

State of Alabama Opioid Settlement Funds

REQUEST FOR UAB PROPOSALS

Purpose:

On June 9, Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall announced that Alabama would be receiving nearly \$249 million over 10-15 years in opioid settlement money from specific pharmacies and drug makers for their role in the opioid epidemic. Nearly 200,000 deaths from overdoses were reported in the United States since 2020, roughly 70% of them from opioids. Alabama was hit particularly hard from the opioid crisis, listed in 2015 as No. 1 in the country in terms of the number of opioid prescriptions per person.

Near the end of the 2023 Alabama legislative session, the Opioid Settlement Oversight Committee was formed to make recommendations to the Legislature for allocating money from opioid settlements. The Legislature has final decision on how to distribute the funds with priority for those recommendations that directly target the opioid epidemic and have evidence of success.

In order for UAB to put its best foot forward in this process, UAB is leading an internal review to select a small group of proposals to send forward to the State for consideration. Proposals should not be independently submitted directly to the State's Committee or to a member of the Legislature.

The opioid epidemic is a complex challenge and, therefore, requires complex and multi-pronged solutions. Thus, proposals can represent solutions involving direct clinical and/or prevention services, research projects with a path to clinical implementation, and/or provider training programs in addiction medicine. If using opioid settlement funds for seed funding, there must be a plan for sustainability after State funds are expended.

Duration:

Up to three (3) years

Range of Requested Funds:

Not limited, but must be sustainable after opioid settlement funds have been expended.

Eligibility:

The proposal can come from anyone with a full-time appointment or employment at UAB, including the UA Health Services Foundation and the UAB Health System.

Funds Available:

It is not yet clear exactly the amount of funds available in the first year, acknowledging funds are received from multiple parties over a period of time according to the individual settlement agreements with the State. It is anticipated that funds for the first year of the program will be awarded by the Legislature in the 2024 session and be distributed in the summer or fall of 2024. Because the scope, period of time, and nature of the proposals will vary, the size of each award may vary. There are no restrictions in the use of the funds.

Application Components:

There are no specific form requirements

- High level budget
- High level budget justification
- Two (2) page proposal
 - Arial 11 font (except tables)
 - 1 inch margins

Budget Format:

Personnel (include for each contributor name, role, % effort, salary, fringe, total cost)

Equipment

Supplies

Travel

Other Costs

TOTAL

Proposal Content:

- Brief background section
- Speak to how this proposal if funded will provide value to the State as a whole
- Use lay language (audience is primarily from non-scientific and non-medical backgrounds)
- Evidence-based
- Directly target the opioid epidemic
- A sustainability plan if funds are used for seed funding

Proposal Submission

Submit application materials as one .pdf (proposal, budget, budget justification) to somresearch@uab.edu

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Can salary support be requested?

Yes.

2. If the investigators are proposing a project or experiments that require IRB, IACUC, FDA approval (IND approval) before the project can begin, can they use the JIT "option" and not start the regulatory paperwork unless the project is chosen for funding?

Yes.

3. Can NIH budget forms be used for this application?

Yes.

4. Are the proposals required to go through OSP?

No.

Schedule:

August 8, 2023	RFP released
August 31, 2023	Deadline for Proposals
September 15, 2023	Reviews Completed
September 20, 2023	Notice of Selection for Submission to the State Committee
March 7, 2024	First Day of 2024 Legislative Session

Questions regarding programmatic issues should be addressed to:

Herb Chen, M.D.

Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, HSOM

Phone: 205.934.3333

Email: hchen@uabmc.edu

Questions regarding application issues should be addressed to:

Jenna Pate, MSHA, MSHQS

Data Analytics Director, Office of Research, HSOM

Phone: 205.934.6654

Email: somresearch@uab.edu

Shaila Handattu, PhD, MBA

Executive Director, Office of Research, HSOM

Phone: 205.934.9417

Email: somresearch@uab.edu