FAQs for funding requests

1. Are SOR funds flexible to be used to cover any expenses incurred during the COVID-19 crisis?

   Original SOR funding restrictions stating funds should be used for patients with a primary or secondary diagnosis of opiate use disorder or have a demonstrated history of overdose are still in effect. These restrictions have not changed due to the pandemic. Changes to budgets may be allowable by contacting your project lead. If you are unsure if a service or item is allowable, contact your project lead.

2. Can the board be reimbursed for costs incurred during the COVID-19 crisis that went to ensure treatment providers and clients could receive telehealth services?

   Requests for funds for telehealth purchases should be submitted to Ellen Augspurger for review by leadership. The purchases must be approved on a case by case basis by our federal project officer. SAMHSA grant funds can be used to purchase laptops and other devices to deliver training and services specified under the grant. This includes the purchase of software to facilitate the delivery of services and training. SAMHSA grant funds cannot be used to purchase laptops and other devices for personal use, working from home (non-telehealth) or for clients. In addition, the purchasing of internet services or phone minutes for clients is not authorized.

3. Can SAMHSA grant funds be used to purchase Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) so providers can continue to provide authorized activities under the grant?

   Yes, SAMHSA grant funds can be used to purchase PPE for authorized grant personnel working in service of the grant. SAMHSA grant funds cannot be used to purchase PPE for unrelated grant activities.

4. Will a no cost extension be pursued because of COVID-19? What should projects do to prepare for a no cost extension due to COVID-19?

   A no cost extension will be requested if projects were not able to meet their goals primarily because of the pandemic. Projects should not expect this will be guaranteed and targets will not be amended because of the pandemic. Projects that intend to request a no cost extension should be prepared to demonstrate

how their project was impacted by the pandemic and what additional time to meet their goals would allow them to accomplish.

5. An internal to an agency budget revision under 10% line item. Do they need to submit a new budget or not within GFMS?

    No budget revision in GFMS is necessary for revisions under 10% of a budget category within the same agency budget; however an email detailing from which line item the money is coming and to which line item it is going, the amount, and the projected numbers served (if applicable) should be sent to the project lead.

6. If a patient is eligible for a state funded program and a SOR funded program, which should we enroll the patient in?

    State funds should be used first. SOR should be the payor of last resort including insurance and state programs such as ATP or Crisis Flex Funding.

7. Can the SOR funds pay for services when Medicaid has determined the patient should be discharged but the provider feels they should remain in services?

    We are awaiting clarification from our partners. Please check back for a response to this FAQ.

8. What funding is available to help with providers who lose clients while doing telehealth because of no shows or partial unit only billing due to disconnection or a lack of minutes for clients?
    a. *A proportional salary charge for clients served by staff whose salary is SOR funded and not also eligible to be billed to another payer (like Medicaid). A GPRA must be conducted on all the eligible clients within the organization served through the SOR dollars. GPRA trainings and support are available online at https://www.sardiprogram.com/sor/. You can reach the evaluation team for assistance through email at sorgpraquestions@wright.edu. They are always willing to set up an online presentation or TA for any new providers. For new accounts, send the name, county board, email address and facility name to Jennifer.lewis@mha.ohio.gov.*
    b. *Administrative Leave: If a recipient organization's policy allows for the charging of salaries and benefits during periods when no work is performed due to the effect of COVID-19, ==regardless of the funding source, including Federal and non-Federal,== then such charges to SAMHSA grant awards will be allowable. Reminder: SAMHSA may request documentation to confirm the requirements of organizational policies.*

c. *If a facility must maintain a minimum level of staffing to support services and safety, but the billing revenue from current residents is not enough to support minimum staffing levels, SOR funds could be used to ensure staff are paid for services during this time.*

9. Can SOR funds be used to cover housing costs and utilities for clients who have been furloughed or lost their jobs because of COVID-19?

   Requests to reallocate funding should be made to the project lead via email. The email should detail from which line item the money is coming and to which line item it is going, the amount, and the projected numbers served (if applicable) should be sent to the project lead. A process to ensure payment does not go to the individual must be put in place. Such funding may not be used as an incentive to enroll new patients into SOR funded programs or to gather required GPRA data. Funding may not be used to purchase meals or food as it is unallowable. Please refer to the SOR funding restrictions available on the OhioMHAS Funding Opportunities page or request a copy be sent by your project lead. Funding available through state and local programs must be utilized first before accessing SOR funds.

10. Can we use funding in our current SOR grant to reimburse our OTP providers for Naloxone purchases?

    SOR local projects should not use their own funding to provide naloxone unless it was written into their original proposal. There are additional funds available for naloxone. Please contact Mindy.Vance@mha.ohio.gov to order naloxone directly for providers or ask OTPs to contact Mindy directly to place orders. Requesting providers do not need to be SOR funded to receive naloxone.

11. Are there SOR funds available to purchase lockboxes for take home medications for patients?

    Yes, please detail the number of boxes and cost per box and send to Kaitlin Waggoner at Kaitlin.Waggoner@mha.ohio.gov. Requesting organizations do not need to be SOR funded to receive the boxes.