

So purpose area 1 is law enforcement, and first responder deflection and diversion programs. And so to the extent that you want to work with law enforcement to develop some sort of deflection or diversion programs, you can use funding for that to really kind of help reduce overdose prevention, really help with efforts to prevent folks from getting involved in the criminal justice system.

And I just kind of want to underscore-- so the goals of the COSSUP program really-- the focus is really around the programming treatment aspect of it, preventing overdoses, implementing policies that will help with peer recovery, those kinds of things. So it's not as much like the law enforcement detection side or investigation side of things.

And I think our-- one of our partner agencies, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, might be a better option if you're looking for more of that kind of law enforcement engagement. And then also, BJA has some law enforcement programs that are more focused on that more enforcement side of things. But this is more looking at helping with-- helping keep folks out of the justice system or naloxone distribution for officers and helping with those overdose efforts and first responder efforts.

Another area is prebooking treatment alternatives to incarceration. So again, this could be diversion programs as well that could be set up to help prevent folks from getting involved in the system. A third purpose area is education and prevention programs. So if you want to have law enforcement in the schools to provide information and education around prevention efforts, that's another way you can use funding.

A fourth focus area is naloxone. I talked a little bit about that. But we're seeing more and more innovative programs around naloxone distribution efforts. I mean, like vending machines, naloxone in jails that can be accessed by jail staff and other justice practitioners. So that's another way that you could use funding.

Court programming, so one of the things is you may have some sort of program set up in your court where you want to provide treatment or-- and address recovery issues for those that are coming into contact with your court. But one of the things that we can't fund through COSSUP would be drug courts or healing to wellness courts or veteran courts because those kinds of initiatives are funded through other BJA solicitations. So we don't want to duplicate efforts.

And we're going to talk about the BJA solicitation that funds those kinds of programs. But with COSSUP funding, you can enhance or somehow complement if you have a current healing to wellness court or a drug court or veterans court. You could use our funding to enhance those services, but you just can't use our funding for implementation of those kinds of programs.

Transitional recovery housing, funding can be used for that as well, for peer recovery services. But we do stipulate that no more than 30% of the total grant funds can be used for transitional recovery housing. Another area is embedding social workers, peers, and/or persons with lived experience at any intercept of the criminal justice system.

So we do see the efficacy of having peers involved in the work. I know there's a lot of innovative programming out there that does a lot of work in that area, but you can use funding to actually have peers participate, whether it's a diversion program, deflection program, or treatment, anywhere along that continuum that Paul talked about when he referred to that intercept model a little while ago.

Evidence-based treatment, again, and I know we've been beating the drum a lot with this medication-assisted treatment, but funds can be used to support that. Also, any harm reduction-related types of programming or inpatient residential treatment, outpatient services, those kinds of things.

Evidence-based treatment is what it stipulates here. So that's what the focus would be for any type of treatment program that you're using under this particular focus area. And I can-- I'll talk a little bit more about a couple of other options around programming when I get to the last focus area here.

So take-back programs, like any unused controlled substances found in the home or used by hospitals or long-term care facilities, funding can be used to implement or establish take-back programs.

Also data collection, we realized the importance around collecting data to actually analyze your overdose problems or your different areas that you really want to focus on to hopefully prevent overdoses. But it's really important to help have data collection systems that will help you make that determination as far as where you need to allocate your resources to be able to address the problem.

Field-initiated projects. So this is the topic area where you can bring together justice, behavioral health, and public health practitioners to implement new or promising practices. And so this gets to the question that Bobby asked about earlier, I think it was around peer support types of programs. And so this could be considered a field-initiated project.

But you'll see the-- you'll see here that you must include a research partner if you do apply for that field-initiated project. And that's mainly to do-- or evaluate your practice to determine the efficacy or whether or not it's something that needs more data to support.

Do we need to pause for Q&A or is there any questions in the chat? I don't know if-- Justine, if you've seen any, or any that we need to tackle at this point or some of those questions-- OK. Go ahead. Sorry.

Yeah. Since we're on allowable funding uses, I'm going to defer to Julius. Julius, there's a lot of questions in the Q&A about, What can these dollars support?

Yep. Let me see here. I know there was a question, so I'm going to answer it live here. So the one I know Bobby Dorton sent, the program tribal peer support hasn't been done before and is done using storytelling.

And so is this-- so it's a new vision that has no data yet. And he was talking about maybe wanting to figure out if that's something. Yeah, I mentioned peer support as an allowable use of funding. And so, yeah, that would be allowable to include that in your application there, Bobby. Another question here-- I'm sorry.

Julius, could I add to that on the peer support?

Sure. Yeah. So on that one, the issue is you're wanting to do a program that you don't have necessarily exact evidence for. So like one way to build that out, or I feel like would be just to show that peer support is an evidence-based program. And once you've built that out in your application, then going into showing how your support, peer support, is like that evidence-based program, and then maybe where it differs, and that those are the cultural elements and the storytelling that you're providing.

But I want to give that kind of as an example-- just a general-- not just focused on peer support, but in any of these areas. Some of the things, like as tribes that we-- a lot of the things that we're doing, they're evidence-based, even though there may not be that data. But later on, an evidence-based program is identified, and we're like, well, shoot, the tribe, we've been doing that this whole time.

And so don't be afraid to tackle on those areas that are evidence-based, but you have your culture piece that really makes it distinct for your tribe. So I just wanted to include that there, Julius, sorry to interrupt.

Paul, I want to piggyback on that one, too. I totally agree with you. The other part of this is if it doesn't have data yet, all the more reason to make sure that your evaluation and program evaluation piece is really robust so that you can show the peer reviewers that you do have plans to evaluate success for your approach to peer support.

Thank you. Thank you, Justine. And I know there was a question around grant matching, and I typed an answer to that one around-- there is no required grant match-- no required match for this particular grant.

Let's see, the-- OK, can this grant be used for drug identification equipment to assist tribal police with-- entering into dangerous situations where fentanyl and other drugs may be present? So I think I alluded to it earlier, so this particular grant funding stream would not be-- you could not use that-- this funding to support those kinds of enforcement efforts.

But there are other law enforcement programs. I know the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. And then there may be some that the Bureau of Justice Assistance has some law-- some law enforcement-specific programs that could offer support for those kinds of-- those kinds of items. But this particular program is really focused on-- when it comes to law enforcement, diversion, deflection programs, naloxone distribution types of programs. So it wouldn't be necessarily for enforcement for this one.

Let's see. I see another. OK, a tribe is-- a tribe is proposing to establish a new OTP MAT services in a community where there is a time frame that must be met from award to establishing license and treatment patients. For example, do you expect services must be up and running within a matter of first few months of award?

So we do realize that it may take time to actually implement. Now Justine, are you-- you wanted to answer that question? Or I see you.

I was just clicking on that we were going to answer it live.

Oh, OK.

I think I know where you're going with this, so.

Yeah. Sure. Yeah. We realize that there's going to be a period of time where you-- you're going to have some planning activities that you're going to need to do once you find out that you received the grant. And so we realize that it could take months to implement the project.

And so to answer your question, we will ask you to have a time task plan and you'll see that as part of the application. And Justine's going to talk about that. But you should be able to estimate or provide time frames or estimates of when you expect to implement certain activities and goals in your project. So that's where that would be there.

Let's see. Can US territories like Guam and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands apply? The answer to that is, yes, you can apply. And I'm just looking for-- as far as a category, though, of funding-- or subcategory 1c-- I think you would want to look at your population sizes because 1c is really for rural jurisdictions and tribes.

And so you may want to look at 1a or 1b. I don't have it in front of me, but really depending on your population. But definitely, US territories are eligible to apply.

Let's see. Question here is, Can this grant help with positions and/or more with tribes that are receiving the tribal opioid settlement or used as backing for more support of outreach and prevention within tribal lands? And the answer to that is yes. Just ensure that the-- whatever you request for funding from us is not duplicative of what you're receiving through other funding sources, and that it somehow-- that it complements or enhances and not duplicates.

Let's see here. We have another question. Where is--

Julius. And if you don't mind, let's do this last one, and then we'll go more slides and then maybe pause again.

Yep. Sounds good.

So where is category 1c in the priority area section that starts on page 11 or are 1a and b directions meant to apply to all? Yeah. So the answer to that question is the priority areas, which we'll discuss later, for 1a, 1b, priority area 2, and 3, they are actually meant for all applicants and they're not just specific to the different subcategories. And so hopefully that helps clarify that.

So at this time, one of the things that's-- it's not explicitly stated here, but definitely supported by our funding is overdose fatality reviews. And so Lauren Savitskas with Institute for Intergovernmental Research is going to give you an overview of what overdose fatality reviews are and how our funding can be used to support that. Lauren?

Thank you, Julius. So, hi, everyone. My name is Lauren Savitskas, as mentioned previously. I'm with the Institute for Intergovernmental Research, or IIR. And we are one of the training and technical assistance provider through the COSSUP program. And one area that IIR focuses on supporting is the use of Overdose Fatality Review, or OFR, as you'll hear me mention it throughout the presentation today. So today, we're just going to do a really high level overview of what overdose fatality review is and how BJA funds can be used to support them.

So just so you are aware, I'm a larger-- part of a larger training and technical assistance team that's pictured here. We are available to provide support to any new, forming, or existing OFRs regardless of funding stream, with the goal to really help advance the use of overdose fatality reviews in jurisdictions across the country, and really help folks align their OFRs with the national standards that have been created.

So what is an overdose fatality review? In practice, OFRs involves a series of confidential individual death reviews by a multidisciplinary team with the purpose of effectively identifying systems gaps and innovative community-specific overdose prevention and intervention strategies.

The case review process examines a decedent's life in terms of their drug use history, any comorbidities, any major health events, social emotional trauma, encounters with law enforcement and the criminal justice system, treatment history, and other factors to really facilitate this deeper understanding of all those missed opportunities for prevention, intervention, that may have resulted in preventing an overdose death.

So as jurisdictions conduct these series of case reviews, you begin to see patterns of need and opportunity, not only within those specific agencies that are represented at the table, but also across the various systems. So when you're blending all of that information from public health, public safety, the providers, communities, really develop program and policy recommendations to improve the coordination and the collaboration between agencies to prevent those overdose deaths.

The recommendations that are developed from the findings from the OFR are presented to a governing committee. And that governing committee, their role is really to support and provide resources for implementation and provide a framework for accountability of that action of that OFR.

So OFRs really bring together those key community stakeholders, those diverse partners, to share aggregate and case-level data. This allows for a really rich understanding of overdose trends within that jurisdiction once that information is compiled and analyzed and shared in one place. So agencies aren't just looking at their one specific data, but they're actually able to access, overlay, and better understand all of the data that's available within the community at the fingertips of the OFR.

OFRs are also used to address really complex public health issues by focusing on prevention, convening multidisciplinary professionals, and identifying those missed opportunities for prevention and intervention and developing and implementing really data-driven strategies as they're looking at these case reviews and the aggregated data, really developing that understanding and able to understand where there's an opportunity to enhance what's already in the community or where those missed opportunities occurred so that programming and policies can be implemented and put in there to help prevent future overdose deaths.

In addition, the OFR process generates information about the decedent and their interactions with services and systems. This information is used to craft recommendations to prevent future similar deaths that's really specific to the community in which that individual lived and received services and interacted with local systems. It's not looking at data and information that isn't relevant to the community. It's understanding what is within that community and how to better serve those residents and those individuals who live, work, and play within those local jurisdictions.

So an OFR case review meeting, that sharing of that case-level data of an individual and all the system interactions is part of a larger infrastructure that includes a subcommittee, governing committee, committees to review aggregate data, case review meetings, aggregate data meetings. And I'm going to be going into more detail in this section on the next slide. But this is really where those funds can come in to really help support the use of OFR within your communities.

So we talked about the OFR case review meeting. That's that meeting with the multidisciplinary team that reviews those series of individual deaths to identify system-level opportunities for prevention and intervention. As the case review meeting, as they're developing those recommendations, looking at those trends, that information and those recommendations is passed on to a subcommittee to really develop a work plan if that recommendation needs that level of implementation planning.

So the bulk of the work that an OFR does occurs between meetings at that subcommittee level. Those subcommittees meet separately from an OFR team, of that case review meeting, and report to the other members at case review meetings, the aims and progress within the subcommittee. The role is really to develop that work plan around those identified recommendations.

So subcommittees can be formed ad hoc. They can be disbanded as needed. It doesn't have to be a standing meeting. They can meet and come together and then disband as the work is done.

So they're kind of-- they can be temporary. They can be ongoing. It really depends on the OFR within that jurisdiction. But their goal is really to flesh out that work plan around the recommendations that are identified within the case review meeting.

So that information is then provided to the governing committee. The governing committee is really there to provide direction to the OFR team and the resources needed to implement the recommendations that are generated. The folks that serve on the governing committee are the people who can say yes at an organizational level and then provide the funding that might be needed or the resources that might be needed or the time that might be needed to implement that recommendation.

So depending on your jurisdiction, the governing committee may already be existing. It might be a local drug prevention task force, or it may be formed just solely to support the OFR initiatives. The governing committee, like I mentioned, it's really comprised of those senior-level representatives at those-- within those specific agencies that are the decision makers.

And then that aggregated data meeting, that committee-- or that meeting is really used to help analyze the data that's available within a community to provide context to community understanding to those case review meetings, to really understand what's going on within the community. It also can be used to help determine case selection criteria. There are some communities that do not have the opportunity to review every person that has died from a drug-related death within their jurisdictional lines.

And so that aggregate data meeting can be used to identify what the case selection criteria is used for OFR. So if they really want to look at fentanyl-related deaths within a population of 35 to 45, because that's what their aggregate data is reflecting as the need to review. So that's what the different pieces within the OFR structure are, those different-- the governing committee, the subcommittee is the case review meeting, and then that aggregate data meeting.

So every OFR has a lead agency that oversees the OFR and provides that administrative support. This is, again, something that your funds can be used to support. So we're going to dive into what that lead agency is tasked with so you can see what that funding might be required.

So the lead administrative agency has the commitment to preventing overdose deaths and providing the resources and staff to support the OFR. The lead agency, typically within the community, is seen as trustworthy and collaborative. An OFR lead agency can be the local health department, human services department, a prevention coalition. But typically speaking, it's seen as a neutral agency that is easy to partner with and respond to-- has already been in the response to the overdose epidemic.

The OFR lead agency oversees the OFR by providing administrative support to fulfill those three key leadership roles. And those roles are the facilitator, the coordinator, and the data manager. The structure and role depends on the jurisdictions. Some jurisdictions have one person in each of these roles. Some jurisdictions that do not have that level of funding do not-- they have one person who completes all those roles.

So it can be three separate funded staff positions. It can be one person who's doing all of that work. But there are different responsibilities within each role that an agency is required to support if they're going to support the OFR.

So OFRs really encourage multidisciplinary collaboration by using this data-driven SOS process. So in context SOS stands for Shared understanding, Optimized capacity, and Shared accountability. So what OFRs are really looking to do is that they increase the members' understanding of the areas, agencies, roles and services, as well as the communities assets and needs.

They are there to really get a richer understanding of the current overdose trends, what the prevention activities are, where those systems gaps are, really to share that understanding of what's going on within the community. In order to optimize capacity, OFRs really increase the communities' capacity to prevent overdose deaths by leveraging resources from multiple agencies to increase that system-level response.

It sounds so silly when I say it, but OFR meetings are truly like no other meetings I've ever been a part of. The level of communication, collaboration, sharing, leveraging the resources, enriching of understanding within those agencies that are respected and that are at the table, they're represented at the table, it really enhances what a community is able to do because they're able to see what services are being provided, what resources are available, and better leverage all of that when they come together by doing these case reviews, looking at the aggregated data, and really having those rich conversations about what the community need is.

And then there's also the piece of shared accountability. So OFRs are really looking at the local substance use and overdose death data and looking at those recommendations that are implementing. The work is shared across the OFR. It is not up to one agency to implement all of the recommendations. So people are all coming together within that governing committee, within their subcommittees, within the OFR case review meeting, to build on those recommendations and really take ownership of the implementation of those different pieces.

So I wanted to make sure that you all knew that there were a lot of relevant, easily accessible resources for OFR at our ofrtools.org website. We have toolkits, webinars, podcasts, convenings that have been recorded in the past, and also our upcoming convenings that will help you better understand what OFR is, what it takes to implement an OFR, how to enhance an OFR if you're already doing that work. But that is available to you all and just wanted to make sure you were aware that you can access any of those resources on that website.

And then just a little tip or trick, on the ofrtools.org website, there is a specific section called Launch Your OFR at the bottom on the main page. And that is really a section for sites that are getting started or thinking about implementing an OFR. It has a checklist of all of the resources that sites should review in order to best understand the nuances and what really the framework of an OFR is.

There's the practitioners guide that's linked within there. That really shows how to implement an OFR from beginning-- you're contemplating doing it to you're actually holding a meeting. It goes over, How do you recruit your members? How do you plan a meeting? What does an agenda really look like?

What does a facilitator need to have these really rich conversations? How do you collect your data? How do you store your data? What data are you looking for? And then that key piece of why an OFR meets is really building out that recommendation plan. So what does that look like and how do you do that?

That is all housed on our website within that handy-dandy checklist and that toolkit section. So please feel free to look at those resources as you are considering if OFR is an appropriate fit for your community.

And then wanted to make sure you knew that you could get a hold of IIR and the OFR TTA provider and request technical and training-- training and technical support at any time. And that is free to you. You can just go on there, fill out that form, and we will contact you and set up a meeting and help you with your OFR process.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us and fill that out. We're here to help you troubleshoot any day-to-day challenges you have, or if you have any questions about OFR, please, again, reach out to us. So I will stop sharing and turn it back over to Paul and Julius.

Thank you so much, Lauren. I really appreciate it. And yes, I would just encourage any tribe who maybe they know in their area, they're suffering with a lot of overdose-- overdose deaths. In that case, I feel like going in there, checking out that website, and getting all that information, I'm sure a lot of that information would be useful even to reference or to make sure you're hitting those milestones in your application. And so definitely a great source there, Lauren, thank you so much.

Julius did a great job at explaining how comprehensive this opportunity is and how we can tackle a number of different things with the project. And so the next few slides just cover some of those, how they were done specifically. And so as it relates to law enforcement programs, there's a number of things there. I will let you read those when you get a chance.

The only thing that I will talk about is the Tribal Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion and Deflection. And just having been on site not too long ago with the tribe and a discussion around law enforcement's ability to like-- to be able to respond to some of the mental health and the overdose situations, or whenever they arrive on scene, and be able to deflect those to someone more appropriate to handle those situations, again, such as a treatment provider or something like that.

So people are doing-- tribes are doing very creative things and responding to it their own way. Again, I wouldn't feel like you need to shy away from that. I think what you're probably doing is probably evidence-based in some form or fashion as far as there's probably data that's covering what you're doing or evidence that shows that it's promising. And then you're probably adding your own cultural elements. Again, I would think that that would be the way to go if that's true for your program.

Treatment and behavioral health approaches. So I think there was some discussion around the peer recovery support services. And yes, I, again, being out in the tribe and just seeing them really begin-- one of the things I'll just say about doing peer support services is one of the things in talking to HR or just tribes or just people in general, it's so hard at times to hire people, hire qualified people, if it's-- you're looking for licensed counselors or all these areas, it's hard to attract the people.

And so sometimes I feel like peer recovery support specialists could be a solution to some of those problems. Now are they going to do everything a therapist does? No, but there's evidence that shows, and if they're easily accessible and easily willing to apply for those jobs, then maybe that's a great solution because you're filling a workforce issue, and at the same time, solving a big problem in your community.

So that's the only one that I was planning on highlighting there. But Justine, is there anything you wanted to mention on either this slide or the previous one as it relates to those topics?

No, I think that-- just make it certainly relevant to your own community and have the information or the data, or lack of data, if that's the reason why you need parts of these topic areas, just make it fit the gaps that you identify.

Exactly. Thank you, Justine. So as it relates to courts and corrections, those jail-based treatment and MATs, again, that was a program that I had met with-- the tribe in this case had a MAT program, and they were beginning to meet with like all the county jails in their tribal jurisdiction and introducing MAT to those stakeholders and trying to make sure that their tribal members were receiving services at the-- with those who were incarcerated or in jail, things like that.

And so I thought that that was a really great thing that that program was doing. And, and they were pushing these kind of initiatives forward.

Community education and prevention. So sometimes, some of our funding sources don't allow us to do for prevention. But a lot of times, that is a-- in a lot of tribes, that is something that they've-- a lot of them feel like they got that down. They understand prevention and know how they can wrap the community around some of those programs or services.

Well, this application would be good for you, then, the solicitation, because definitely there's opportunities there. Even media campaigns, I can think of a number of tribes who have their own media department. And so collaborating with them, which collaboration is a big part of this solicitation as well, but collaborating with them or maybe outsourcing that so that you can do those media campaigns based on this information.

And then cultural approaches. And so we talked about-- and Justine just said again, being true to your community. What's true for your community is a protective factor for your community. So doing those things that really uplift your community, I feel like incorporating those in the programs that we do is important no matter what, be it a justice-related program or not. Incorporating our culture, our language, all those things are so important in what we do.



So I think the only one that I would highlight is a tribe who, they do canoeing and they're able to bring in a lot of youth for like a camp, and they're able to teach some prevention and teach about life skills and give them a curriculum to help so that they are pushing for those initiatives that prevent substance use and the misuse. And so that is an example. But let me pass it on to Julius now on the eligibility.

Before we go there, thank you. Thank you, Paul, for that information. But it sounds like Kevin Mariano, who's one of our training and technical assistance providers for COSSUP tribal work, might want to say something.

Great. Thank you, Julius. And yeah, I just wanted to quickly explain the LEAD, actually, Law Enforcement Deflection/Diversion, and what it really is in working with from the law enforcement side is to deflect/defer individuals in the treatment services. I think, Paul, you mentioned the overdoses, but we want to actually do that intervention and deflect/defer those individuals into some type of treatment services. So I just wanted to mention that there quickly, Paul, so we don't get the wrong information out and all that.

Thank you, Kevin. I appreciate that for sure. OK. I think we're good, Julius.

Sounds good. Thank you. And I'm not going to spend much time on this, but the subcategory 2 is what I talked about a little bit earlier. But that subcategory is only limited to state administering agencies or state and alcohol and drug misuse organizations.

And so what that is, is basically the state organization can serve as a conduit for funding. They can apply on behalf of up to like six geographically diverse counties, localities, tribal jurisdictions, or regions. And so that's an option. But one thing I would like to highlight is if you-- if a tribe does get funded under that as a sub-awardee under that category, that the funds can't be duplicative if you receive-- if you receive funding as the tribe under 1c, you can't receive funding for the same exact activities under category 2 and it would have to be complementary.

You could benefit from both. But the funding-- or the uses for funding would have to be complementary. Again, that just rehashes what I said before. So I'm not going to spend much time on the statewide category.

Okay, priority areas. So priority 1A is really meant for-- if you want to get priority consideration for funding under this, you would have to demonstrate that whatever funding that you're requesting is going to help advance equity or remove barriers or enhance access to services or opportunities that have been basically for historically underserved or marginalized communities.

And so those kinds of programs could include improving victim services, justice responses, prevention initiatives, reentry services. And obviously, I think tribal communities would qualify for this historically-- as historically underserved or marginalized communities for priority 1A.

Now priority 1B is really focused on organizations, particularly. So applicants that can actually demonstrate their capacities or competencies for implementing are enhanced because of-- they are a population-specific organization like a tribal organization or a nonprofit that basically serves communities that have been historically underserved. And so that's-- priority 1B is more focused on organizations. And at least 40% of your budget would have to be for that particular tribal organization or nonprofit as-- to qualify for that priority 1B.

Couple other priority areas, priority area 2 is basically you would get consideration if you include a research partner. And I want to thank Justine for really underscoring the importance of evaluation. And so if you do, let's say, a field-initiated type of effort that's not-- that doesn't have data to support it, and you want to pursue a research partner, then you would qualify for that priority number 2.

And the last priority, 3, is actually one that focuses on-- or communities that have experienced a 50% annual increase in recent drug-related overdose deaths. And you might be able to get that information from the state, or if you have tribal overdose data that would be great to be included in your application if you do, because then you could apply for that particular priority area as well. And so you would really be looking at data for 2021, 2022, as well as 2023 if available.

OK, so now we're going to go into the application requirements and components. And I think I'm going to go ahead and turn that over to Paul.

Yes. Application requirements and components. OK, so what does your application need? And so definitely this project narrative, the description of the issues. And one of the tips that I would say is definitely use your headings and subheadings. And as a peer reviewer looking at grants, I think one of the most difficult thing-- and writing them-- is just to stay focused on the section, the part that you're trying to describe, not blending in problems with solutions. It's so easy to do-- to mix it all up.

But I would say pace yourself. The delivery is so important. And just cover the section that it's asking you for. But in this-- as it relates to this, yes, this part is so important. You can build out your problem and why that's the case and it has a-- against the scoring, you're looking at 15% that it affects. And Justine, is there anything that you wanted to share as it relates to this part?

I just want to emphasize that whatever the solicitation asks, it is important that you do not skip over anything. If for some reason, you're not able to provide information such as maybe a critical data source, explain why you don't have that and then make that part of your project goals or objectives. But an explanation of why you don't have something is certainly allowable. As long as you don't ignore any of the components, you can still get full scores from peer reviewers.

I feel like that was such an important part, Justine, especially, I know like there was a number of people in that first poll that they're new to federal opportunities and federal grants. And so I feel like that is such a good tip all around. Definitely hit all the points and do not skip, address it in some form or fashion, even if it is, I can't because of, you know, X, Y, and Z.

I think we talked earlier about where you can go-- like some of those data points that you can use. But here is a resource as well. So definitely check to that because this can help push that part of your application forward. So give that a look when you get a chance.

The next thing that they're looking at is the project narrative, the project design and implementation. So this is the part that you're really going to want to focus on what it is you're doing, how that's going to work. If I was doing, for example, like the OFR stuff, I'd go right into the resources that Lauren shared earlier. I'd go in there, I'd look at all that and see how our tribe could apply-- or could apply some of those tips and use that as a framework.

So that's what you're wanting to do there, is build that out. Again, you're going to be tempted to share some of this at the first step. I wouldn't do it. I would share it here and really get into the nitty gritty, the details. And again, as Justine said, to hit every portion, every part. Every one of these subheaders, make sure you hit it. Justine, anything on this one?

Yeah, just that the-- this is 40% of the scoring. So if a peer reviewer docks you like three points on this section compared to three points on the previous section, it's going to matter much more. So it's weighted much more heavily on this. So you want to do a good job with this.

And whatever you put in for the project design and implementation, have somebody else proofread this and read how the flow is. Ideally, you should be able to give this section to somebody brand new who gets hired to implement the project and they should be able to follow this as a step-by-step guide of what they need to do to implement this project. And the same goes for the timeline.

Justine, really, really good points. Definitely. And one of the things I'm thinking about, too, is that if in the problem area, you talked about the need for addiction, for example, to alcohol, maybe the whole case is built around alcohol. But on the project design, you're wanting to implement a program that doesn't serve individuals who are dealing with alcohol, for example.

Those two need to match. So what you're dealing with as far as problems, this section should definitely come in and complement that as far as provide solutions that directly coordinate with those problems. So great points.

So more about that on this slide. The only one I will point out is the sustainability part, how that's important. So you're making a case that, for example, your tribe can't do this without these funding opportunities, at least, these initial costs. But you also need to create a space in the application with a plan on how you're going to sustain this program once you get funded.

That's such an important piece and it could come, you can explain that in many different formats, but that you cover this, is going to be important. Anything on this slide, Justine?

Yeah, just on sustainability, Paul. I agree with what you said. Sustainability, remember, is more than just dollars to fund aspects of the program or the staff that might be hired. Make sure that there are processes that can be sustained, especially like through a multidisciplinary coordinating body. That is something that can be easily sustained because it's a group of people who are meeting to discuss these challenges and solutions. And that's probably going to go on.

Creating an MOU with a local partner or partnering organization either within the tribe or outside of the tribe that can be sustained. An MOU is an aspect of sustainability.

Really good, Justine. Thank you so much. Great points. On this section, we're 25%, the capabilities and competencies. It's so important on this part that you take the time and that you address the management structure. Who is this new position going to be under, for example? And what qualifications?

Maybe it's a job you hope to hire for. What's their role? And what kind of qualifications are you looking for them? And then those who are going to manage them, and maybe the accounting part, maybe you're explaining how many grants your tribe oversees. And also that they're accountable, that you have these checks and balances in place as it relates to finances.

I feel like all the time serving as a peer reviewer, any tribe or an applicant who's able to explain those things it gives the funder confidence that they are capable of addressing this project and have the right team behind them. So Justine, checking in on this one. Do you have anything to add?

Yes, I do, actually. So the timeline, it's really important that the timeline has every aspect of your goals and objectives and activities that were written in the previous section. They have to be found in the timeline as well. And don't forget to include in the timeline, space for any required orientations or trainings as well as your performance measures, your progress reports.

OK. Plan for collecting data for performance measures. That's 10%. I think Justine made a good point earlier on regardless, I guess, if you're-- if what you're doing is based on evidence, like an evidence-based program, or if it's kind of new, regardless of either of those two, you want to develop a clear plan on how you are going to evaluate this program and what success means.

How is the data going to be collected? I would go into what instruments are used, be it a survey or maybe you put this information into a system, a case management system, for example. So you're going to want to describe all those things in detail and cover this section.

On the budget part, I think Justine talked just a second ago about there, making sure you include the travel part. And so making sure you hit all those points that are required, I feel like are important. The only other thing I would say about the budget is that if in the project narrative, if you did not mention a thing that appears in the budget, then I'm sure a peer reviewer is going to note that and maybe dock that.

So definitely, if you are providing a service and you have that shown in the budget, but you never mentioned it in the project proposal, or you have a position that you're planning for that was never mentioned in the project proposal, but now in the budget we see you're taking out 50% to pay for this person's salary. So you definitely want to make sure that those coordinate and are all pointing towards the same outcome. Justine?

Absolutely. I Agree with that 100%. Somebody in the Q&A did ask, Can we hire staff to use for this grant to do any of the work? So, Julius, just please confirm for everyone that staff are an allowable cost.

Yes, that is correct, that staff can be used to collect information or help with programming and all those things are eligible under this program.

Thank you, Justine. Thank you, Julius. OK. Additional application components. So you can see there-- and the next slide, too, some of the other things that you may want to make sure that you cover. For example, letters of support, if you have letters of support, you want to make sure those are included.

And how important it is on the peer reviewer side to see those letters of support, you know that that person's-- that tribe has already done some groundwork and are prepared to take on this grant whenever it comes out. Also, another one that I see a lot of times missing is like the indirect cost rate agreement and being able to show what that is. And if you have a copy of it, submitting it, too. So I will point the-- go to the next slide.

Some of these disclosures, it's just a matter of you downloading the document and signing it, for example, like on the lobbying, a disclosure of lobbying activities. And so that's just saying that you're not doing-- getting funds from one end and then lobbying for some-- for anything, really, because the funds won't cover for lobbying. So making sure that you are signing all those documents that certify that you're not involved with these other things as you're using these grant funds. Anything, Justine, on the additional application components, any of that stuff?

Just a note on the high-risk grantee designation. If you are a high-risk grantee, maybe you disclose that. Please don't let that stop you from applying. It really shouldn't have bearing on the peer review criteria that they're rating or grading your application on. So don't let that scare you away from applying for any funding.

Really good. Thank you, Justine. I appreciate that. And we're going to go to section 4. And I will hand it back to Julius.

Thank you, Paul. OK. So this resource here that you see listed is basically just for if you want additional information on what should be included in the various sections of the application. So you can take a look at that.

And you can see on the left-hand side, this is our-- the Office of Justice Programs' website actually. So you can go to the website and then you can click on Application resource. You can click on the Application Resource page. And then you can actually take a look at all these components that like Paul and Justine were-- was talking about and get more direction on how to address those particular sections.

Also we have resources available to assist with the JustGrants system, which is the way that you apply for grants in the Office of Justice Programs. And so there's a lot of information and resources out there to help with training tools around that, as well as information around our payment system, our payment management systems, that you would use if you were to receive a grant from us. And you can see the address below, [justicegrants.usdoj.gov](https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov), and you can access that information that way.

So [grants.gov](https://grants.gov) is the mechanism that you'll use to start the application process. And so as you'll see, there's a step that you have to take before you can kind of get to completing the actual solicitation. And so that first step is [grants.gov](https://grants.gov). And there's a deadline, I believe, is July 1, I think it is, that you would have to complete that part of the application process.

But that's only for-- that's not going to take you more than 10 minutes to complete that component of it. But you cannot move forward if you do not complete the [grants.gov](https://grants.gov) piece. And [grants.gov](https://grants.gov) is actually the fulcrum, I think, for the federal government as far as all grant opportunities for federal funding agencies, not just the Bureau of Justice Assistance, but all the different federal agencies.

You have to go through the [grants.gov](https://grants.gov) process for most of those application opportunities. And as you can see here, there's information on the website that you would go to for assistance regarding that.

Then there's the JustGrants technical support information here. So you see the customer support hotline. If you're having technical issues with JustGrants, please call that hotline between the hours there. And also, make sure you get a ticket number if you have an issue that you need to log in. That way, if for some reason you have difficulty getting the grant submitted, you'll have documentation of your contacts with technical support there.

So here's a way, if you want to subscribe to Office of Justice Programs for funding updates and newsletters, those kinds of things, then you would go to [www.ojp.gov/subscribe](https://www.ojp.gov/subscribe), and then you can get updates on not just this funding opportunity, but all the other funding opportunities that OJP offers as well. Yes, and here's our information around social media for those of you interested in our Facebook page, the X page, and YouTube.

And then there's the OJP Response Center. So if you have programmatic questions related to the grant program or solicitation, there is a Response Center that you can contact and the information is here. There's an email and there's a toll-free number. So when your question comes in, they can-- they'll reach out to me or they'll reach out to someone else on the COSSUP team to respond to your inquiry.

Like I said, there's a two-step process. [grants.gov](https://grants.gov), that's part one. And then you have step two, which is the JustGrants. So the thing to remember is step one, July 1, and then seven days after that, or a week after that, July 8 is the final deadline that you'll have to have your full application with attachments into the just-- [justicegrants.gov](https://justicegrants.gov) system. And I would like to highlight that the deadline is actually 11-- I'm sorry, it's actually 8:59 Eastern time instead of 11:59 Eastern time, which it was in the past. But that is one thing I wanted to update you all on.

I'm not going to go too much-- again, more information on the [grants.gov](https://grants.gov) and the JustGrants, as far as if you have questions or technical-- need technical assistance around those systems, the information is there.

Other funding opportunities, I'm going to talk briefly about some of the other funding opportunities that may be leveraged, but that complements COSSUP and does not duplicate. So some of you may be familiar with the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation. That particular solicitation offers about nine different purpose areas. And it's the single kind of streamlined funding source that the Office of Justice Programs and the Office of Community Oriented Policing use to actually consolidate the tribal specific streams of funding.

Although that solicitation is closed, you can apply for funding to help with programming around treatment services, those types of things. So you could use that funding to actually supplement or complement your existing efforts.

The Adult Treatment Court Program, we refer to. Again, we see a lot of tribes that apply for funding under there to do healing to wellness courts, which is an eligible source of funding there, or is an eligible project to be funded under that particular program.

The closing date's already passed for that one, but we do have a solicitation for a reference there for the FY24 solicitation. So if you want to review it for maybe applying next year, if the funding becomes available, which it has been available for many years now. So you may want to take a look at that application if you want to plan for that.

One thing to note, though, is there is a violent offender prohibition around the adult treatment court funding. So you cannot use funds to provide services to what's defined as a violent offender. And I'm using-- I don't like to use the word offender, but that's what the statute is. And so that's what's in the solicitation. But COSSUP does not have that violent offender prohibition, just so you know that. And again, with the adult treatment courts, you can't use COSSUP funding to establish one, but you may use funding to enhance one.

Veterans Treatment Court, that's really focused on veterans. That particular program is open until June 27, same structure as a drug court, but only focused on treating the veteran population. And that-- it ends June 27, but the solicitation-- that's kind of not too far away, so you may not have time to apply for that, but you'll see the solicitation information listed here if you want to take a look at it for next year.

Office of Justice Juvenile Delinquency Prevention. There's a couple of-- they provide funding for juvenile drug treatment courts and family treatment courts. And so you're going to have a violent offender prohibition on these programs as well. But the difference between the adult treatment courts and the veterans treatment courts is this really focuses on the juvenile population. And it's already closed, but we did provide a link if you want to take a look and see what the-- what to expect if you want to apply for next year.

Family Treatment Courts. Again, this is really focused on family efforts, family unification, those kinds of things. It's already closed as of May 20, but there is information on those as well through this link that's provided.

OK, so we do have some time for Q&A, probably not as much as we would like. But Justine, Paul, how do you all want to handle Q&A at this point?

So we have time for one more. Justine, is there one in there that we could address?

Yeah, I think this applies to everybody. What about the purchase of food for gatherings, ceremony, and wellness to get people to the event or an activity? Is that allowable? So it sounds like it could be as an incentive, but I'm going to also throw it in there, Can it also be as a part of a retreat or a wellness camp or a culture camp?

Unfortunately, we don't allow food and beverage through our grant programs at BJA as a general policy. But I definitely understand the impetus for the question, because it is, I know, really important in a lot of cultural activities to have food available. But unfortunately, we are not able to provide funding for that under this program.

Yes. One of the things, Julius, that I would say that's been helpful is being able to get a partner maybe to cover that, the food part, but you're able to cover all these other things, so.

Well that concludes today's presentation. And thank you for joining us. And we hope you found the information beneficial. Thank you and have a great rest of the day. And again, to our panelists as well, thank you so much. And we will look forward to seeing you all soon.