

**NEBRASKA STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)  
FIRST RESPONDERS WELLNESS/RESILIENCY DEVELOPMENT  
RESOURCES**

**Background**

The Nebraska State Fire Marshal Agency is offering a funding opportunity to benefit First Responders in the State of Nebraska. First Responders are defined as firefighters (paid and volunteer), law enforcement (county, city, and State), EMS Services (paid and volunteer), correctional services (county, local and State) and dispatchers. The funds are to be used for active, retired, emeritus, and family members of the afore mentioned groups.

Revenue received by the State was directly derived from a class action lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies. As such and per State Statue 71-2488, any funds distributed shall not be considered ongoing entitlements or obligations on part of the State of Nebraska. The funds will be distributed from the Opioid Cash Fund as part of the Opioid Prevention and Treatment Act. Per LB814, AM915, the Nebraska State Fire Marshal (NSFM) was appropriated \$1,125,000 in each year of the FY23-25 biennium. The funds appropriated to the NSFM are “to connect all first responders who are at higher risk of opioid exposure and dependency to behavioral health services, supports, and training for a statewide wellness learning plan that includes anonymous assessments, education, and awareness to promote resiliency development.”

**Opportunity Description and Expectations**

The State of Nebraska, State Fire Marshal Agency, is issuing a Request for Application (RFA) for the purpose of entering into subawards with entities representing first responders to include firefighters, law enforcement, EMS Services, dispatchers, and Correctional Services teammates. The intended outcome is to connect first responders and their families with mental health services, support, and skills for resiliency development. An intent to subaward will be shared with first responder stakeholder groups.

Request for Funding Application #	Release Date	Application Due Date	Total Funding Available Year 1	Total Funding Available Year 2
2024-001	April 15, 2024	April 30, 2024	\$1,125,000	\$1,125,000

## **Award of Funding Guidelines**

This is a state funds sub award opportunity. All applications must conform to all instructions, conditions and requirements of this RFA.

This RFA seeks applications to complete allowable activities under the funding opportunity identified above.

Due to a finite amount of funds, it is possible that not all applications will be approved or approved for the full amount. Applications will be considered in the order received and processed within 20 business days. Applicants will be advised of the amount being funded after review.

Decisions about funding requests will be based on availability of funds, number of requests, and use of grant funds consistent with State Statute. As a general guide, Initial allocation percentages are anticipated to be: 45% for police, 45% for fire, and 10% for corrections, EMS and dispatchers.

NSFM will evaluate applications in the manner set forth herein. Funds will be awarded through a written agreement which will incorporate this RFA by reference. No promise for funds is binding on the NSFM and no funds will be paid to any applicant until a written agreement has been executed by both the applicant and NSFM. The NSFM can request access to the financial records, as it relates to the awarded program, of any award recipient(s).

Sub awards resulting from this RFA may be renewed for an additional one (1) year period, subject to fund availability.

The period of performance start may occur before the award is finalized, agreed to, and executed by the parties. This date reflects the period during which costs are allowable, but no binding agreement has been made between NSFM and any applicant until the award is fully executed by both parties.

If available funds have not been fully allocated after the review of applications a new application period may be issued or additional funding may be granted for approved applications that were not fully funded.

## **Requirements**

Applicants must provide the following:

- W9/ACH Enrollment Form
- Application – Supplemental Documentation for use of Opioid Recovery Funds
- Invoice(s)
- Documentation of costs incurred

- Proof of Payment (can be provided after release of funds)
- Quarterly and final report(s) of outcomes

### **Approved expenses**

- program related travel expenses
- software applications
- software licenses fees
- required office supplies
- required equipment for program(s)
- meeting room rental costs
- speaker fees
- conference registration fees
- mileage reimbursement at Federal rate for program aspects
- costs for distribution/use of Training Manuals/Materials
- advertisement

### **Unallowable expenses**

- Alcoholic Beverages
- Excessive costs for general office supplies, equipment, computer software, printing and copying
- Expenses not related to connecting first responders with mental health services, support and skills for resiliency development.
- Expenses claimed and or reimbursed by another program paid for with Opioid Recovery Funds
- Relocation Costs
- Lobbying and Political Activity Costs
- Costs of Fines and Penalties from failure to comply with federal, state, or local laws and regulations

### **Reporting Requirements**

Recipients will be required to submit a report of outcomes on a quarterly and annual basis. A program completion report will also be required. Reports are due no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month following the end of the quarter. Each report will, at a minimum, include the following:

- Number of program users
- Number of new program users
- Any new aspects/programs/ activities started with the reporting period

As part of the program completion report, a written statement/testimonial must be included detailing the effectiveness/impact of the program. The report must also contain final statistical data demonstrating how the funds were spent on various allowed activities and a breakdown of the total number of participants at all stages of the program.

### **Payments**

Payment requests shall be submitted to the NSFM no later than 30 days after incurrence and by the end of the budget period. NSFM reserves the right to request additional documentation upon review of reimbursement request. Payment requests can be mailed to the address noted below or emailed to

Email: Deb Hostetler at [deb.hostetler@nebraska.gov](mailto:deb.hostetler@nebraska.gov)

Mail: Nebraska State Fire Marshal Agency  
246 S. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1  
Lincoln, NE 68508

### **Submission of Applications**

NSFM is accepting either electronically submitted applications or hard copies for this funding opportunity. Applicants must complete an application packet and remit in one of the following methods:

Email: Regina Shields at [regina.shields@nebraska.gov](mailto:regina.shields@nebraska.gov)

Mail: Nebraska State Fire Marshal Agency  
246 S. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1  
Lincoln, NE 68508

### **Report of Funding Opportunity – Point of Contact**

RFA Point of Contact (POC):

Regina Shields  
Nebraska State Fire Marshal Agency  
246 S. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
(402) 471-9477 of (402) 326-9482  
[regina.shields@nebraska.gov](mailto:regina.shields@nebraska.gov)

From the date the RFA is issued until the award is issued, communication if needed should be addressed to the POC listed above.