

**Kansas Fights Addiction Grant Review Board and Sunflower Foundation on behalf of the Kansas Office of the Attorney General**

**REQUEST FOR GRANT PROPOSALS**

FOR

**Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Abatement Programs**

within the priority areas of: Treatment, Recovery, Harm Reduction, and Linkages to Care

*NOTE: RFPs for activities related to Prevention, Providers and Health Systems, and Public Safety and First Responders to be released* ***May 8, 2023***

**Request for Proposals (RFP)**

**Kansas Fights Addiction 2023 – Treatment Grant**

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| **Key Dates** |
| **RFP Release:** Monday March 6, 2023  *(Online Application Opens March 21, 2023)* |
| **Informational Webinar:** Monday, March 20, 2023, 12:00pm – 1:00pm CDT  Wednesday, March 29, 2023, 10:00am to 11:00am CDT |
| **Confirmation of Intent Deadline:** 5:00 pm CDT on Thursday, March 30, 2023  **Application Deadline:** 5:00 pm CDT on Monday, April 28, 2023 |
| **Funding Announcements:** Anticipated to be on or before Friday, September 1, 2023 |

**To ensure a timely and appropriate response to all inquiries, please send questions in writing to** [**kmachado@sunflowerfoundation.org**](mailto:kmachado@sunflowerfoundation.org)**.**

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| **Grant Title:** | Kansas Fights Addiction 2023 Treatment Grant |
| **Description:** | The Kansas Fights Addiction Grant Review Board, Kansas Office of the Attorney General (OAG), and Sunflower Foundation are accepting applications for 2023 Kansas Fights Addiction grant program. The purpose of this program is to prevent, reduce, treat, or mitigate the effects of substance abuse and addiction. The Kansas Fights Addiction (KFA) grant program is funded by the Kansas opioid settlements obtained by the OAG. Sunflower Foundation serves as the grant administrator for the KFA grant review board. To learn more about KFA visit <https://ag.ks.gov/about-the-office/affiliated-orgs/kansas-fights-addiction-act-grant-review-board>. |
| **Eligibility:** | Eligibility is limited to state entities, municipalities, and non-for-profit private entities that provide services in Kansas for the purpose of preventing, reducing, treating, or otherwise abating or remediating substance abuse or addiction and has released or will release its legal claims arising from covered conduct against each defendant that is required by the opioid litigation. |
| **Total Available Funding:** | $3,000,000.00 |
| **Award Ceiling** | $200,000.00 |
| **Length of Project:** | 12 months |
| **Match Required?:** | No |
| **Authorizing Statute** | KFA grants are authorized under the Kansas House Bill 2079, Kansas Fights Addiction Act, codified as KSA 75-775 to -781. |

**Purpose and Overview**

The Office of the Attorney General negotiated opioid settlement payments for Kansas and its counties and municipalities. These direct payments to Kansas consist of both one-time payments and recurring payments for up to 18 years.

The Kansas Fights Addiction Grant Review Board, Kansas Office of the Attorney General (OAG), and Sunflower Foundation are accepting applications for 2023 Kansas Fights Addiction grant program. The purpose of this program is to prevent, reduce, treat, or mitigate the effects of substance abuse and addiction. The Kansas Fights Addiction (KFA) grant program is funded by the Kansas opioid settlements obtained by the OAG. Sunflower Foundation serves as the grant administrator for the KFA grant review board. To learn more about KFA visit <https://ag.ks.gov/about-the-office/affiliated-orgs/kansas-fights-addiction-act-grant-review-board>.

Strategies included within this RFP were developed by the Kansas Prescription Drug and Opioid Advisory Committee’s (KPDOAC) needs assessment and state strategic planning. This strategic planning included diverse input and data collection. State plan included input from:

* Over 55 different state and local organizations in Kansas who participated in state plan development;
* A public comment survey that received 825 responses from 85 Kansas counties;
* A partner survey with 265 responses from 77 Kansas counties;
* 20 key informant interviews;
* Over 27 hours of subject matter expert sub-committee meetings dived by area of expertise; and
* Kansas epidemiologists, data experts, and evaluators in SUD field.

The priority areas of focus for this RFP are Treatment, Recovery, Harm Reduction, and Linkages to Care. These priority areas include the following prioritized strategies in which are eligible strategies within this RFP.

**Treatment**

1. Expand access to treatment for those who are uninsured/underinsured
2. Expand MAT/MOUD services
3. Facilitate integration of mental health and SUD services
4. Naloxone distribution in treatment centers and criminal justice settings
5. Expand telehealth services for SUD treatment services, including MAT/MOUD
6. Coordinate a continuity of care model for high-risk populations including individuals discharged from hospitals and justice-involved populations (jail-based SUD treatment and effective re-entry programs)
7. Target treatment resources to high impact, low-capacity geographical areas (rural/frontier)
8. Increase coordination across the continuum of care to mitigate gaps and barriers and ensure appropriate access, navigation, and intentional transition to the next level of care needed
9. Expand access to adolescent treatment services

**Recovery**

1. Peer recovery services
2. Expand recovery housing
3. Expand the recovery ecosystem
4. Adolescent recovery services
5. Target recovery resources to high impact, low-capacity geographical areas (rural/frontier)

**Harm Reduction**

1. Targeted naloxone distribution
2. Expand social detoxification services
3. Expand access to HIV and HCV/HBV testing and treatment (e.g., PrEP)
4. Condom distribution/safe sex education among IV drug users

**Linkages to Care**

1. Expand and coordinate overdose/behavioral health outreach teams
2. Post-overdose linkage to care policies in hospitals/Emergency Departments
3. Community health worker (CHW)/peer navigation for those with SUD
4. Implement SUD screening and referral processes (e.g., SBIRT)
5. Implement/expand referral management systems (e.g., Integrated Referral and Intake System)

**Populations To Be Served**Populations served may include, but are not limited to, individuals with, or at risk of developing, opioid use disorders (OUDs) and any co-occurring substance use disorder or mental health (SUD/MH) issues; individuals involved in the criminal justice system and in need of medications or other services for substance use disorders; and/or children impacted by substance use.

## DEADLINE AND SUBMISSION PROCESS

**1.** **Confirmation of Intent (COI) to Apply Deadline**

A Confirmation of Intent is requested by 5:00pm CDT on Thursday March 30, 2023, via survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9VRNYJH>. Sunflower Foundation is requesting that prospective applicants submit a brief survey notifying Sunflower Foundation of the organization’s intent to apply for this funding opportunity. COI shall indicate the name of the organization intending to apply and the priority area(s) and strategy/strategies the organization is considering for their application. COI is not required but is strongly encouraged to assist in structuring an efficient review process.

COI Survey Questions Include:

* Name of Organization
* Type of Organization
* Priority areas of interest
* Primary contact
* Additional comments (optional)

**2. Proposal Deadline**

Proposals must be submitted online by 5:00pm CDT on Friday, April 28, 2023.

**3. Submission Process**

To be considered for Kansas Fights Addiction funds, please complete the application electronically. This application is not a commitment for funds, nor does it obligate the Kansas Fights Addiction Grant Review Board to grant or lend any form of financial assistance. The online application will open on **March 21, 2023,** at <https://ksfightsaddiction.fluxx.io/user_sessions/new>.

All applicants are encouraged to participate in one of two informational webinars. The webinars will offer identical content.

The first webinar is scheduled for **Monday, March 20, 2023, 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm CDT**. Please [click here](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_q3otBk7HTxSAtegbDLLVLw) to register for the March 20 webinar. The second webinar is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 29, 2023, 10:00 am to 11:00 am CDT**. Please [click here](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Z1YJR9VjSJC12CqUOvbNFg) to register for the March 29 webinar.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. **Webinar capacity is limited so please register early if you plan to participate**. **A recording of the informational webinar will be available** on the [Sunflower Foundation website](https://sunflowerfoundation.org/kansas-fights-addiction/).

While not a requirement, **participation is encouraged** as an opportunity to hear foundation staff discuss the RFP and address questions from potential applicants. However, if you are unable to join in the briefing, the foundation always welcomes your direct contact with any questions you may have about the criteria, guidelines, or application process for this RFP. Please note that this is a competitive grant process and staff’s ability to provide direct guidance is limited. **Please send all inquiries in writing** to [kmachado@sunflowerfoundation.org](mailto:kmachado@sunflowerfoundation.org).

Applicants are encouraged to read through the entire application before beginning the proposal submission process. All proposals must be submitted online. For questions regarding online submission please contact [Kmark@sunflowerfoundation.org](mailto:Kmark@sunflowerfoundation.org).

**4. Funding Announcements**

For applications received by the Friday, April 28, 2023, deadline, funding announcements are expected by **Friday September 1, 2023**.

Grants may begin once the Letter of Agreement (LOA), the grant contract, has been executed between the foundation and the awarded organization. Initiation and execution of LOA to follow funding announcements.

## BACKGROUND

**Opioid Epidemic Nationally and In Kansas**  
The opioid epidemic has taken an enormous toll on our country. The United States has lost over a million lives to drug overdose since 1999. It is estimated that in 2021, over 107,000 people died of a drug overdose in the US, and opioids were involved in 75% of these deaths. In Kansas we saw the highest number of drug overdose deaths 2019 (393), then 2020 was 21.4% higher than that at 477, and 2021 was 42.1+ higher than 2020 at 678 drug overdose deaths. It is anticipated that another heartbreaking record will be set for even higher number of overdose deaths in our state in 2022.

**Nationwide Opioid Settlements**   
Several nationwide settlements have been reached with companies to resolve their liabilities in thousands of lawsuits across the country associated with their role in fueling the opioid epidemic. Participating states, cities and counties were required to surrender any individual suits they were pursuing to join the nationwide settlements. Our state and 205 units of local government signed on to the nationwide settlements and have received initial payments. To date several major opioid manufacturers, distributors, and retailers have offered to settle nationwide such as McKinsey and Associates, Mallinckrodt PLC, Janssen/Johnson & Johnson, McKesson, Amerisource-Bergen, Cardinal Health, Purdue Pharma, CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart.

**Kansas Opioid Settlements**  
The Kansas opioid settlements are split into two funds, 75% to the Kansas Fights Addiction Fund (KFAF) and 25% to the Municipalities Fight Addiction Fund (MFAF). $200,000 is dedicated to the Kansas prescription drug monitoring program, K-TRACS, annually. The Kansas Fights Addiction Act directs all recovery to opioid and SUD abatement. As of January 2023, the Kansas Office of the Attorney General has recovered more than $340 million in settlements related to unlawful opioid manufacturing, marketing and distribution. Payments will be made to Kansas for up to 18 years, a majority of which to be frontloaded.

While we cannot change the past, we can now leverage opioid settlement funds to sustain and strengthen our ongoing response and make transformative change. This grant opportunity is just the first of many to come in the future years to help our state combat and find new and innovative approaches to addressing the opioid epidemic. It is our hope that with this new funding stream over the next 18 years we will be able to see transformative change to improve and save the lives of Kansans impacted by substance use.

## PROGRAM DETAILS

Summary

The goal of this funding is to prevent, reduce, treat, or mitigate the effects of substance abuse and addiction in Kansas.

Eligible Organizations

Eligibility, defined by statute, is limited to state entities, municipalities, and non-for-profit private entities that provide services in Kansas for the purpose of preventing, reducing, treating, or otherwise abating or remediating substance abuse or addiction and has released or will release its legal claims arising from covered conduct against each defendant that is required by the opioid litigation.

Examples of eligible organizations include but are not limited to the following: units of state and local governments, SUD treatment organizations, prevention organizations, community coalitions, behavioral health organizations, mental health centers, federally qualified health centers, healthcare organizations, law enforcement agencies, first responder, public safety, criminal justice organizations, recovery support organizations, supportive and transitional recovery housing programs, organizations within the recovery ecosystem, community-based organizations, youth-serving organizations, schools, universities, community colleges, GED programs, libraries, food assistance programs, employment assistance programs, legal aid programs, housing authorities, health departments, hospitals, pharmacies, veterans organizations, social service organizations, foundations, faith-based organizations, home visiting programs, early childhood service organizations, crisis centers, rural health clinics, etc.

***Organizations must meet the following criteria:***

* A tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code; or
* An instrumentality of state or local government, provided KFA funding will not supplant existing work; and
* Embrace diversity and inclusion across multiple dimensions, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, geography, and socioeconomic status. This includes delivering Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS), which are respectful of and responsive to the health beliefs, practices and needs of diverse patients.

Opioid abatement projects proposed in grant applications must meet one (1) or more of the following qualifying project criteria pursuant to Kansas House Bill 2079, Kansas Fights Addiction Act, codified as KSA 75-775 to -781.

KFA grants can only support services provided in Kansas or for Kansans. If an organization is based in or provides services in another state, prorated support of the proposed work will be considered only if documentation is provided to verify the percentage of services provided in Kansas or for Kansans.

**Applicants demonstrating the following will be given priority in the selection process:**

* Qualified applicants that are not otherwise seeking or receiving funds from opioid litigation.
* Applications to expand availability of certified drug abuse treatment programs authorized by KSA 2020 Supp. 21-6824.
* Applications proposing science and data-driven approaches to the work.
* Applications proposing new and innovative approaches to the work.
* Applications providing services in one or more of the 21 counties identified within the 5th quintile of highest vulnerability risk in [KDHE’s Opioid Vulnerability Assessment](https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/24703/2022-Opioid-Vulnerability-Analysis-PDF).
* Applications that also include strategies to address the following
  + Decrease stigma
  + Utilizes and/or enhances data and surveillance
  + Addresses policy issues
  + Enhances workforce development, recruitment, and retention within the behavioral health field

Grant Awards

Grant awards will not exceed a maximum amount of $200,000. Awards will be based, in part, on the proposed work, the applicant’s capacity, and the ability of the applicant to address needs and propose new and innovative approaches to strategy implementation. This will be a competitive grant program, which means not all qualifying and meritorious proposals will be funded. If awarded, all grant payments from the Sunflower Foundation to the grantee organization will be made via electronic payments.

Use of Grant Funds

Opioid abatement projects proposed in grant applications must meet one (1) or more of the following qualifying project criteria pursuant to Kansas House Bill 2079, Kansas Fights Addiction Act, codified as KSA 75-775 to -781.

Applicants are required to submit a project budget and associated narrative which describes how the grant funds will be used for opioid and/or any co-occurring substance use disorder abatement strategies to prevent, reduce, treat, or mitigate the effects of substance abuse and addiction in Kansas.

Grant Term

Grants are expected to be accomplished within one year from the date of the grant award, some exceptions may apply. If you have questions about the term, please send an email to [kmachado@sunflowerfoundation.org](mailto:kmachado@sunflowerfoundation.org)to discuss before applying.

Reporting Requirements

All grantees will be required to submit at least one program/work report and at least one financial report. All reporting requirements and deadlines will be clearly stated in the Letter of Agreement between the grantee and the foundation. The grantee will be asked to download and file reports electronically via Sunflower’s online grants management system.

Final reports are due within 30 days of the end of the grant period. Reports may include but are not limited to:

* Detailed account of funding spent on approved uses
* Services provided
* Number of individuals served
* Aggregated and de-identified demographic information for individuals served.
* Summary of impact(s), successes or challenges of the project funded with opioid settlement funds this project period.

Funding Exclusions

* Supplantation of existing funding
* Non-abatement strategies
* Opioid litigation expenses
* Campaign contributions

**ONLINE APPLICATION SUBMISSION**

**Getting Started**

The application will guide applicants through the process of opening an account. **All** applicants must have a current online account in order to complete the application, applicants may complete the registration to create an account in advance of the application opening. **All** applications must be completed and submitted using the online application. A guide to the online application system can be found here [KFA Application Technical Assistance Guide](https://sunflowerfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/KFA-FLUXX-Technical-Assistance-Guide.pdf). The online application will open on **March 21, 2023,** at <https://ksfightsaddiction.fluxx.io/user_sessions/new>.

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| **Components of the Online Application** |
| **A. Online Fields** *(applicants may copy and paste into the online application)*   * Applicant Information * Project Information * Description and Narrative   + Organization Capacity and Project Overview   + Goals   + Need   + Resources   + Sustainability   + Evaluation   + Budget |
| **B. Attachments - Additional Forms & Supporting Documents**  *(uploaded by applicant as part of the final submission process)*  **Documents**   * Budget Form * Budget Narrative   **Organizational Documents:**   * 501c3 Nonprofit: IRS-990 or 990-N, copy of current financial statements, including statement of activities YTD and statement of financial position, and copy of most recent audit, if available. * Unit of Local Government: copy of most recent financials, copy/link to most recent audit, if available.   **Documentation Due Upon Award**   * Signed LOA between the applicant entity and Sunflower Foundation * ACH electronic payment processing form * Signed Agreement to release right to litigation of entities associated with opioid settlements |
| ***NOTE***: Additional documentation may be requested during the application review process. If applicants have difficulty uploading attachments, please contact the foundation prior to the application deadline date.  If awarded, all grant payments from the Sunflower Foundation to the grantee organization will be made via electronic payments. |

**IMPORTANT TIPS:**

* Always write the draft of your application offline and save in a Word document, then copy and paste into the online application when you are ready to submit. This reduces the chance of losing any work if your online submission process gets interrupted.
* Once your application is complete, but before you submit it, we suggest you have someone not involved in writing the application review it for completeness, clarity, and consistency.
* The Sunflower Foundation Grants Management System does NOT auto-save your work. Make sure you save often, and after you’ve saved you are able to leave the session and return to it at a later date. If you do NOT save, your work will be lost.

**Notice of Public Disclosure**

*Sunflower Foundation and the Kansas Fights Addiction Board are subject to the Kansas Open Meeting Act (K.S.A. 75-4317 et seq.) and the Kansas Open Records Act (K.S.A. 45-215 through 45-223). Consequently, all materials received in this application process may be subject to public release pursuant to these statutes.*

**Grant Review**

The KFA grant review process will rely on a scoring rubric which addresses the seven sections to the application on a scale of 0-100. Reviewers will score each section of the application based on the quality of responses; maximum points available under each section are listed below under ONLINE APPLICATION TEXT.

**ONLINE APPLICATION TEXT**

To assist your planning, the questions from the online application and the evaluation criteria are provided below. **Please note that the questions below are only provided to assist in offline planning. All applicants who wish to apply must do so through the online system. Application will be available for online submission on March 21, 2023, at** [**https://ksfightsaddiction.fluxx.io/user\_sessions/new**](https://ksfightsaddiction.fluxx.io/user_sessions/new)**.**

Please ensure your responses are **brief, concise, and clear.** While there are no length limitations for responses, please keep responses to three paragraphs or less for each question.

1. ORGANIZATION CAPACITY AND PROJECT OVERVIEW (20 points)
   1. Provide a brief description of your organization, including a brief overview of the organization’s history, key programs and services.
   2. Describe your organization’s capacity to implement the proposed project and any relevant experience with similar projects or programming, including past achievements and evidence of impact.
   3. Please describe the purpose of your proposed project, types of services to be provided, and how services will be delivered. Please also include description of how your proposed project is science and data driven.
   4. Please describe the population to be served by this project, including an estimated number of individuals to be served and any relevant demographic information related to individuals to be served.
2. GOALS (20 points)
3. Please identify reasonable goals with a timeline for completion for your proposed project. Goals should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART).
4. Please describe the process(es), plan(s), and/or project activities you will complete to meet your goal(s) and to deliver the proposed project/services.
5. Please list what project outcome(s) you would like to see and how you plan to measure.
6. NEED (30 points)
7. Description of the need for the proposed project, including quantitative and/or qualitative data as appropriate, how the proposed project will address the need, and what your organization is currently doing to address the need.
8. Please describe how the proposed project is innovative in its approach to addressing substance use disorder.
9. Please identify potential barriers to implementation and how your organization will work to mitigate them.
10. RESOURCES (15 points)
11. Please list the key staff that will be responsible for the project and what role each of them will play, including their relevant experience.
12. Please describe any additional resources and/or funding that will be used to support this project or related projects. Please list any relevant funding sources your organization receives for SUD programming such as funding from sources such as *KDADS, KDHE, SOR, OD2A, Block Grant, SB123, SPF Rx, SAMHSA, CDC, HRSA, BJA, or other SUD related funding source.*
13. Please describe how the organization is/will collaborate with other organizations to accomplish implementation of this project including any entities funded through the Municipalities Fights Addiction Fund (Counties/Cities) and/or partners working on SUD issues in your community including activities funded by the above funding sources. Please describe how your organization will ensure activities are not duplicated.
14. SUSTAINABILITY (5 points)  
    * + 1. Please tell us your plans for sustaining your project after the grant period ends. As a result of the grant funding, what work will be sustained, enhanced or expanded?
15. EVALUATION (5 points)
16. Explain how you plan to evaluate your project: how you will measure that your project did or did not achieve the goal(s) outlined above.
17. What does the applicant organization expect will be different in a year as a result of the funding? In two years? For instance, what systems will be changed? What populations will benefit? Be specific.
18. Budget (5 points)

The budget section will include a standardized budget form and associated budget narrative. Maximum indirect rate shall not exceed 10% of the total budget. The budget template also includes a technical guide to aid in completion. See standardized budget form for more information.

**GENERAL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)**

FAQs will be compiled and shared publicly as new questions and information becomes available. Below is a list of initial questions we anticipate arising. FAQs will be posted on the [Sunflower Foundation website](https://sunflowerfoundation.org/kansas-fights-addiction/).

1. Where do I find the Sunflower Foundation Grant Management System to submit my online application?

The online application will open on March 21, 2023, and can be found at <https://ksfightsaddiction.fluxx.io/user_sessions/new>.

1. How many priority areas and strategies may an entity apply for?

Entities may apply for multiple strategies within one priority area or across priority areas. Applicants should include goals and responses in the application that reflect activities for all strategies selected.

1. Will there be an opportunity to renew the grant if awarded?  
   The Kansas Fights Addiction grant review board has not established funding priorities for futures years at this time. The board is completing a needs assessment that will assist in future funding strategy development.
2. If an entity received direct funding from the MFAF, can they also receive KFA funds from the settlement?  
   Yes, however these applicants should clearly describe the need for KFA dollars, MFAF budget and activities plans, and ensure that funding is not supplanted.
3. Are letters of support required?

No.

1. What if the applicant organization does not know or is unable to obtain information related to what their local MFAF funds are being used for?

While it is not required that applicant organizations coordinate activities with MFAF activities, it is strongly encouraged to ensure that no duplication is occurring, and funds are being best utilized and leveraged. It will be expected that any awarded grantees make their best effort to collaborate with MFAF and other opioid and SUD related funding sources in their community.

1. OK, I’m ready to fill out the online application… now what?

Sunflower uses an online grants management system called Fluxx.

Create a Fluxx account with Sunflower:

Set up an account by clicking here: <https://ksfightsaddiction.fluxx.io/user_sessions/new>

* Click on “Create an account now” (lower right side of screen) and follow instructions.
* When your registration has been processed and approved by Sunflower Grant Staff, you will receive an email with your Fluxx Username and a link to set your password.
* Use your login/password to enter the Fluxx portal and the KFA application card will appear and allow you to begin your application on March 21, 2023. The [technical assistance guide](https://sunflowerfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/KFA-FLUXX-Technical-Assistance-Guide.pdf) will walk you through how to register and navigate the system.

\*Note – if your organization has registered in the Sunflower Foundation grants management system in the past, you will need to create a new account within the KFA system which is separate related to KFA grants only and does not connect to information within the general Sunflower Foundation grants management system.

1. How long will it take to review my application?

Timing is dependent upon scheduled meetings of the Kansas Fights Addiction board. Reviews are scheduled to occur between the dates of May 12, 2023 and July 14, 2023 and will be presented at the following KFA board meeting for board review and approval.

1. If our request is approved, what are next steps?

Sunflower Foundation will email a Letter of Agreement/LOA (grant contract) which includes payment and reporting schedule, dependent upon size and length of grant.

1. How many applications may one community or one organization submit?   
   Communities and organizations can submit more than one application when and where applicable, however funding is limited. It is highly encouraged that organizations and communities collaborate to maximize impact and minimize number of applications. The Kansas Fights Addiction Act requires at least 1/8 of awarded funding each year be spent in each of the four congressional districts, thus geographic distribution will be considered when making awards.