

Bureau of Justice Assistance's
Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program
Law Enforcement/First Responder Diversion

Mentor Site Selection Application

Frequently Asked Questions

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is pleased to announce the creation of the Law Enforcement/First Responder Diversion Mentor Program to begin on October 1, 2019. This program is part of the training and technical assistance (TTA) resources available to local jurisdictions through BJA's Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP). The selection process for mentor sites is being facilitated by TASC, Inc. in its role as a COAP TTA provider. COAP was developed as part of the 2016 Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and is designed to provide financial and technical assistance to states, units of local government, and Indian tribal governments to plan, develop, and implement comprehensive efforts to identify, respond to, treat, and support those impacted by the opioid epidemic.

What Is Law Enforcement/First Responder Diversion?

Law enforcement and other first responders are at the front line of the opioid epidemic, responding to frequent drug overdose calls. A variety of multidisciplinary overdose response and early diversion models, led by law enforcement and other first responders, have emerged in communities throughout the nation. These models often include first responders working in partnership with substance abuse treatment providers and peer recovery coaches to help overdose victims access treatment and recovery support services.

Five models have been most commonly associated with opioid overdose prevention and diversion to treatment. These are:

- ◀ **Self-Referral:** An individual voluntarily initiates contact with a first responder (a law enforcement, fire services, or EMS professional) for a treatment referral (without fear of arrest) and receives a warm handoff to treatment.
- ◀ **Active Outreach:** A law enforcement officer or other first responder identifies or seeks out individuals in need of substance abuse treatment; a warm handoff is made to a treatment provider, who engages them in treatment.
- ◀ **Naloxone Plus:** A law enforcement officer or other first responder engages an individual in treatment as part of an overdose response.

- ◀ **Officer Prevention Referral:** A law enforcement officer or other first responder initiates treatment engagement but no criminal charges are filed.
- ◀ **Officer Intervention Referral:** A law enforcement officer or other first responder initiates treatment engagement; charges are filed and held in abeyance or a citation is issued.

Some communities may develop law enforcement/first responder programs tailored to their community that involve variations of these models. These programs are also considered law enforcement/first responder diversion programs for the purpose of this application. The scope of this effort is limited to programs that have been created to serve individuals with opioid use disorder and other substance use disorders (not including marijuana) that have substantial law enforcement, fire services, or EMS engagement. Diversion programs operated by prosecutors or the courts are not within the scope of this effort. Likewise, programs with a primary focus on addressing homelessness, untreated mental health disorders, and/or public nuisance offenses are not within the scope of this effort.

What Is the Purpose of BJA's Law Enforcement/First Responder Diversion Mentor Program?

The Law Enforcement/First Responder Diversion Mentor Program will provide communities interested in starting a diversion program with the opportunity to learn from established or innovative programs that have shown success in meeting their communities' treatment needs. The mentor sites selected through this application process will serve as models for individuals and teams interested in starting a program or for established programs interested in learning innovative practices.

After the mentor sites are selected, BJA will develop a process for communities to submit an online application to visit a mentor program. BJA will support the travel of up to three individuals from approved communities to observe one of the mentor sites.

What Will BJA Require of Mentor Sites?

Law enforcement/first responder mentor sites will serve as hosts for communities interested in planning and implementing a law enforcement/first-responder diversion program. The selected sites will be expected to serve as mentor sites for two years beginning on or around October 1, 2019. BJA anticipates that each mentor site will be asked to host approximately three to five peer communities (typically teams of three persons) per year. Mentor sites will host visiting communities over 1.5 days. During that time, mentor sites will be expected to provide opportunities for observation and peer-to-peer exchanges between the host and visitor communities. The selected mentor sites should be prepared to work with BJA's training and technical assistance provider to schedule visits, create site visit agendas, provide opportunities to observe the law enforcement/first-responder diversion program in action, and allow peer communities to engage with all program personnel.

What Are the Benefits of Being in the Mentor Program?

Mentor sites will be recognized by BJA as exemplary models of multidisciplinary overdose response and early diversion programs. As part of the mentor program, the sites will be provided with training and technical assistance. A small stipend of \$2,000/site will be provided to cover some costs associated with hosting visitors, such as the cost of photocopying and transportation.

How Will Mentor Sites Be Selected?

Interested members of law enforcement/first-responder programs must submit online applications by May 10, 2019. Applications will be reviewed by BJA staff members and their training and technical assistance providers. **Applicants do not need to be current COAP grantees to apply.** BJA will conduct phone interviews with finalists and may conduct site visits to finalize selections.

Applicant programs will be evaluated in a variety of areas, including, but not limited to:

- ◀ Current program operations
- ◀ Overall program impact on opioid use in the community
- ◀ Geographical location
- ◀ Jurisdiction size

BJA anticipates selecting eight (8) to ten (10) mentor sites in 2019. BJA anticipates selecting sites that are geographically diverse and span a variety of operational models. The timeline for selection is as follows:

Applications due:

May 10, 2019, at 5:00 p.m., ET

Review of applications:

May 13, 2019, through July 12, 2019

Notification of selected mentor sites:

No later than July 31, 2019

Orientation webinars for new mentor sites:

August – September 2019

Begin hosting peer visits:

October 2019

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Submission Deadline

Applications for the BJA **Law Enforcement/First Responder** Diversion Mentor Program are **due by 5:00 p.m., ET, on May 10, 2019**. Please submit the application by completing this form. By using Adobe Acrobat Reader, you will be able to submit your application directly through a button on the form. A free download for Adobe Acrobat Reader can be found [here](#). If using another PDF program, please complete the form and save your responses, then email a copy of the completed form, along with any required documents or attachments, to COAP@iir.com.

Questions

Should you have any questions about the application process or issues with submission, please send an email to COAP@iir.com, and we will do our best to respond promptly.

Applicant Information

Contact Information for Person Submitting the Application

Name: _____ Job Title: _____

Agency: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name of applicant site: _____

Name of applicant program: _____

Geographic Information

- Town
- City
- County
- Tribal reservation
- Region

What is the population size of the community/communities served by your jurisdiction? _____

Program Information

What program model(s) below best describe your program? [check boxes]

- Self-Referral:** An individual voluntarily initiates contact with a first responder (a law enforcement, fire services, or EMS professional) for a treatment referral (without fear of arrest) and receives a warm handoff to treatment.
- Active Outreach:** A law enforcement officer or other first responder identifies or seeks out individuals in need of substance abuse treatment; a warm handoff is made to a treatment provider, who engages them in treatment.
- Naloxone Plus:** A law enforcement officer or other first responder engages an individual in treatment as part of an overdose response.
- Officer Prevention Referral:** A law enforcement officer or other first responder initiates treatment engagement, but no criminal charges are filed.
- Officer Intervention Referral:** A law enforcement officer or other first responder initiates treatment engagement; charges are filed and held in abeyance, or a citation is issued.
- Other: _____

Who is the lead agency for the program?

- Sheriff's department
- Police department
- EMS
- Fire
- Combined fire/EMS
- Behavioral health agency
- Public health agency
- Other: _____

Year your program began offering services: _____

Average number of individuals served by your program annually: _____

Number of individuals referred in the program to date since program inception: _____

Average number of treatment referrals made monthly: _____

Program Development and Sustainability

Please provide a brief description of your community and the nature of the opioid epidemic.

Please describe your law enforcement/first-responder diversion program, including the key components of the model. If you have a program brochure, please provide a copy with your submission.

Do you have a website about your program? Yes No

If yes, what is the URL for your website? _____

What agencies and local partners are represented in your law enforcement/first-responder diversion program? What are their roles and responsibilities relative to the program?

- Police
- Sheriff
- Fire/EMS
- Local public health agency
- Local behavioral health agency
- Peer organization
- Family and advocacy organization
- Faith-based organization
- Other

How is your program funded and amount funded? Include the names of the grants you have received.

- Federal
- State
- Local
- Philanthropic

Describe your program's sustainability plan.

Program Operations

Do you have a target population for your program? Yes No

If so, how did you determine the target population? Please include whether and how you used data to inform your decision making.

Do you have eligibility or exclusion criteria for individuals who are referred and connected to treatment through your partnership? Yes No

What treatment and recovery support services do you offer and/or connect to?

- Substance abuse treatment
- Mental health treatment
- Behavioral therapy
- Medication-assisted treatment
- Peer support
- Recovery coaching
- Housing
- Transportation assistance
- Application assistance for benefit programs
- Other:

Please describe how individuals are referred and connected to treatment services in your program.

How many treatment providers are in your referral network? _____

Do you use screening and assessment tools as part of your operations? Yes No

If so, which tools do you use?

Data

What performance, evaluation, and/or outcome data do you collect? How are the data collected?

Have you produced any reports or presentations about the outcomes of your program? Yes No

If yes, please submit a copy of your latest report or presentation.

Mentor Site Activities

What program components, practices, or activities have been particularly effective in your community that would benefit other communities as they plan, implement, or enhance their programs?

What activities could peer communities observe and participate in when they visit?

Do you have a policies and procedures manual? Yes No

When was the manual last updated? _____ Please submit a copy.

Are you willing to share this document? Yes No

Does your program have memoranda of understanding, data and information sharing agreements, universal release-of-information forms, or other legal or program documents that can be used as model templates?

Yes No

If so, please provide a copy with your application.

Are you willing to share these documents? Yes No

Is your community close to a major airport? Yes No

If yes, what is the name of the airport and the estimated travel time from the airport to your location?

Visit the COAP Resource Center at www.coapresources.org.

About BJA

BJA helps to make American communities safer by strengthening the nation's criminal justice system: Its grants, training and technical assistance, and policy development services provide state, local, and tribal governments with the cutting-edge tools and best practices they need to reduce violent and drug-related crime, support law enforcement, and combat victimization. To learn more about BJA, visit www.bja.gov, or follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/DOJBJA) and Twitter (@DOJBJA). BJA is part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.

Issued 03/2019

This project is supported by Grant No. 2017-AR-BX-K003 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). BJA is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The contents of this document were developed by IIR and do not represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.