APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY AND MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST
Eligibility Checklist, Tiers, and Form Mechanics
Is this an eligible applicant as defined in the solicitation? (If no, do not score and return to staff.)
Does the applicant provide all required attachments? (If no, what is missing?)
Does the applicant sufficiently provide in their proposal narrative all information solicited? (If no, what is missing?)
Would you like to request any clarifying information? If yes, list the specific questions to be submitted to staff.
I have disclosed any actual or perceived conflict of interest relating to this applicant. [ ] Yes [ ] Recused
Recommended Tier Number - 1: 90-100 / 2: 80-89 / 3: 70-79 / 4: 60-69 / 5: 59 or below. Tier is determined by total score; reviewers do not assign it independently.
Total Score (page 1) and TOTAL __/100 (page 4) - Retain both. If the rubric is administered in the shared scoring workbook, the total should calculate automatically from the section scores.
Overall Strengths / Overall Weaknesses (page 5) - Reviewers should note at least one of each.
EVALUATION CRITERIA
Abatement Impact (20 points)
Project will prevent, treat, or reduce opioid use disorder or the misuse of opioids, support recovery, or otherwise remediate the harmful effects of the opioid crisis on individuals, families, and communities.
Project aligns with one or more of the core strategies or approved remediation uses identified in the settlement agreement exhibits, and the applicant names the specific strategy or strategies the project addresses.
Applicant articulates the anticipated scale of impact - for example, number of individuals served, services delivered, or providers trained - and the projected impact is credible in relation to the amount of funding requested.
Proposed funds will expand or enhance services rather than replace existing funding for the same activities.
With particular emphasis on the Project's ability to make strategic investments to close existing gaps as can be identified by needs assessments and other empirical data, Project clearly advances one or more Guiding Pillars, with the applicant identifying the primary pillars advanced by their project, with reviewer confirming alignment.
Project reflects and is consistent with the full set of Review Priorities established by the Advisory Council (Priorities 1–11), including anticipated impact, sustainability, organizational capacity, population served, demographic variety and equity focus, benefit to Mississippi residents, core strategy alignment, and use of needs assessment or empirical data to justify the investment.
Proposal Narrative and Project Design (25 points)
Applicant identifies the nature and scope of the problem the proposed program or project will address, including the specific opioid-related harm at issue, and supports the description with state, regional, or local data.
Applicant describes previous and current efforts to address the problem, including what those efforts achieved and what was learned from them.
Applicant states clear and measurable goals and objectives, and provides an implementation description that includes proposed activities, key milestones, and a timeline for the grant period.

Applicant identifies the specific services to be provided, who will receive them, and the projected number of individuals to be served during the grant period.
Applicant identifies project partners, describes each partner's specific role and contribution, and submits Memoranda of Understanding or letters of commitment where applicable.
Applicant describes how it will collect performance data and measure progress against its stated objectives.

Geographic Area and Population to be Served (20 points)

Project will serve a geographic area with demonstrated need - such as elevated opioid-related overdose, mortality, or morbidity rates - or an area with limited access to the types of services proposed. Applicant cites data supporting the identified need.
Project will be for the benefit of residents of Mississippi.
Applicant organization is located or incorporated in Mississippi, or otherwise demonstrates a sustained presence in and commitment to the communities to be served.
Project will serve an underserved or under-resourced population, and the applicant identifies that population and explains the basis for the designation.
Project will serve a population that has been disproportionately impacted by the opioid epidemic.
Applicant describes how the project will reach its intended population, including outreach to individuals who face barriers to accessing services.

Financial Stability (10 points)

Applicant demonstrates financial stability, such as diversified revenue sources, sufficient operating reserves, or a documented history of managing grant funds. Applicants with audited financial statements may submit an independent auditor's report, a Single Audit report, or a CPA-reviewed financial statement as supporting evidence. Applicants without an audit may instead submit current cash position, a profit and loss statement, and a description of revenue sources in sufficient detail to assess diversification. 501(c)(3) applicants should also submit their most recent Form 990.
Applicant has a clearly established accounting system; a policy for handling bank statements, disbursements and procurements; a mechanism for internal financial controls; and a property control policy.
Applicant has provided a thorough and satisfactory statement of financial affairs in the form required by the Mississippi Secretary of State or, for governmental entities not subject to that requirement, the equivalent audited financial reporting.
Budget request is reasonable and includes allowable expenses. Administrative costs - general management and organizational support not directly tied to project delivery (e.g., executive salaries, accounting, legal, HR, general office costs, indirect/overhead) - must not exceed 10% of the grant award. The 10% limit applies to the award in the aggregate and includes administrative costs, indirect costs, overhead, and management fees charged by any subawardee or partner organization at any tier. Direct program costs (staff wages, participant services, commodities, project-specific travel/training/evaluation) are not administrative. Cap applies whether charged directly or via overhead allocation.

Budget demonstrates a clear nexus between the specific project and the proposed budget items.
Applicant describes how it will track, document, and report expenditures of grant funds.
Budget only contains items that are supported by the proposal narrative.
Matching Funds (10 points)
Applicant certifies its ability to provide matching funds, in cash or in kind, equal to at least 10% of the grant funds requested, and identifies the amount, type (cash or in-kind), and source of the match. Scored 10 or 0 based on the certification and the presence of an identified source. The strength and reliability of the proposed match is considered under Project Sustainability.

Organizational Capacity and Sustainability (15 points)
Applicant demonstrates the institutional experience, expertise, and staffing necessary to successfully implement the project, including identification of key personnel or of positions to be hired.
Applicant will utilize evidence-based or evidence-informed practices and identifies the specific model, curriculum, or practice to be used.
Applicant demonstrates the capacity to deliver the proposed services reliably — through its own track record delivering similar services or, for a newer organization, through the experience of its staff and leadership or through formal partnerships with experienced providers.
Applicant describes a realistic plan for sustaining the project after the grant period or, where the project is time limited by design, a plan for responsibly concluding it and sustaining its benefits.
Application describes community-level support for the value of the project and a high need for the services.
Applicant provides letters of support from community stakeholders that speak specifically to the proposed project and to the applicant's ability to deliver it.