



Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Announcement – Research & Innovation

PURPOSE: Kentuckians have been hard hit by the impact of the opioid epidemic, creating numerous challenges for families and communities. In 2022, the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission (KYOAAC) was established by the General Assembly to oversee a trust fund to distribute settlement funds from lawsuits against certain manufacturers and distributors of opioids. The Commission is made up of 11 members, nine voting and two non-voting, who are charged with the distribution of the Commonwealth's portion of settlement funds. The Commission has adopted nationally recognized principles for allocating funds, including using evidence to guide spending. With that in mind, the purpose of this funding opportunity is to provide settlement dollars to support research that could lead to effective novel approaches to addressing the opioid epidemic for the benefit of Kentuckians across the Commonwealth.

POPULATION OF FOCUS:

Funds must be used to support research or innovative practices for individuals who have, or are at risk of, one of the following:

- Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)
- Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and comorbid polysubstance use
- Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and co-occurring mental illness
- Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and comorbid polysubstance use and co-occurring mental illness
- Drug overdose (both fatal and non-fatal) where opioids are involved.

FUNDER: Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission through the Kentucky Office of the Attorney General.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS: KYOAAC grants are open to any registered entity (for-profit or non-profit) in good standing with the Kentucky Secretary of State, as well as counties, cities and other government or quasi-governmental entities.

FUNDING PRIORITIES: KYOAAC seeks to fund projects which put a priority on research and/or innovative approaches to developing and implementing effective novel therapeutic interventions for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and/or opioid overdose prevention and co-occurring substance use disorder (SUD).

CRITERIA:

While all areas of the application may be considered, the Commission shall give priority consideration to applications which include the following elements deemed priority, including those that:

- **Document the importance of the research**, in the context of current scientific challenges and opportunities, for addressing a significant problem faced by Kentuckians throughout the Commonwealth. Outline the rationale for undertaking the study, the rigor of the scientific background for the work (e.g., prior literature and/or preliminary data), and whether the scientific background justifies the proposed study.
- **Document the research approach**. Clearly state the goals (i.e., aims) of the research, research design, methods, population of focus, primary and secondary outcomes of the study.
- **Document the rigor and feasibility of the proposed scientific approach**. Clearly state the likelihood that compelling, reproducible findings will result (rigor) and assess whether the proposed study or project can be done well and within the timeframes proposed (feasibility).
- **Document the necessary expertise and resources to execute the research**. Clearly state whether the investigator(s) have demonstrated the background, training, and expertise to conduct the proposed work. Clearly state whether the institutional resources are appropriate to ensure the successful execution of the proposed work.
- **Document the full budget and period of support**. Clearly state whether the budget and the requested period of support are fully justified and reasonable in relation to the proposed research.
- **Document the capacity for sustainability**. Clearly state the ability/capacity for the proposed research to utilize resources in a way that can be maintained over a significant period of time.

AWARD INFORMATION:

- Funding Mechanism: Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission by and through the Kentucky Office of the Attorney General.
- In total, the Commission intends to allocate up to \$5,000,000.00 for projects under this research Funding Opportunity. This amount may be awarded for a single project or for multiple smaller awards depending on requests and Commission approval.
- Budget: Submit a 12–36-month budget, as necessary, to meet the requirements of the research proposed.
- Cost Sharing/Match Requirement: None, however, application requests that have available funding or match must be reported to demonstrate sustainability efforts.
- Research Start Date: To begin no later than 90 days from receipt of contract.
- Reporting Requirements: Awardees must adhere to all statutory and regulatory requirements of KRS 15.291, KRS 15.293, KRS 15.295, KRS 17.160, 40 KAR 9:010, and 40 KAR 9:020 including but not limited to, submit required financial reports, and agree to participate in program evaluation and monitoring activities.

AWARD PARAMETERS:

- Funds cannot be used to purchase land.
- Funds cannot be used for construction or to secure any kind of permits related to construction or renovation.
- The Commission may request budget modifications be made prior to award.
- Funds cannot be used to purchase vehicles.
- Proposals should reflect the most effective and sustainable use of funds.

- Multiple entities can partner in the application process but only one agency may serve as fiscal agent.
- Funds may not be used to supplant existing funding.
- Research must be conducted primarily in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

MULTI-TIERED REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS:

Proposals will be screened to ensure minimum eligibility requirements have been met and all required documentation has been submitted. Proposals meeting minimum eligibility requirements and that are complete will be reviewed by Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission members and supporting expert technical advisors. Awards will be made based on a majority of votes cast by the Commission's voting members.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- NOFO Announcement Release: June 2nd, 2025
- Application Window: July 1st, 2025, to December 19th, 2025
- Application Deadline: **DECEMBER 19th, 2025, 6 p.m. EST**
- Award Decision Notice: March/April 2026
- Contract Execution: July 2026

APPLICATION SUBMISSION:

The online application will be available July 1st, 2025, via <https://kyoaac.intelligrants.com> and will close December 19th, 2025. All applications must be submitted using the Intelligrants system (IGX).

NOTE: If your organization does not already have IGX user credentials please e-mail hallie.mattingly@ky.gov. This will be the first step in requesting a new user account. Upon completion of the new user registration, the account will need to be validated and associated with the proper organization prior to accessing the application.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

- Notice of Funding Opportunity questions: Email kyoaac@ky.gov
- Intelligrants System (IGX) questions: Email Hallie Mattingly at hallie.mattingly@ky.gov