

MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT
Office of Grants Management
Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

FY24 Community Projects Fund Grants Program

Program Summary: The Office of Grants Management is soliciting grant applications for the County’s FY 2024 Quarter 2 Community Projects Fund (CPF) Grants Program from qualified nonprofit organizations providing direct services to or advocacy for Montgomery County community members. Both, the County Executive’s FY24 Recommended Budget and the County Council’s FY24 Approved Budget ([Resolution 20-184](#)) provide \$1 million in one-time funding for small, emerging, and volunteer led nonprofit organizations to implement small, community focused projects, initiatives, and events. FY24 CPF Grants Programs will be offered as a quarterly application with at least \$250,000 available in each cycle.¹ Additional funding may be added to this pool from other County sources and may have further priorities, restrictions, and/or requirements. Funding may be awarded to new initiatives or to projects supported by Community Grants in previous fiscal years. FY24 CPF Grants Program applicants may request funding between \$5,000 and \$25,000. The performance period of these grant awards will be six (6) months from the award date as the goal of this program is to support specific, short-term initiatives instead of ongoing, full, or multi-year programs.

This current cycle will also include an additional \$100,000 in funding from the Department of Health and Human Services for the “FY24 Fentanyl Use, Overdose, and Death Reduction Grant Program,” which aims to reduce the number of persons using, overdosing and dying from the use of fentanyl in Montgomery County, MD. Four one-time awards are anticipated at \$25,000 each with a period of performance for up to a year and the goal of supporting new as well as existing programs.

Information about this program, if different from the FY24 CPF Grants Program, will be noted in text boxes like this one throughout the NOFO.

Key Program Dates:

- **FY24 Second Quarter Program Opens for Applications:** Sunday, October 1, 2023
- **MS Teams Live Online Grant Program Information Session:** Wednesday, October 11, 2023 from 2:00 to 3:30 PM
- **Submission Deadline:** Tuesday, October 31, 2023 at 11:59 PM

¹ Applications for Quarter 1 are currently under review and award decisions will be made in October 2023. Applicants who submitted an application under Quarter 1 may also submit an application under Quarter 2.

Key Program Resources:

- **Online Grants Application Platform:** <https://mcmdgrants.smapply.org/>
- **Program Page:** <https://mcmdgrants.smapply.org/prog/FY24CPFQ2/>
- [Click here](#) to join the Information Session OR for a recording of the event

Grant Program Details, Submissions, and Support: Application details can be downloaded and application may be submitted through the Online Grants Application Platform through the links above. Applicants requiring an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodation should contact the Office of Grants Management to discuss alternative submission options. Applications that are incomplete, do not meet legal requirements, or are submitted after the deadline will not be accepted. For questions, technical support, or for alternate ADA submission options, please contact Olga Kravets at the Office of Grants Management using the contact information below:

Olga Kravets
Office of Grants Management
grants@montgomerycountymd.gov
(240) 773-3344

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SECTION I – GRANT PROGRAM INFORMATION

A. Background

The Office of Grants Management is soliciting grant applications for the County’s FY 2024 Q2 Community Projects Fund Grants Program from qualified nonprofit organizations providing direct services to or advocacy for Montgomery County community members. Both the County Executive’s FY24 Recommended Budget and the County Council’s FY24 Approved Budget ([Resolution 20-184](#)) provide \$1 million in one-time funding for small, emerging, and volunteer led nonprofit organizations to implement small, community focused projects, initiatives, and events. Additional funding may be added to this pool from other County sources and may have additional priorities, restrictions, and/or requirements. Funding may be awarded to new initiatives or to projects supported by Community Grants in previous fiscal years.

This current cycle will also include an additional \$100,000 in funding from the Department of Health and Human Services for the “FY24 Fentanyl Use, Overdose, and Death Reduction Grant Program.”

FY24 Community Project Funds will be offered on a quarterly application cycle with at least \$250,000 available in each cycle. The remaining FY24 cycles will launch on:

- **Third Quarter Applications Open:** Monday January 1, 2024
- **Fourth Quarter Applications Open:** Monday April 1, 2024

As charged in Bill 36-19, the Office of Grants Management provides a central point of contact regarding the grants that the County receives or awards. The Office of Grants Management also develops countywide policies and procedures regarding grants management and ensures these are consistent with racial equity and social justice goals, performs outreach regarding grants offered by the County and other grants functions. For additional information on other Montgomery County grant programs, please visit the Office of Grants Management’s SM Apply online grants application platform linked on the first page of this NOFO.

B. Target Population

The target populations for this Grant Program are Montgomery County residents. This Grant Program is intentionally very flexible and allows nonprofit partners to define their own specific target populations within Montgomery County. Priority to awarding funding will be given to projects that target Underserved Communities within Montgomery County.

The target population for the “FY24 Fentanyl Use, Overdose, and Death Reduction Grant Program” is all those using or at risk for using fentanyl in Montgomery County.

This program uses the same definition of Underserved Communities as [the January 20, 2021 Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities](#)

Through the Federal Government. The term “underserved communities” refers to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQIA+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

C. Funding Priorities

The goal of this program is to support small, community focused projects, initiatives, and events led by small, emerging, and volunteer led nonprofit organizations within Montgomery County with one-time funds. These small projects should target needs not directly addressed by other Montgomery County departmental efforts, that addresses critical gaps in specific communities, cut across traditional sectors, or that offer innovative and experimental approaches to complex issues. Community needs do not always fit neatly into a single department's mission, have often complex multifaceted root causes, and require innovative and flexible solutions. The FY24 Community Projects Fund Grants Program is intentionally highly flexible to allow nonprofit organizations, who have grassroots understanding of community needs, to design and propose small projects and initiatives that will best meet these needs. These funds may also support cultural and community events not traditionally supported by Montgomery County departments.

A secondary goal of this Grant Program is to provide small, emerging, and volunteer led nonprofits with a space to receive County funding to support projects at their scale without competing with larger initiatives for funding. Small and emerging organizations are defined as nonprofits with an annual budget of less than \$250,000 and with less than three full-time employees as well as volunteer led nonprofits with no paid full-time staff. Emerging organizations who have never received County funding before are encouraged to apply as an introduction to County systems and processes. Successful implementation of a Community Projects Fund grant will improve likelihood of receiving future, more substantial grants from the County.

Grants provided under this program are for one-time project expenses that will be used over a six (6) month period after the award is finalized and not to support an ongoing project. These

“FY24 Fentanyl Use, Overdose, and Death Reduction Grant Program” applicants may submit more than one application per organization, however, MCG will provide only one award per organization. Awards to organizations working with the most highly impacted populations, specifically in the following zip codes, will be prioritized:

20910, 20860, 20912, 20877, 20842

MCG will prioritize the following kinds of proposed activities:

- *Single events or ongoing programs.*
- *Prevention education activities held in person or via virtual platforms (e.g., Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc.).*
- *Those that include stipends for peer support.*

grants cannot be used for the expansion of existing County funded programs. Organizations may submit one application each cycle.

The Office of Grants Management expects a large number of applications and total funding requests that will greatly exceed the amount of resources available for FY24 Community Project Fund. To help applicants make their proposals more competitive, **priority in awarding funding will be given to proposals that:**

- Are from small, emerging, or volunteer led nonprofit organizations;
- Are from organizations based in or serving an Underserved Community;
- Demonstrate a strong understanding of their target population's/community's needs and an effective project strategy to effectively meets these needs;
- Provide services, advocacy, or other support to the target population/community that is not already funded by other County resources;
- Provide technically, culturally, and/or linguistically proficient services to the target population/community;
- Demonstrate a broad base of impact through their proposal to their target population/community; and
- Will be fully implemented in the next six (6) months.

The range of programming allowed under this Grant Program is intentionally very flexible. Examples of thematic priorities that have previously been funded by Community Grants include, **but are not limited to:**

- Development costs for a guidebook, curricula, or other resource to be used by the target community;
- Translation costs for a similar set of community resources;
- One-time activities such as a cultural festival, youth camp during a school break, senior job fair, or other community event;
- Short-term activities such after-school academic tutoring, youth development and mentorship sessions, accessibility focused projects, and courses; or
- Operating support for basic needs service providers targeting unique Underserved Communities;

Illustrative activities under the “FY24 Fentanyl Use, Overdose, and Death Reduction Grant Program” include but are not limited to:

- *Tuition support to attend an after-school programs*
- *Youth outreach programs (funding to attend youth-oriented events such as sports, art workshops, music festivals, etc. That focus on alternatives to drug use and keep kids engaged in positive activities)*
- *Winter/summer camp tuition assistance*
- *Educational workshops & presentations*
- *Public awareness campaigns*
- *Parent & caregiver workshops*
- *Community events*
- *Small incentives to participate in drug-free programs or attending educational events (gift cards, rewards, certificates, etc. Giving money directly to participants will not be approved).*
- *Stipends for peer support, community service workers to support events*
- *Online outreach- create social media profiles dedicated to providing information about the dangers of fentanyl. Share informative articles, videos, and success stories of individuals who have overcome substance abuse.*

MCG will not fund activities that give money directly to participants.

Both new and historical Community Grants nonprofit partners are **not limited by the list above**. Applicants are encouraged to identify new needs and other innovative projects for their target populations/communities. Note that projects already funded by the County are not eligible for additional funding through FY24 Community Project Fund.

The Office of Grants Management will also seek proposals from organizations that:

- Exhibit cultural proficiency;
- Are inclusive of the LGBTQIA+ community members; and
- Use a racial equity lens in providing services.

D. Eligible Organizations

Applicants must meet all of the following conditions:

- The organization must have a Federal 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status or be a collaboration between two or more entities with at least one having this status;
- The organization must be currently registered and in Good Standing with the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT);
- All activities and expenditures under this grant program must be provided in Montgomery County OR be exclusively for Montgomery County residents if activities and expenditures occur outside of the County;

- Current Montgomery County contract or grant award winners must be current on all reporting obligations for other awards and those reports must reflect substantial progress towards the goals of their awards; and
- Proposed expenses must be for a new activity, expansion of existing activities, or a combination of both. County funding cannot be used to supplant other funding for already planned activities.

All of the above apply to applicants under the “FY24 Fentanyl Use, Overdose, and Death Reduction Grant Program.” In addition, MCG will accept applications from 501(c)(6) commercial nonprofits, such as chambers of commerce.

E. Award Amounts and Duration

Award sizes will vary with a minimum award of \$5,000 and a maximum award of \$25,000. The grant will be awarded for an up to six (6) month performance period, will be set by the applicant in their proposal. Programs must be run and be evaluated during this period. Awards are one-time funds and must be reapplied for if an organization wants to repeat their project. This grant program does not commit Montgomery County to make an award.

Four awards at \$25,000 each will be issued under the “FY24 Fentanyl Use, Overdose, and Death Reduction Grant Program.” The grants will be awarded for an up to one year performance period, which will be set by the applicant in their proposal. Projects must be run and be evaluated during this period.

F. Application Review & Awards

The Office of Grants Management will recruit an independent Review Committee that will develop and submit recommendations for funding. The Review Committee will be composed of neutral, qualified individuals from Montgomery County Government, and possibly the broader Montgomery County community, selected for their experiences in the grant program’s subject area, grants administration, project management, and/or ability to analyze projects from a Racial Equity and Social Justice lens. The panel members will review and score applicant proposals based on the criteria outlined in this Grant Program and submit recommendations for awards. Final decisions will be made based on the scores and such other factors and considerations as the County deems relevant at the time of award. These may include updated consideration of how well the applicant has performed on prior programs, the expert opinion of grant administrators with prior experience with applicants, updates to priorities, or other factors.

G. Award Notification

Award notification letters are expected to be released roughly one month after the application deadline via email. For successful applicants, the Grant Agreement will contain the total amount awarded and funding restrictions; programmatic, administrative, and policy requirements; reporting requirements; and payment terms.

H. Submission Guidelines

Applications must be submitted through the Montgomery County Office of Grants Management - Grants Application Platform through the links posted on the first page of this document. Once the applicant clicks on the link, they will be prompted to create a SM Apply

account, select the FY24 Community Projects Fund Grants Program, and then will be able to access the grant application. Applicants requiring an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodation should contact the Office of Grants Management to discuss alternative submission options.

Applications are due no later than the deadline of Tuesday, October 31, 2023 at 11:59 PM. All applications will be recorded upon receipt. Applications received after the deadline will be disqualified and will not be forwarded to the Review Committee for funding consideration. Any additions or deletions to an application, unless requested by the Office of Grants Management will not be accepted after the deadline. Applications with incomplete, illegible, or corrupted digital materials will not be considered.

I. Information Session

An FY24 Community Project Fund Information Session will be held on **Wednesday, October 11, 2023 from 2:00 to 3:30 PM.** The link to participate in the Information Session live or to view an event recording afterwards can be found on the first page of this document or on the FY24 Community Projects Fund application page.

K. Terms and Conditions

- County reserves the right to accept or deny any or all applications if the County determines it is in the best interest of the County to do so. The County shall notify the applicant if it rejects that applicant's proposal. The County reserves the right to suspend or terminate an outstanding Grant Program.
- The County reserves the right to issue addenda and/or amendments subsequent to the posting of a Grant Program.
- The County shall not be liable for any costs incurred in the preparation of applications in response to the Grant Program. Applicant agrees that all costs incurred in developing the application are the applicant's sole responsibility.
- The County may conduct pre-award on-site visits or request additional information to verify information submitted in the application and to determine if the applicant's facilities are appropriate for the services proposed.
- The County may enter into negotiations with an applicant and adopt a firm funding amount or other revisions for the applicant's proposal that may result from negotiations. The County shall provide the citations to the statute and implementing regulations that authorize the grant or sub-grant; all applicable federal, State, and County regulations; payment provisions identifying how the grantee will be paid for performing under the award; reporting requirements, including programmatic, financial and any special reports required by federal, state, or County law and/or the granting department; and compliance conditions that must be met by the grantee. If there are any conflicts between the terms and conditions of the Grant Program and any applicable federal, State, or County law or regulation, or any ambiguity related thereto, then the provisions of the applicable law or regulation shall control and it shall be the responsibility of the applicant to ensure compliance.

SECTION II – APPLICATION TASKS

Applicants are required to follow the content requirements and submission instructions listed within the online application platform and NOFO document. Please submit your proposal, as broken out by each of the Task, by filling out the data fields or uploading documents where applicable. Uploaded documents should have clearly titled sections and sub-sections that include the name of the submitting organization and the title of the project. Document uploads should ideally be submitted as PDF documents with budgets uploaded as an MS Excel file. The application platform has difficulty reading Mac formatted documents (i.e. Pages, Numbers, and Key Note) so these should be submitted as PDFs or converted to MS Office formats. **Applications will be considered incomplete if any part of any section is missing.**

The FY24 Community Project Fund application includes the use of Reusable Tasks in our online grants application platform. Reusable Tasks can be completed once and be reused without further edits across every application through this platform. Organizations can update Reusable Tasks as needed as an organization's information evolves over time and updated or new documents become available.

The Grant Program allows only a small award size from \$5,000 to \$25,000. Thus, the Office of Grants Management is streamlining the application. Also, Review Committees have historically preferred concise narratives focused on the funding priorities, questions asked, and scoring themes rather than long narrative descriptions.

A. Applicant Information (Reusable) Task

Organizations must provide the following information and documents using data entry fields or uploads. The document uploads will be used to assess legal eligibility for the Grant Program and data fields will be used populate any resulting grant agreement. Applicants should fill out this information as if they were drafting a contract using specific and exact information.

- Legal Name of Applying Organization as registered with the Maryland State Department of Assessment and Taxation (SDAT)
- Organization's Maryland SDAT Department ID Number
- Organization's Federal Tax Identification Number
- Organization's Montgomery County Central Vendor Registration Service (CVRS) Identification
- Organization's mission statement
- Organization's website (optional)
- Contact Information for the organization's proposal point-of-contact (POC)
- Contact Information for the Organization's Legally Authorized Signatory
- Description of Organization's Grant and Financial Management Practices
- Description of Organization's Data Collection and Management Practices
- Upload of IRS Tax Exempt Determination Letter for Nonprofit Organizations
- Upload of Most recent IRS 990 Form for Nonprofit Organizations or an explanation why your organization is exempt from filing 990s (i.e. House of Worship 501(c)(3)), or is unable to file the most recent form

- Upload of Current Federal Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) (Optional)
- Upload of Current board list with names, position on board, and contact information of board members
- Upload of Public Copy of Most Recent Independent Audit Report (Optional)
- Upload of Most Recent Annual or other Organization Reports (optional)

The Office of Grants Management will no longer ask for proof of Good Standing (or equivalent status) with the Maryland State Department of Assessment and Taxation (SDAT), since this status will be regularly checked by the Office of Grants Management and other County stakeholders. The County is required to check this status at the time of review, finalization of grant agreements, and for payments during the life of a grant agreement. It is critical that applicants remain registered and in Good Standing with SDAT as applicants will be disqualified from a grant competition, delay or even lose a grant award, and/or face delays in grant payments if they are not in Good Standing.

Applicants can verify their status with SDAT via this link:
<https://egov.maryland.gov/BusinessExpress/EntitySearch>

B. Applicant Background (Reusable) Task

The Office of Grants Management collects data through this Task for post-award analysis to understand application and award trends as well as how to support the diverse communities in Montgomery County. Data collected through this Task will **not** be visible to Review Committees and will **not** be used in evaluation and scoring of applications.

In line with Montgomery County's Racial Equity & Social Justice goals, the Office of Grants Management is collecting the racial and ethnic information on the leadership of nonprofit organizations. The structure of this portion of the survey is based on federal standards for collecting racial data. Given the County's significant diversity, this survey is also collecting ethnic data. Note that the information entered should be based on how the person identifies themselves.

- Organization estimated staffing size serving Montgomery County in a given year
- Organization estimated budget, including by funding source, for Montgomery County programs, services, and other initiatives in a given year
- Organizational leadership, including Executive Director and Board Members, race and ethnic information

Responding to these questions is optional and will have no impact on application review, scoring, and final awards.

C. Project Strategy Task (1 page limit, PDF format preferred)

The Project Strategy includes:

- Project Title – If awarded, Project Title will become the grant agreement name
- Project Overview – Brief description of the project (100 words maximum)
- Please explain how all proposed activities and expenditures under this grant program must be provided in Montgomery County OR be exclusively for Montgomery County residents if activities and expenditures occur outside of the County?

- Please list the zip codes where services will be provided and/or activities will take place. List up to five of the most impacted zip codes or indicate that the activity/service is Countywide. Additional context on service areas, locations, and beneficiaries may be elaborated on in the Project Strategy Narrative.

The proposal's Strategy Narrative should answer the following questions and be uploaded as a separate attachment. If an organization prefers, they may submit their strategy narrative in an alternative format such as a video or audio recording. Because of upload size limits, please post your videos to YouTube or a similar platform and provide a hyperlink to the video within your application. The submission will still need to address the questions below. If a question below does not apply to your proposal, please indicate that it is not applicable within the Strategy Narrative.

1. Please describe the specific population/community that your organization targets and explain your relationship to this population/community. Why is your organization uniquely suited to have a positive impact on this population/community?
2. What is the issue or need within your target population/community and how will the proposed project address this issue or need? Please explain in as much detail as necessary.
3. What are your organization's current capabilities to implement the proposed project in a culturally, linguistically, and/or technically proficient way for the target population/community? Please note your capacity, including human and financial resources, to implement projects as well as past experience. Feel free to reference other Tasks in this application for more detail instead of repeating it in this narrative.
4. Overall, how will the requested funding have a positive outcome on your organization and target population/community?
5. If a collaboration is being proposed, what work have your organization previously done together? What skills, experience, capabilities, and/or connections does each organization bring to the partnership? How will the roles and responsibilities under the project be separated by organization? **If an applicant proposes a collaborative project, they may extend the page limit to two (2) pages for further description of the partnership.**

The Project Strategy Narrative for the “FY24 Fentanyl Use, Overdose, and Death Reduction Grant Program” should address the following questions:

1. Please describe the specific population/community that your organization focuses on and explain your relationship to this population/community. Why is your organization uniquely suited to have a positive impact on this population/community?
2. How will you address opioid misuse and opioid use disorder (OUD) with focus population/community that this proposal Identifies?
3. How will the proposed project address this issue or need? Please explain in as much detail as necessary.
4. What are your organization’s current capabilities to implement the proposed project? Please note your capacity, including human and financial resources, to implement projects as well as past experience. Feel free to reference other Tasks in this application (i.e. Performance Plan) for more detail instead of repeating it in this narrative.
5. What is your organization’s capability to implement this project in a culturally, linguistically, and/or technically proficient way for the target population/community?
6. Overall, how will the requested funding have a positive outcome on your organization and focus population/community?
7. If a collaboration is being proposed, what work have your organization(s) previously done together? What skills, experience, capabilities, and/or connections does each organization brings to the partnership? How will the roles and responsibilities under the project be separated by organization?

D. Project Budget (No page limit, MS Excel format preferred) and Budget Narrative/Justification Task (1 page limit, PDF format preferred)

As part of the Budget Task, each applicant must fill out the following fields and address the following questions. Please indicate N/A if Not Applicable:

- Montgomery County Funding Request – Amount requested from the County
- Total Project Cost – Total cost of project in from all funding sources
- Please briefly outline the source of any cost-share identified in the Project Budget.
- If applicable, please specify how your project would be affected if total funding awarded were less than the amount requested. State whether your project could be completed with a smaller amount, and how your projected outcomes would be affected by any funding reduction.
- If your organization does work regionally or has other funding sources, please provide us with information to reassure us that the Montgomery County funds will not simply enable you to shift current, non-County monies to operations outside the County but rather will allow you to add to or expand your work on behalf of services in Montgomery County.

The budget for this proposal should contain detailed itemized cost information for all proposed expenses plus indirect costs. Please also include the value of any cost-shares such as donations, other grants received, and in-kind or pro bono services that you anticipate being donated and that are related to this proposal. The Project Budget will be uploaded as an attachment to the application, preferably in MS Excel format.

- Applicants may only request one-time funding and not ongoing costs. All requested funding must plan to be used within a six (6) month performance period.

For the “FY24 Fentanyl Use, Overdose, and Death Reduction Grant Program”

- Applicants can request one-time funding for single events or ongoing programs. All requested funding must plan to be used within the award period of performance.
- Application budgets with activity-focused expenditures will be prioritized.
- Project Budgets should also include indirect costs. Indirect costs may include general administrative costs such as: legal, accounting, liability insurance, audits, and the like. If applicants have a federal Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA), then they must use that rate within their application. Applicants without a NICRA may use a rate of up to 15%.
- The Grant Program does not require a standard budget template so applicants should use whatever format meets the basic requirements, provides sufficient detail, and provides the best overview of expected costs under the proposal.
- If applying as a collaboration, please include the appropriate division of budget between the two or more organizations that are applying.

In addition to other limitations set in this program, program funds cannot be used:

- For lobbying;
- To cover any expenses made prior to the grant award;
- To supplant (replace) funds from other grant sources;
- To support projects already funded by the County are not eligible for additional funding during the same fiscal year; or
- To support projects that wholly occur outside of Montgomery County (unless these services are exclusively for Montgomery County residents).

In addition to the above unallowed expenses, the following restrictions apply under the “FY24 Fentanyl Use, Overdose, and Death Reduction Grant Program”

- For capital expenditures (defined as one-time costs of more than \$5,000 for the purchase of a fixed asset. For example, purchasing a property, remodeling a property, buying a car, building an addition to a community center etc.)
- Direct transfer of funds to participants

In addition to a Project Budget, please upload a Budget Narrative/Justification that briefly describes the proposed expenditures. If an organization wishes to include quotes or back up for prices listed in the budget, they may upload these items in the Other Supporting Materials section of the application.

The applicant should also address the following questions. Please indicate N/A if Not Applicable:

E. Project Work Plan/Timeline Task (1 page limit per year, PDF format preferred)

This section should outline the implementation schedule of the proposed program over the maximum grant performance period.

The implementation schedule over the performance period should list:

- The program's objectives and related activities;
- Timeline for implementation and completion; and
- Responsible staff.

F. Performance Plan (1 page limit, PDF format preferred)

The Performance Plan outlines how you will measure success for your proposed project as well as the history of outcomes achieved by this project or similar projects that are being emulated through this proposal. This Grant Program does not require any specific metrics or milestones and organizations are given full flexibility to develop a Performance Plan that fits their proposed strategy. To measure the impact of the project on the target populations, include any of the following:

- **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)/metrics:** Provide an outline of the metrics to be collected, targets for each metric, and the data collection method for each metric. Both target outputs and outcomes should be addressed.
- **Milestones:** List the specific milestone to be achieved, a target date to achieve it, and the impact achieving it will have on the organization.
- **Qualitative/Other Evaluation:** Outline any qualitative or other evaluation methods the program will be using.

Measuring outcomes within the context of a project performance period is often a challenge or cannot be appropriately measured. In these cases, the applicant may use research or past project performance as a proxy for demonstrating project outcomes. For example, "Study XYZ shows that middle-school participants in after-school activities, similar to those proposed in our project, graduate from high school at a ##% higher rate than the average student and attend community or a four year college at a ##% higher rate than the average student."

As an optional set of metrics, applicants are encouraged to set targets and a collection method for demographic information on the population to be served; as feasible and without impacting the program outcomes.

Organizations should expect a single final financial and performance report, modeled on the submitted Performance Plan, as a grant requirement.

Under the “FY24 Fentanyl Use, Overdose, and Death Reduction Grant Program,” the Performance Plan outlines how you will measure success for your proposed project as well as the history of outcomes achieved by this project or similar projects that are being emulated through this proposal. This Grant Program does not require any specific metrics or milestones and organizations are given full flexibility to develop a Performance Plan that fits their proposed strategy. To measure the impact of the project on the target populations, include any of the following:

- **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)/metrics:** Provide an outline of the metrics to be collected, targets for each metric, and the data collection method for each metric. Both target outputs and outcomes should be addressed.
- **Milestones:** List the specific milestone to be achieved, a target date to achieve it, and the impact achieving it will have on the organization.
- **Qualitative/Other Evaluation:** Outline any qualitative or other evaluation methods the program will be using.

All awardees will be expected to provide two reports (a progress report midway through implementation and a final report report) that include the following:

1. Success stories, implementation challenges, and lessons learned;
2. Reporting on zip codes of people served
3. Data collected on key indicators in the Performance Plan that includes demographics and age of participants, as applicable;
4. Qualitative/other evaluation data, as applicable (e.g. feedback from participants collected in way that protects their identity, summary of training evaluation forms, etc.);
5. Participant testimonials, photos/videos of events and any media mentions, as applicable;
6. Budget reconciliation

In addition, MCG may conduct a site visit/check-in at any time during implementation with a 48 hour advance notice.

H. Optional Supporting Documents to be Uploaded Task

- Collaborative partner materials, if applicable (optional)
- Program Related Materials (optional)
- Other Supporting Materials (optional)

SECTION III – SCORING OF APPLICATIONS

Scoring Criteria

Applicant's proposal submissions will be reviewed against the following criteria with a maximum score of 100 points.

Criterion A: Project Goals and Grant Program Priorities (20 points)

- In line with the priorities for the FY24 Community Projects Fund, the proposal (20 points):
 - Is from a small, emerging, or volunteer led nonprofit organization;
 - Is from an organization based in or serving an Underserved Community;
 - Demonstrates a strong understanding of their target population's/community's needs and an effective project strategy to effectively meet these needs;
 - Provides services, advocacy, or other support to the target population/community that is not already funded by other County resources;
 - Provides technically, culturally, and/or linguistically proficient services to the target population/community;
 - Demonstrates a broad base of impact through their proposal to their target population/community; and
 - Will be fully implemented in the next six (6) months.

Criterion B: Sound Fiscal Management and Budget (15 points)

- Applicant demonstrates sound grant and fiscal management practices and will be able to submit financial reports and back-up documentation to meet administrative and audit requirements (5 points);
- Expenses listed in the Budget and Budget Justification are consistent with the Project Strategy and other parts of the proposal (5 points); and
- Applicant's Budget and Budget Justification reflect reasonable and realistic costs needed to implement the proposal and achieve the stated outcomes for the target population/community (5 points).

Criterion C: Organizational Capability and Relevant Experience (35 points)

- Applicant demonstrates the cultural, linguistic, and/or technical proficiency to work with their target population/community in the context of the proposed project (15 points);
- Applicant demonstrates the subject-matter expertise to deliver the proposed outcomes to the target population/community (5 points);
- Applicant demonstrates a strong relationship with their target population/community and can effectively perform outreach to promote, engage, and/or connect the target communities/populations with the proposed project (15 points).

Criterion D: Performance Plan (10 points)

- Applicant demonstrates in their Performance Plan a clear process to measure/evaluate its project (5 points); and
- Proposal's choice of KPI's/metrics, milestones, other evaluation methods, and ultimate outcomes fit the project strategy and Grant Program's goals (5 points).

Criterion E: Soundness of the Overall Proposal (20 points)

- Proposal clearly demonstrates the effectiveness of proposed activities and, if funded, will result in the accomplishment of their stated outcomes (5 points);
- The implementation plan within the proposal is realistic and achievable based on the proposed timeline (10 points); and
- Proposal' contingency plans for a lower than requested funding amount is realistic and still results in desired outcomes albeit at a lower level (5 points).

Applications for the “FY24 Fentanyl Use, Overdose, and Death Reduction Grant Program” will be evaluated against the following scoring criteria:

Criterion A: Project Goals and Grant Program Priorities (15 points)

- In line with the priorities for the Grant Program, the proposal (15 points):
 - Is from an organization based in or serving the following zip codes: 20910, 20860, 20912, 20877, 20842
 - Supports a single event or ongoing programs.
 - Includes in-person or online prevention education activities and/or stipends for peer support
 - Demonstrates a strong understanding of their target population’s/community’s needs and an effective project strategy to effectively meet these needs;
 - Provides services, advocacy, or other support to the target population/community that is not already funded by other County resources;
 - Provides technically, culturally, and/or linguistically proficient services to the target population/community;
 - Demonstrates a broad base of impact through their proposal to their target population/community; and
 - Will be fully implemented in the next 12 months.

Criterion B: Sound Fiscal Management and Budget (20 points)

- Applicant demonstrates sound grant and fiscal management practices and will be able to submit financial reports and back-up documentation to meet administrative and audit requirements (5 points);
- Expenses listed in the Budget and Budget Justification are consistent with the Project Strategy, Staffing Plan, and other parts of the proposal (5 points); and
- Applicant’s Budget and Budget Justification reflect reasonable and realistic costs needed to implement the proposal and achieve the stated outcomes for the target population/community while prioritizing activity focused costs (10 points).

Criterion C: Organizational Capability and Relevant Experience (30 points)

- Applicant demonstrates the cultural, linguistic, and/or technical proficiency to work with their target population/community in the context of the proposed project (10 points);
- Applicant demonstrates the subject-matter expertise to deliver the proposed outcomes to the target population/community (5 points);
- Applicant demonstrates a strong relationship with their target population/community and can effectively perform outreach to promote, engage, and/or connect the target communities/populations with the proposed project (15 points).

Criterion D: Performance Plan and Performance History (20 points)

- Applicant demonstrates in their Performance Plan a clear process to measure/evaluate its project (5 points);
- Proposal's choice of KPI's/metrics, milestones, other evaluation methods, and ultimate outcomes fit the project strategy and Grant Program's goals (5 points);
- Performance History provides strong evidence that the project strategy will have the desired outcomes for the target population/community (5 points); and
- Performance History provides a strong justification for the Performance Plan's choice of KPI's/metrics, milestones, other evaluation methods, and ultimate outcomes (5 points).

Criterion E: Soundness of the Overall Proposal (15 points)

- Proposal clearly demonstrates the effectiveness of proposed activities and, if funded, will result in the accomplishment of their stated outcomes (5 points);
- The implementation plan within the proposal is realistic and achievable based on the proposed timeline (5 points); and
- Proposal' contingency plans for a lower than requested funding amount is realistic and still results in desired outcomes albeit at a lower level (5 points).

MISCELLANEOUS

- Those persons scoring the proposals on the Review Committee will confirm that they have no conflicts of interest.
- Neither the County Executive nor any elected official will be involved in the scoring of grants or determining winners and amounts of awards.
- Scores and award amounts are non-appealable.
- Scorers' comments and the scores themselves are deliberative and privileged and will not be released. However, applicants may request a feedback report from the Office of Grants Management summarizing the Review Committees feedback. Winners will be announced publicly, and successful grant applications and award letters may be subject to release (with redactions as allowed by law).
- County officials may decline to debrief with unsuccessful applicants why their proposal was not granted, or their funding request was not granted in full.

SECTION IV – CERTIFICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGMENTS, AND ASSURANCES

The applicant shall complete and return the Certifications, Acknowledgements, and Assurances listed with the application submission provided in the Application Certification section of the application in SM Apply online grants application portal. The specific items in this section are listed below:

Montgomery County Ethics Questions

Note that individuals employed by partner agencies such as Montgomery College, Montgomery County Public Schools, and WorkSource Montgomery do not count as Montgomery County Government employees for the purpose of this Grant Program. If you are unsure if a position applies, please contact the Office of Grants Management for clarification.

Does your organization employ current employees or contractors of the Montgomery County Government? This applies for employees that are paid by your organization but are also paid by Montgomery County Government.

Does your organization's Board of Directors include current employees or contractors of the Montgomery County Government? This applies to volunteer board of director positions.

If you answered yes to either question, please describe the employee(s) role and function as it applies to your nonprofit organization. Answering “yes” to either question does **not** exclude your organization from being eligible to apply. Instead, we would like to receive this information upfront so that we can allow adequate time for the Ethics Commission to review.

Acknowledgements Agreed to by All Applicants

- ✓ Applicant acknowledges that this grant application may not be revised or altered after submission.
- ✓ Applicant acknowledges that if funding is awarded, the organization will enter into a non-competitive contract or grant with the County.
- ✓ Applicant acknowledges that awards may not be distributed as a lump sum, but may be reimbursed or provided on a fixed schedule after sufficient documentation is submitted to the administering County agency.
- ✓ Applicant acknowledges that any funds submitted for reimbursement must be spent **AFTER** the contract is finalized and a Notice to Proceed is secured.
- ✓ Applicant has cited in this application all individuals affiliated with the organization and this program who are employed by Montgomery County.

Assurances Agreed to by All Applicants

If the grant is awarded, the applicant assures that:

- ✓ The applicant will administer all awarded funds through this PBM Program.
- ✓ Funds received will be used solely for the documented activities within the

- submitted proposal.
- ✓ The applicant has read and will conform to the program guidelines and any other conditions imposed by the County in connection with the grant.
 - ✓ The applicant organization intends to comply with the Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, indicating that no person will be excluded from participation or be denied the benefits of any program, activity or service on the basis of race, sex, sexual preference, color, religion, ancestry, age, national origin, or handicap. The applicant further agrees to make every attempt to ensure that the program is accessible to persons with disabilities.
 - ✓ Please note that applications are subject to the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA) (found at Md. Code Ann., State Gov't., §10-611 through -628 (MPIA) and the County must comply with the disclosure requirements of the MPIA when a request for documents is received.
 - ✓ The applicant understands that all grantees that receive awards under this Grant Program must show proof of insurance prior to receiving the funds., when requested, must be able to show proof of all insurance coverage required by law.
 - ✓ The applicant agrees that any time before final payment and three (3) years thereafter, the County may have the grantee's expenditure statements and source documentation audited.
 - ✓ If there are any changes that need to be made to the grant application after submittal or if the organization ceases operations or becomes a subsidiary of another organization, you have the responsibility of notifying the appropriate County administrator.
 - ✓ The filing of this application is made by the undersigned individual, officially authorized to represent the applicant organization by its governing board.
 - ✓ I hereby certify that information submitted in the grant application is a true and correct statement of facts. I, as a designated legal representative of the Organization, further certify that this Organization shall abide by and be subject to all applicable Federal, State and Local laws and regulations pertaining to any subsequent grant that may be issued.