

## **RCORP-Planning (Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Planning)**

**Opportunity #:** HRSA-26-036

**Funder:** HRSA, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (Rural Strategic Initiatives Division)

**Application Due:** **May 29, 2026** (11:59 PM ET)

**Period of Performance:** 2 years (9/1/2026–8/31/2028)

### **Purpose**

RCORP-Planning provides **early-stage funding to help rural communities build partnerships, assess SUD needs, and develop actionable plans** for future substance use disorder (SUD) prevention, treatment, recovery, and related services.

This is a **capacity-building and planning grant only** — **no direct service delivery** is allowed. It is designed to help communities that are **not yet ready** for large-scale implementation funding (like RCORP-Impact).

### **Funding Details**

- **Total FY26 funding:** \$4 million
- **Anticipated awards:** ~40 grants
- **Award size:** \$100,000 per year
- **Project length:** 2 years
- **Cost share:** None required
- **Funding is awarded at the full ceiling** (\$100K/year)

### **Eligible Applicants**

Open to **domestic public, nonprofit, for-profit, Tribal, and faith-based organizations**, including:

- Tribal governments and Tribal organizations
- State, county, and local governments
- Nonprofits (with or without 501(c)(3))
- Health systems, hospitals, clinics
- Educational institutions
- For-profit entities and small businesses

*Individuals are not eligible.*

### **Geographic Requirements (Critical)**

- Activities **must be limited to HRSA-designated rural counties or rural census tracts**

- In partially rural counties, activities must occur **only in rural census tracts**
- Applications proposing any non-rural areas will be **deemed ineligible**
- Applicants must address the **entire selected rural service area**

### **What This Grant Funds (and Does NOT Fund)**

#### **Allowed**

- Network formation and coordination
- Community SUD needs assessments
- Asset mapping and gap analysis
- Multi-stakeholder **strategic action planning**
- Provider readiness and preparation (training, workflows, billing readiness)
- Data infrastructure planning
- Sustainability and financing planning
- Limited equipment, supplies, or minor renovations **in Year 2 only**, tied to readiness

#### **Not Allowed**

- **Any direct SUD prevention, treatment, recovery, or supportive services**
- Paying for client services or care
- Syringe exchange or drug paraphernalia
- Major construction or real property acquisition

### **Required Core Objectives (All Three Are Mandatory)**

Applicants **must address all three objectives:**

#### **1. Network Building**

- Establish or strengthen a **multi-sector network**
- Minimum expectations by end of Year 1:
  - At least **4 partner organizations** (including applicant)
  - At least **50% of partners physically located in the rural service area**
- Required Network Coordinator
- Letters of support required from **at least two network partners** (one must be local)

#### **2. Community Assessment & Action Planning**

- Comprehensive assessment of:
  - SUD prevalence and impact
  - Existing prevention, treatment, recovery, and supportive services
  - Workforce capacity
  - Financing and sustainability landscape
- Results must inform a **practical, written strategic action plan**
- Action plan is a **required deliverable** submitted to HRSA

### 3. Provider & System Preparation

- Prepare providers, organizations, and systems to implement the action plan
- Examples:
  - Training and certification readiness
  - Billing and reimbursement capacity
  - Clinical workflows and referral pathways
  - Telehealth or data system readiness
  - Community education and stigma reduction
- Most of this work is expected in **Year 2**

### Target Population

- People in HRSA-designated rural areas who are:
  - At risk for SUD/ODU
  - Experiencing SUD
  - In treatment or recovery
- Families, caregivers, and impacted community members
- **Meaningful engagement of people with lived experience is required**

### Staffing Requirements

Applicants must include:

- **Project Director** (≥0.25 FTE recommended)
- **Data Coordinator**
- **Network Coordinator**

- **Learning Collaborative Point of Contact**

(Individuals may fill multiple roles if justified.)

### **Key Application Requirements**

- **30-page limit**
- Required attachments include:
  - Work plan (2-year)
  - Staffing plan and bios
  - Organizational chart
  - Letters of support from **2 network partners**
- Must:
  - Address **all three objectives**
  - Clearly prohibit service delivery
  - Demonstrate readiness for future implementation funding
  - Include sustainability planning

### **Funding Priorities (Bonus Points)**

- **Not currently funded by RCORP** (+2 points)
- **Never funded by RCORP** (+2 points)

This program is intentionally weighted toward **new and first-time RCORP communities**.

### **How HRSA Thinks About Fit**

RCORP-Planning is best for communities that:

- Have **fragmented or informal SUD systems**
- Need structure, buy-in, and shared direction
- Lack a strong multi-sector coalition
- Want to position themselves for **RCORP-Implementation or RCORP-Impact** in the next cycle