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The **MOAR** You Know - Fall 2024  
*Newsletter from the Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery*

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### A Note from Maryanne Frangules, MOAR Executive Director

Hello **MOAR** community,



First, I must say thank you to the very wonderful 34th **MOAR** and Friends Recovery Month Celebration recognition given to me. I will have the “Sweet Maryanne” version of “Sweet Caroline” memories close to my heart because beyond a memory, it is in video form, and the words framed forever in my keeping and my heart. That you kept it a secret – was done masterfully! I was so touched that a Recovery Month Trophy will be given with my name on it! Whoa! Thank you to Corey O'Brien, Turning Point PRSC Director, for creating the concept of this everlasting award agreed upon by the now 39 peer recovery support centers to be passed on to whichever center participates in the most Recovery Month events. For 2024, **Peer to Peer Recovery Support Center** were the winners! Congratulations!

I am overwhelmed with gratitude. I would like to thank BSAS, the **MOAR** staff and board, Bay State Community Services (our fiscal sponsor), financial sponsors, and volunteers for all the support given. And, of course, a thank you for your kindness in a very big way! We celebrated big this year with over 1,400 faces and voices of recovery marching from the Boston Common to the Shubert Theater! We had a fabulous cast of recovery performances proving that if your faces are visible, and your voices are vocal, you prove that recovery is

valuable. That is how we break down the stigma and end discrimination. Please look at the pictures below capturing the spirit! Thank you for making our 34th **MOAR** and Friends Recovery Month Celebration **MOAR** special!

In the meantime, with over 2,357 confirmed and estimated opioid-related overdose deaths in 2023, it is important to take every opportunity to help save lives. We are grateful to our Governor Maura Healey, as she, as former Attorney General led the way to making sure that Opioid manufacturers and distributors were implicated in the opioid epidemic for inaccurately marketing risks related to medication, leading to patients developing opioid use disorders and fueling overdoses. As a result, Massachusetts has settlement funds to be distributed for services to help our state heal from the epidemic. In 2020, an Opioid Recovery and Remediation Trust Fund was set up with an advisory council to develop recommendations to help heal from the epidemic. This accounts for 60% of the funds coming in over a 17-year period. For more information, please go to ***Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund Advisory Council***.

Please know that 40% of the settlement funds are going to Massachusetts cities and towns to address the overdose crisis. You, as a person who has been affected, have an opportunity to have your voice heard by your municipalities' health board. **MOAR** is moving to help our members be involved. Cities and towns are looking for ways to learn from you about how they can best utilize the funds. ***The Care Massachusetts website*** has been set up by John Snow Institute supported by The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Addiction Services to help. Recovery Community members continue to speak about the need to support grieving families with burial funds, childcare, school, licenses, food, housing, career path, and transportation.

Also, the Healey-Driscoll Administration selected RIZE to manage the ORRF Community Grant Program through a unique public-private partnership, funded by the MA Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Addiction Services. The grant program will allow small, community-based organizations and municipalities to apply for settlement funds. Now called the Mosaic Opioid Recovery Partnership, the program is specifically designed to support communities and populations that have been historically underserved and have experienced a high rate of opioid-related overdose deaths. First round grantees have been announced and are community-led and culturally responsive, aimed at reaching individuals and families affected by the opioid overdose epidemic. The second phase, the Massachusetts Municipal Matching Grant is now open until November 15<sup>th</sup>. ***Click here for more information.***

**MOAR** has been working on policy initiatives that are receiving your guidance. Since lives continue to be lost at an alarming rate to overdoses, we have joined the voices supporting overdose prevention centers while remaining committed to a strong continuum of care. Despite advocacy disappointments such as licensure for recovery coaching, 51A reform, and Section 35 for men reform did not come to fruition during the formal legislative session, there is still hope that by December the legislature may pass substance use and recovery legislation. Your voices can make some of this

happen! Stay tuned!

**MOAR** will be hosting our Holiday Celebration on Tuesday, December 3rd, from 5 to 8PM at Mechanic's Hall. Please help design it. We are meeting every Monday night at 6:30PM on Zoom, except for Monday, November 11th, Veterans Day. With that, a big shout out to all our Veterans who are protecting all of us.

Always remember **Recovery Voices Count**. Please remember to vote for elected officials and ballot questions by November 5th! See our ballot question information direct from the Secretary of State's website.

You are the best – and with that – my last days as Executive Director are winding down, and please welcome our Executive Director in Training, Noel Sierra!

Sincerely,  
Maryanne Frangules



Hi Everyone,

I often reflect on my first meeting with Maryanne at Faulkner Hospital, where she was leading an action for recovery session. I was truly inspired by her wealth of knowledge and boundless energy.

It was during that meeting that I learned the importance of embracing my recovery story. One Sunday night, I received an email from Maryanne, inviting me to EMCEE the rally at **MOAR**'s annual Recovery Day event. That experience was a turning point for me—I realized how fulfilling it would be to be part of this incredible organization.

I am immensely grateful for the opportunity Maryanne provided. When I joined **MOAR**, she emphasized our responsibility to educate our state representatives and senators. Now, each time I meet with them, I can hear her voice motivating me to fulfill this important duty.

Maryanne, thank you for your passion and enthusiasm. You've fueled my commitment to this crucial work in our communities, and I'm excited to continue building the legacy of **MOAR** as your new Executive Director.

Best,  
Noel Sierra

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**Save the Date: MOAR Membership & Holiday Celebration 2024!**



Join the Voices for Recovery!

# 19th Annual Holiday Celebration

DECEMBER 3RD, 2024  
5:00PM-8:00PM  
MECHANICS HALL  
WORCESTER, MA



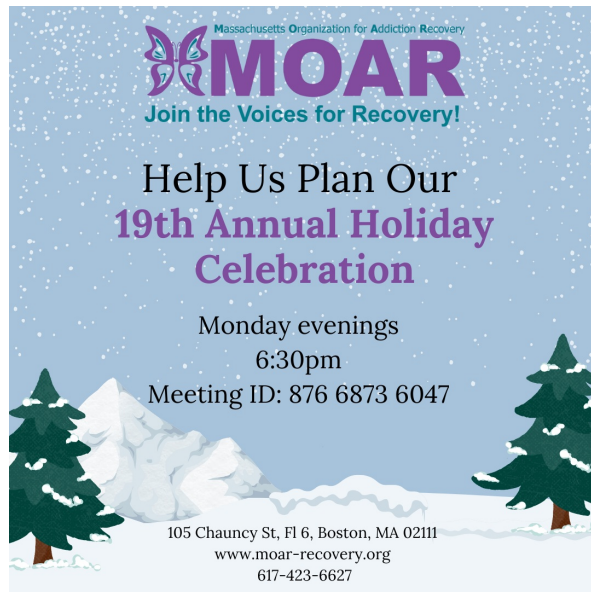
Scan the QR code to get your tickets!

105 Chauncy St, Fl 6, Boston, MA 02111 // [www.moar-recovery.org](http://www.moar-recovery.org) // 617-423-6627

Tickets are required for this event, get your tickets today!

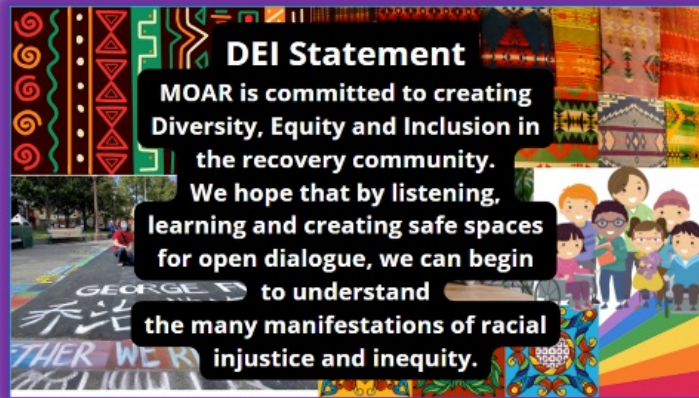
**Get Your Free Tickets!**

We hope to make our 19th Annual Holiday Celebration extra special - and we need your help to make it happen! Please join us on Monday evenings from 6:30-7:30PM on Zoom to help us plan the event. All are welcome.



**Join our planning meeting**

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative



**MOAR** is continuously committed to working alongside and listening to the voices of all communities. **MOAR** has been taking concrete measures to help eliminate racial disparities in accessing recovery from substance use disorders.

The **MOAR** DEI Speaker Series is continuing to grow! In October 2024, we were lucky enough to hear from Tatiana Rodriguez, founder and CEO of Family Matters First. Family Matters First (FMF) strengthens families by providing legal tools, peer support, advocacy, and mutual aid to end the separation of Black, Brown, and low-income families. FMF hosts “Know Your Rights” legal clinics with partner attorneys at Harvard Law and HLAB and partners with Boston University’s Center for Antiracist Research, Mass General Hospital, JMAC for Families, UPenn Law School, and Rutgers Law School. FMF also provides monthly peer support groups and individual advocacy to parents at court hearings and foster care review meetings. If needed, FMF refers parents to early defense lawyers or partners with CPCS attorneys and supports parents in taking part in a participatory defense module led by impacted parents and advocates. **Click here** to watch the event.

Recently, we held our DEI Roundtable consisting of our past DEI speakers, wanting to increase their ability to offer culturally sensitive services. We are grateful to RIZE, HRiA, and BSAS for helping participants explore paths to help them meet their goals.

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### Recap: Recovery Month Celebration Day!

On September 26th, we hosted our 34th Annual Recovery Month Celebration Day at the Parkman Bandstand, Boston Common and the Shubert Theater.

GBH News covered the event. [Click here](#) to read the article.  
WBZ NewsRadio covered the event as well. [Click here](#) to read the article.  
Boston Neighborhood Network published their coverage of the event, [here](#).



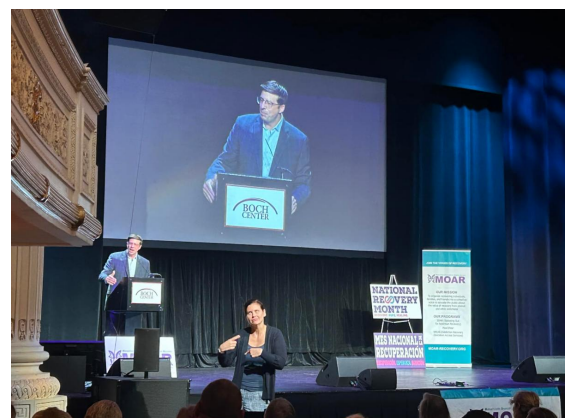
"Always glad to speak at Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery's Recovery Day. I spoke about my ongoing efforts to end the incarceration of civilly committed men who need treatment, not punishment. Addiction is an illness, not a crime! Thank you to MOAR for taking the opportunity to recognize my years of commitment to improving access to addiction services. And thank you, Maryanne Frangules for your partnership these many years!" - **Representative Ruth Balser**



"Statistics can flatten the stories that we are closest to, the stories that are unfolding in our own homes, on our streets, in our own lives. And in Boston, despite progress that is being made, we also are very aware that we've seen increases in opioid-related overdoses, specifically in our Black and brown communities. In addition to dedicating \$250,000 each year, to provide financial support and grief counseling to families who've lost loved ones to overdoses, we are continuing to leverage our resources at the City to invest in the outreach and interventions that make live-saving resources like naloxone and testing strips more widely available, and distributing \$1 million in grant funding to community organizations who are directly on the ground supporting residents in recovery." - **City of Boston Mayor Michelle Wu**



"The phenomenal Maryanne Frangules and the team at MOAR make it clear that recovery is about more than being alive — it's about living! The room was filled with so much love, joy and hope at their annual Recovery Month Celebration. Thank you for showing us all why we do this work." - **Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts,**



"I joined MOAR for Recovery Day. Our efforts to save lives and heal from substance use disorder are only successful when we truly listen to and follow the lead of those with lived experience. MOAR and its allies have been fantastic partners in this mission." - **Representative Adrian Madaro**



All 1,500 seats full at the Shubert Theater!



MOAR Staff and friends on stage to recognize Maryanne's hard work and dedication to the recovery community over the past 30 years!

### Thank you to all our Recovery Month 2024 Sponsors!



### Out in the Community!



MOAR joined the festivities for **A New Way Peer Recovery Center's 10 Year Anniversary!** Congratulations!



BSAS, Boston Medical Center, The City of Boston, BPHC, and others commemorated the last 10 years of 24,000 overdose deaths by planting 24,000 purple flags for the loved ones we have lost.

Maryanne Frangules emceed **Ruth's Way** 10 year anniversary party. Ruth's Way started out as a dream for Nicole O'Brien. She learned about what it takes to open and run a sober house through the **Massachusetts Alliance for Sober Housing (MASH)**, learned what it takes to be a recovery coach, and now has two sober houses for women. Congratulations!



August 21st is National Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Day. To commemorate the day, Noel Sierra attended and spoke at the Fake and Fatal event in New Bedford, MA.



Nico Alicea, Western MA Regional Coordinator, attended **Tapestry's** Overdose Vigil in Springfield, MA.



Noel Sierra, Southeast Regional Coordinator, facilitated our Recovery Messaging training at Hope Beyond Hope Sober Living for Women House.





Leah Randolph, Julie Bunch, and Denise Pixley had a wonderful time at **Greater Waltham Recovery Solutions'** Recovery Fest last month.



Nico Alicea and Debbie Flynn Gonzalez (BSAS) served up food and joy at the Western Massachusetts Recovery Month event in Northampton, MA at beautiful Look park!



Kirsten Puccio, Scott Francis, Hannah Page, and Denise Pixley attended a screening of the documentary **Recovery City** in Natick, MA.



MOAR staff at the Braintree Community Partnership Annual Community Heroes Awards or substance use prevention and recovery event. Congratulations to Maryanne Frangules for receiving this prestigious award!

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## Staffing Updates

Help us welcome Marshall Lane to our team! He is our new Boston MA Regional Coordinator and is eager to connect with the recovery community in the greater Boston area!

Hi, I'm Marshall. My journey with substance misuse began at a young age and continued until my mid-20s. I faced the heartbreaking loss of my sister to overdose when she was just 18 and I was 20, a turning point that fueled my desire for change. At 26, I embarked on my recovery journey, earning an associate degree in psychology along the way. I began my professional career in the field of addiction at a detox facility, followed by a role at an in-home addiction treatment

company, where I had the privilege of supporting hundreds of individuals in their recovery. I am passionate about enhancing both social and individual health for those struggling with addiction. My approach is rooted in understanding, compassion, and community, as well as a commitment to education, opportunity, collaboration, and a strong continuum of care.



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## MOAR Trainings

MOAR offers two important trainings aimed at helping individuals use their voices for productive change!

**Recovery Messaging:** This training helps individuals understand the impact of stigma and language on recovery. We can assist you in identifying key elements of recovery messages. Ultimately, attendees will be able to craft and deliver their own positive recovery messages.

**Advocacy 101:** This training helps individuals understand how public policies and laws are developed and changed. Additionally, the training covers the state budget process. Finally, we will demonstrate strategies and best practices for effective visits/calls with your legislators.

These trainings are put on by our awesome team of regional coordinators and can run anywhere between 45-90 minutes each.

Please reach out via **phone (617-423-6627)**, or **email (info@moar-recovery.org)** if you are interested in scheduling a training or would like to learn more!



## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN TAKING FREE RECOVERY TRAININGS?

### RECOVERY MESSAGING

- Describe the impact of stigma & language on recovery
- Identify recovery messages to be modeled for people in recovery
- Craft & deliver positive recovery messages

### ADVOCACY 101

- Explain how public policies & laws are developed and changed
- Understand the state budget process
- Demonstrate strategies & best practices for effective visits with legislators

CONTACT US

Reach out to MOAR and we will accommodate all requests for FREE trainings!

Trainings can range in length, from 45-90 minutes



CONTACT US

[info@moar-recovery.org](mailto:info@moar-recovery.org) // 617-423-6627

## The PARENt Project

The Parents in Addiction Recovery Engaging Together Project, or PARENt Project, is a **MOAR** initiative that supports low-income families in early recovery who, because of addiction, have mandated child welfare and/or justice engagement. The Project offers group support in three locations throughout Worcester and Hampden County.



### A Peer Recovery Group for Parents Navigating Early Recovery

The PARENt (Parents in Addiction Recovery Engaging Together) Project, a MOAR initiative, provides no-cost, specialized, culturally-reflective peer recovery support services (PRSS) to help parents who are trying to navigate their addiction recovery, the Department of Children and Families (DCF), the criminal justice system, and other challenges.

#### Groups Offer:

- Recovery Living Skills
- Healthy Relationship Building
- Family Addiction & Recovery Support
- Coping with CORI Support
- Mental Health Wellness

#### Support Group Locations:

**Hope for Holyoke**  
Thursdays @ 11am EST  
Zoom & In-Person Hybrid Group  
Meeting ID: 853 6912 4513

**Valor**  
Tuesdays @ 1pm EST  
Zoom & In-Person Hybrid Group  
Meeting ID: 854 6317 8686

**Miracle Mamas at Every Day Miracles**  
Mondays @ 3:30pm EST  
Zoom & In-Person Hybrid Group  
Meeting ID: 891 8024 9216

If you or someone are interested in the group, please contact MOAR at [info@moar-recovery.org](mailto:info@moar-recovery.org)

Have questions about the PARENt Project Support Groups? Call 617-423-6627 to learn more



@moarrecovery

[www.moar-recovery.com](http://www.moar-recovery.com)



## RECOVERY EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

In September, the Recovery Education Collaborative (REC) had a great time at its FIRST in-person Recovery Coach Academy held at the Plymouth Recovery Center!



We are also excited to share our Fall calendar is out with more available trainings on the REC website [www.massrec.org/calendar](http://www.massrec.org/calendar). These trainings are open to everyone, approved by the MBSACC to provide CEU credits, and qualify as CARC recertification electives. Sign up soon, as these courses and others will fill up quickly!

Multiple Pathways: November 5<sup>th</sup>, 9am-2pm  
<https://massrec.org/events/multiple-pathways-2024-11-05/>

Ethics for Recovery Coaches: November 6<sup>th</sup>, 9am-2pm  
[Ethics for Recovery Coaches: November 6, 2024 – Recovery Education Collaborative \(massrec.org\)](#)

Medication Supported Recovery, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 9am-3pm  
[Medication Supported Recovery: November 7, 2024 – Recovery Education Collaborative \(massrec.org\)](#)

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## Help Team Sharing Promote Overdose Awareness With Overdose Awareness License Plate

The Massachusetts RMV has approved Team Sharing's proposed Overdose Awareness plate – but Team Sharing needs 750 committed supporters for them to be produced. For just \$40, you can reserve your plate and help spread awareness.



[Sign up today!](#)

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## Upcoming Election - Make Your Recovery Voice Count!



**MOAR**  
Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery  
Join the Voices for Recovery!

**MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD**

**YOUR VOTE MATTERS**

**ELECTION DAY NOVEMBER 5**

**Registration deadlines**

- In-person at local election office: Oct 26 by 5:00 pm
- Online: Oct 26 by 11:59 pm
- By mail (postmarked by): Oct 26

**Mail and absentee deadlines**

- Request ballot (received by): Oct 29 by 5:00 pm
- Return ballot by mail (postmarked by): Nov 5
- Return ballot in person: Nov 5 by 8:00 pm

**Voting deadlines**

- Early voting: Oct 19 - Nov 1
- In-person: Nov 5

### **Question #1: State Auditor's Authority to Audit the Legislature**

Summary: This proposed law would add a new section to state law authorizing the state auditor to audit the accounts, programs, activities, functions of all departments, offices, commissions, institutions, and activities of the state legislature and any authorities or districts created by the state legislature. The state auditor and employees of the state auditor department would also be given access to accounts, books, documents, vouchers, and other records relating to the scope of the audit. Tax returns would be excluded from state auditor access.

- A YES VOTE would specify that the State Auditor has the authority to audit the Legislature.
- A NO VOTE would make no change in the law relative to the State Auditor's authority.

### **Question #2: Elimination of MCAS as High School Graduation Requirement**

Summary: This proposed law would eliminate the requirement that a student pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests (or other statewide or district-wide assessments) in mathematics, science and technology, and English in order to receive a high school diploma. Instead, in order for a student to receive a high school diploma, the proposed law would require the student to complete coursework certified by the student's district as demonstrating mastery of the competencies contained in the state academic standards in mathematics, science and technology, and English, as well as any additional areas determined by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

- A YES VOTE would eliminate the requirement that students pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) in order to graduate high school but still require students to complete coursework that meets state standards.
- A NO VOTE would make no change in the law relative to the requirement that a student pass the MCAS in order to graduate high school.

### **Question #3: Unionization for Transportation Network Drivers**

Summary: The proposed law would provide Transportation Network Drivers ("Drivers") with the right to form unions ("Driver Organizations") to collectively bargain with Transportation Network Companies ("Companies")-which are companies that use a digital network to connect riders to drivers for pre-arranged transportation-to create negotiated recommendations concerning wages, benefits and terms and conditions of work. Drivers would not be required to engage in any union activities. Companies would be allowed to form multi-Company associations to represent them when negotiating with Driver Organizations. The state would supervise the labor activities permitted by the proposed law and would have responsibility for approving or disapproving the negotiated recommendations.

- A YES VOTE would provide transportation network drivers the option to form unions to collectively bargain with transportation network companies regarding wages, benefits, and terms and conditions of work.
- A NO VOTE would make no change in the law relative to the ability of transportation network drivers to form unions.

### **Question #4: Limited Legalization and Regulation of Certain Natural Psychedelic Substances**

Summary: This proposed law would allow persons aged 21 and older to grow, possess, and use certain natural psychedelic substances in certain circumstances. The psychedelic substances allowed would be two substances found in mushrooms (psilocybin and psilocyn) and three substances found in plants (dimethyltryptamine, mescaline, and ibogaine). These substances could be purchased at an approved location for use under the supervision of a licensed facilitator. This proposed law would otherwise prohibit any retail sale of natural psychedelic substances. This proposed law would also provide for the regulation and taxation of these psychedelic substances.

- A YES VOTE would allow persons over age 21 to use certain natural psychedelic substances under licensed supervision and to grow and possess limited quantities of those substances in their home, and would create a commission to regulate those substances.
- A NO VOTE would make no change in the law regarding natural psychedelic substances.

### Question #5: Minimum Wage for Tipped Workers

Summary: This proposed law would gradually increase the minimum wage for tipped employees according to the following schedule:

- 64% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2025;
- 73% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2026;
- 82% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2027;
- 91% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2028; and
- 100% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2029.

Tipped employees would be paid the state minimum wage in addition to tips received. As of January 2024, the minimum wage for tipped employees in Massachusetts was \$6.75 in addition to tips, and the minimum wage for non-tipped employees was \$15.00.

- A YES VOTE would increase the minimum hourly wage an employer must pay a tipped worker to the full state minimum wage implemented over five years, at which point employers could pool all tips and distribute them to all non-management workers.
- A NO VOTE would make no change in the law governing tip pooling or the minimum wage for tipped workers.

For more on the Massachusetts Information For Voters 2024 Ballot Questions, click [here](#).

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## DEADLINE EXTENDED: RIZE Massachusetts' Mosaic Municipal Matching Grant Program



The application deadline for Mosaic Opioid Recovery Partnership Municipal Matching Grant Program has been extended to **November 15, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. ET**. Mosaic's goal is to fund projects with promise that address the opioid crisis from a public health perspective in deeply impacted communities. Extending the deadline gives municipalities and their potential nonprofit partners additional time to complete the application requirements.

As a reminder, municipalities may apply individually or jointly as an Opioid Abatement Collaborative (OAC), which is a group of two or more municipalities that have agreed to pool some or all of their opioid abatement funds.

RIZE has also updated the guidelines to allow municipalities and OAC's who are electing to partner with or fund a nonprofit organization to apply for a Municipal Matching Grant without a formal agreement in place. However, RIZE will not execute a grant agreement until a partner is identified and proof of the municipality's commitment to earmark a matching portion of their opioid abatement funds to the proposed initiative is submitted – no later than March 31, 2024. In your application, please clearly describe your proposed project and potential partnership/s, including the type of nonprofit you intend to fund (for example, please include the nonprofit's area of expertise, populations served, etc.) and how and when the formal agreement will be finalized.

State procurement laws apply to the expenditure of municipal abatement funds, subject to certain permitted exceptions and exemptions. The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has published answers to frequently asked questions about using municipal abatement funds [here](#).

If you are unable to meet these deadlines, you will have another opportunity to apply for a Municipal Matching Grant in the Fall of 2025.

As always, RIZE is available to answer your questions or help you find appropriate resources to complete your application.

[Apply Here](#)



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