



# ***Innovations in Anti-Racism to Address the Overdose Crisis***

## **Grant Guidelines**

[RIZE Massachusetts Foundation \(RIZE\)](#), a statewide nonprofit launched in 2017, is committed to bringing lasting change to those affected by the overdose epidemic, changing public understanding of the overdose crisis, and demonstrating that addiction is a treatable illness. RIZE is dedicated to expanding access to treatment, harm reduction, and other services, continually measuring the outcomes and effectiveness of this work, replicating programs achieving the greatest impact, and collaborating with payers and providers to create a more comprehensive system of care for patients suffering from OUD.

RIZE is acutely aware of the many pressing issues impacting Massachusetts and the nation, including overdose, COVID-19, and racism. People who use drugs, including those with opioid addiction, are among the populations most vulnerable to COVID-19. There are already worrisome statistics that show overdose increasing since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. And racism has always been with us, deeply impacting outcomes for Black, Latinx, and Indigenous people who use drugs, resulting in mass incarceration, decreased access to care, the separation of families, and disparities in overdose fatality.

According to a report by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, attention to the opioid epidemic has focused primarily on white suburban and rural communities.<sup>1</sup> The rate of increase in Black/African American drug overdose deaths between 2015-2016 was 40 percent compared to the overall population increase at 21 percent, the report further cited. According to the 2017 Massachusetts State Health Assessment Report, "Black non-Hispanic and Hispanic individuals are less likely to complete treatment than white non-Hispanics." The report further states "Differences in economic resources and experience with social services may also place racial/ethnic minorities at a disadvantage in terms of meeting the demands of a structured treatment program."<sup>2</sup>

## **Grant Opportunity**

RIZE seeks to fund and evaluate innovative treatment programs or rigorously designed quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods research that test the impacts of programmatic or policy interventions on the overdose epidemic and racism as it relates to people who use drugs. We are committed to developing

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<sup>1</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: *The Opioid Crisis and the Black/African American Population: An Urgent Issue*. Publication No. PEP20-05-02-001. Office of Behavioral Health Equity. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2020. Page 3.

<sup>2</sup> Massachusetts Department of Public Health. *Massachusetts State Health Assessment*. Boston, MA; October 2017. Chapter 6: Addiction, page 168.

and disseminating new programs and research that will contribute broadly to the evidence-base and advance public policy.

RIZE's vision is that this program will have meaningful and positive results in reducing racism and improving access to evidence-based addiction treatment by reducing the stigma and structural barriers faced by Black, Latinx, and Indigenous people.

**The grant program will be in two phases.** The first is an initial six-month Design Phase to allow time to develop or expand an intervention. The Design Phase will be from October 2020 to March 2021. The Implementation Phase will be two-year grants of up to \$250,000 (\$125,000/yr for two years) awarded to the grantees from the Design Phase cohort that demonstrate the greatest potential in fulfilling the goals of the program. Awarding of these grants is contingent upon the efficacy, impact, and sustainability of the planning models. RIZE will engage an evaluator to work with the grantees during the Implementation Phase to measure impact and provide technical assistance. The Implementation Phase will be from May 2021 to June 2023.

RIZE is particularly interested in proposals from Black-, Latinx-, or Indigenous-led organizations that wish to develop or expand innovative interventions for opioid use disorder treatment, including harm reduction, treatment, or recovery programs.

We are also interested in, but not limited to, the following areas:

- Programs for populations impacted by the criminal legal system
- Harm reduction service program innovation
- Equitable access to treatment
- Diversification of clinical and peer workforce
- Community-led and community-based treatment, harm reduction, and recovery initiatives

#### Research RIZE will not fund:

- Exploratory science
- Clinical or drug trials
- Technology, medical devices, or start-ups
- General operating support
- Research that fails to build upon the RIZE principles of care, knowledge, and human impact

**Geographic Focus:** To be applied to Massachusetts, even if applicant is outside of the state.

**Amount of Funding:** Grants may be up to \$25,000 per award for the Design Phase. Please note that RIZE funds up to 15% of indirect costs, which should be included in the budget for the Design Phase.

**Length of Funding:** Six months.

**Eligibility Requirements & Criteria:** Black-, Latinx-, or Indigenous-led organizations are preferred. We are defining this as organizations with at least 50 percent of board members and senior staff as being Black, Latinx and/or Indigenous. Projects must predominately serve Black, Latinx, or Indigenous populations. Applicants can be institutions of higher education, public entities, or nonprofit organizations that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. Preference may also be given

to organizations that plan to utilize interdisciplinary teams and organizational partnerships. Applicants must be in operation for at least two years prior to application submission. Please note that RIZE does not accept applications from religious institutions unless they are a 501(c)(3), for-profit institutions, or individuals. RIZE does not make grants to capital campaigns, events, or sponsorships.

Applicants and their organizations must be based in the United States or its territories, with preference given to those from Massachusetts. **Proposals for exploratory science, clinical or drug trials, technology, or general operating support are not eligible for this grant program.**

Please note that RIZE will only invite full proposals for projects that fit within our eligibility criteria and funding interests outlined above. If no project meets our criteria or interests, RIZE reserves the right to not fund this grant program.

## Application Guidelines

### Timeline:

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| Thursday, August 13                     | Design Proposal guidelines released  |
| Thursday, August 20                     | Deadline to submit questions in advance of virtual Q&A forum.  |
| Thursday, August 27<br>10 – 11 a.m. EST | Virtual Q&A<br>Zoom Meeting link: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87202749138">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87202749138</a><br>Find your local number here:<br><a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87202749138">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87202749138</a> (Meeting ID: 872 0274 9138) |
| Thursday, September 3                   | FAQ document posted on rizema.org  |
| Friday, September 11                    | Proposals due at 12:00 PM EST  |
| Thursday, October 8                     | Design Phase award notification  |

### Process:

Submit your application for the Design Phase of this grant program by using this [link](#).

**(Before completing the form, right click to “Save As” using the name of the applying organization.)**

Please note that the application includes the following information:

- Project Description: What is your project and innovation? What are your project’s goals? Describe the population you are serving.
- How will this innovation address racism and the health of Black, Latinx, or Indigenous people who use drugs?
- How will you engage people in the community(ies) where your efforts will be focused?
- Method/Approach: Please explain how the program will be implemented and how its outcomes will be measured.
- Timeline: What is your timeline?

- Team: What are the names and respective titles of your team members? Please provide a brief summary of each team member's expertise.
- Budget: How will the grant funding be used (staff, consultants, other?). Are there other sources of funding for the project?

If awarded a grant, RIZE requires participation in dissemination activities that may include the development of issue briefs/reports, participation in webinars or forums, media outreach, and inclusion in panels for research conferences.

**Review:** Applications will be assessed by a committee of subject matter experts on the following criteria:

- Definition of problem to be addressed and strength of the proposed innovation.
- Feasibility of design for implementation with achievable, measurable goals/outcomes for the population(s) being served.
- Evidence of the knowledge of and experience of the lead organization and team as they relate to overdose, drug use, and racism.
- Relevance of program and potential for scaling and replicating.
- Alignment with the RIZE's mission and areas of focus.
- Appropriate budget for the scope of work outlined.

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. May I apply for this funding opportunity even if I am already funded by RIZE?
  - Yes, organizations already funded by RIZE may apply for this funding opportunity
2. What is RIZE's indirect cost rate?
  - RIZE's maximum indirect cost rate is 15%

If you have any questions, please submit them to [annemarie.bking@rizema.org](mailto:annemarie.bking@rizema.org) by Thursday, August 20 as indicated above.