

## NOFO FY2026-FY2028 Ranking Guide for Review Panelist

### Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder OSF Funding

As stated in the NOFO Guidance FY 2026 – FY 2028 all scored proposals will be ranked. The Guidance states the following:

The Review Panel will rank all proposals based on how critical they deem the program is for the system of care. The SCORE awarded to a proposal is reflective of how competitive the proposal is. The RANKING of the proposals is reflective of how imperative and critical the services are to ensure availability and access.

The following data and information should be considered when ranking the proposals. This is to serve as a guide to ensure the ranking decisions are data driven.

The proposal considered the most critical to the system of care will be ranked #1. All proposals shall be ranked.

No two proposals shall be ranked the same, as a tie. If there are 10 proposals, then the ranking should ultimately have 10 proposals ranked 1 through 10, with 1 being deemed the most critical.

### Proposals that include the following shall be ranked highest if all elements are included:

- Incorporate and demonstrate alignment with Palm Beach County's Resilience and Recovery Ecosystem approach to Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Care.
- Demonstrate that your organization conducted a crosswalk and mapping of the 2024 Plan's overarching priority and opioid settlement recommendations; opioid settlement fund core strategies and approved uses; SDoH categories; and RCI indicators with standards, outcomes and measures as part of the preparation of your proposal for submission. (See Attachment 2)
- Demonstrate integration of SAMHSA's best practice guides, including standards and evaluation of process and program outcomes. Proposals shall include what is being measured, the standards for measuring and short and long-term program outcomes. (See Attachment 3)
- Demonstrate how resilience will be measured and improved.
- Agree to participate in the County's *Shaping A Healthier Palm Beach County*, a health campaign.
- Agree to participate and cooperate in research related to initiatives.
- Comply with State and Local reporting requirements.
- Comply with Opioid Settlement State and County reporting requirements.

Proposals shall also be:

- Scalable
- Data-driven
- Incorporate and integrate into planning SAMHSA's definition of Recovery and the four (4) major dimensions that support a life in recovery
- Include Multisystemic Resilience Factors in the description of the proposal and how these factors will be integrated during implementation:

- Sensitive caregiving, close relationships, social support
- Sense of belonging, cohesion
- Self-regulation, family management, group or organization leadership
- Agency, beliefs in system efficacy, active coping
- Problem-solving and planning
- Hope, optimism, confidence in a better future
- Mastery motivation, motivation to adapt
- Purpose and a sense of meaning
- Positive views of self, family, or group
- Positive habits, routines, rituals, traditions, celebrations

Rankings shall decrease for missing elements.

Proposals that specifically address what the County is seeking, in each category and subcategory, shall be ranked higher than proposals that do not.

### **Community Education and Engagement**

**Family Supports:** Palm Beach County seeks an agency and/or agencies to provide community-based supports to families experiencing a family members' substance use or co-occurring disorder, particularly for parents or grandparents who face a variety of emotional, legal and daily living challenges as they unexpectedly find themselves in the position of raising a second family. These supports may include, but not be limited to, emotional, physical health and practical support, advocacy, parenting and family interaction, care and resource navigation.

**Resilient and Recovery Ready Communities:** Palm Beach County seeks an agency and/or agencies to lead community education and engagement activities that develop relationships, strategic partnerships, and collaborative agreements which will enable diverse groups to work together to address substance use and co-occurring disorder-related issues.

**Screening, Brief Intervention, Refer to Treatment (SBIRT):** The County seeks an agency to implement a county-level Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) program to implement the SBIRT public health model for individuals in various primary and behavioral health settings to identify and treat those who use alcohol and other drugs at risky levels. The program is expected to provide training, education and technical assistance to collaborative partners and primary and behavioral settings to deliver early intervention for individuals with risky alcohol and drug use, as well as the timely referral to more intensive treatment where indicated.

**Community Drug Disposal:** The County seeks to enhance and expand drug disposal programs in order to accept expired, unwanted, or unused medicines from designated users and dispose of them responsibly. Such programs can use in-person drop-offs, mail-in efforts, permanent secure collection receptacles (e.g. 24-hour drop-boxes), scheduled drug take-back events, as well as education efforts to raise awareness about reasons for proper drug disposal and available options.

### **Deep-End**

Proposals addressing Women, pregnant and parenting women shall be ranked as the highest priority.

# ATTACHMENT 5: NOFO SCORING GUIDE

Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorders  
NOFO Scoring Guide

## Program Implementation and Design Narrative (40 Points)

<p>Insufficient Response (0- 10 Points)</p>	<p>Most of the responses to the questions are incomplete and/or do not address the questions posed. The applicant’s responses do not align with the Category or Sub-category.</p>
<p>Moderate Response (11-20 Points)</p>	<p><b>Overarching Principles:</b> (Q. 10 &amp; 11) Responses address the alignment of the system of service delivery within the person-centered recovery-oriented ecosystem of care but does not elaborate on how it fits.</p> <p>(Q 12) Response includes evidence-based, evidence-informed and/or promising practices and measurement tools that will be utilized to implement the proposal, but the explanation of why the tools and strategies chosen were selected and how it is linked to the desired outcomes is incomplete, missing, or does not seem reasonable for achieving identified program goals and outcomes.</p> <p>(Q 13) Narrative does not connect activities from the proposal to Recovery and Resilience and/ or how the proposal will align with the CDC’s social determinants of health.</p> <p>(Q 14) The Agency’s crosswalk is incomplete or demonstrates superficial utilization.</p> <p><b>Program Implementation:</b> (Q 15-17) Recovery and Resiliency are superficially addressed with little substance or context to the actual proposal. The proposed program assessment is lacking in detail and/or connection to proposal goals, objectives or theory of action.</p> <p><b>Partnerships:</b> (Q 18-19) Partnerships are not closely enough connected to the proposal to make an impact and proposal includes generalized letters of support but is absent of MOU or MOA. (NOTE: Not every proposal will have a response to these 2 questions, so no response should not merit any loss of points)</p> <p>(Q 20) Barriers and/or Challenges are identified (as applicable) but the plan to address it is superficial (i.e., missing relatively obvious pieces that will get to the real issues that are needed to resolve or remove the barrier or challenge).</p> <p><b>Required Components of Proposals: If less than half of these components are in the proposal.</b></p>

- Incorporate and demonstrate alignment with Palm Beach County’s Resilience and Recovery Ecosystem approach to Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Care.
- Demonstrate that your organization conducted a crosswalk and mapping of the 2024 Plan’s overarching priority and opioid settlement recommendations; opioid settlement fund core strategies and approved uses; SDoH categories; and RCI indicators with standards, outcomes and measures as part of the preparation of your proposal for submission.
- Demonstrate integration of SAMHSA’s best practice guides, including standards and evaluation of process and program outcomes. Proposals shall include what is being measured, the standards for measuring and short and long-term program outcomes.
- Demonstrate how resilience will be measured and improved.
- Agree to participate in the County’s Shaping A Healthier Palm Beach County, a health campaign.
- Agree to participate and cooperate in research related to initiatives.
- Comply with State and Local reporting requirements (as applicable).
- Comply with Opioid Settlement State and County reporting requirements (as applicable).

Additionally, all proposals shall be:

- Scalable
- Data-driven
- Incorporate and integrate into planning SAMHSA’s definition of Recovery and the four (4) major dimensions that support a life in recovery
- Include Multisystemic Resilience Factors in the description of the proposal and how these factors will be integrated during implementation:
  - Sensitive caregiving, close relationships, social support
  - Sense of belonging, cohesion
  - Self-regulation, family management, group or organization leadership
  - Agency, beliefs in system efficacy, active coping
  - Problem-solving and planning
  - Hope, optimism, confidence in a better future
  - Mastery motivation, motivation to adapt
  - Purpose and a sense of meaning
  - Positive views of self, family, or group
  - Positive habits, routines, rituals, traditions, celebrations

**Services Offered:**

Clearly describes what services will be provided but the services do not match what is requested in the NOFO.

Priority Populations are not addressed or inadequately included in proposal, meaning that there is minimal detail that demonstrates how Agency will adapt to ensure inclusion of priority populations.

<p>Good Response (21-29 Points)</p>	<p><b>Overarching Principles:</b>  (Q. 10 &amp; 11) Response addresses alignment of system of service delivery within the person centered recovery oriented ecosystem of care and provides connection to it's proposal.</p> <p>(Q 12) Response includes evidence-based, evidence informed and/or promising practices and measurement tools that will be utilized to implement the proposal, but explanation of choice or connection to outcomes is not fully explained.</p> <p>(Q 13) Narrative makes some connections between activities from the proposal to Recovery and/ or how proposal will align with the CDC's social determinants of health, but could use more detail.</p> <p>(Q 14) Agency demonstrates and describes its crosswalk process.</p> <p><b>Program Implementation:</b>  (Q 15-17) Recovery and Resiliency are addressed with some substance and context to the actual proposal. The proposed program assessment has some connection to the proposal goals, objectives and/or theory of action.</p> <p><b>Partnerships:</b>  (Q 18-19) Partnerships are moderately connected to the proposal to make an impact and may include MOU or MOA that is moderately connected to the proposal but is absent sub-awards.  (NOTE: Not every proposal will have a response to these 2 questions, so no response should not merit any loss of points)</p> <p>(Q 20) Barriers and/or Challenges are identified (as applicable). There is a plan to address barriers and/or challenges and plan seems reasonable.</p> <p><b>Required Components of Proposals: Most (at least 75% of these components) are adequately addressed in the proposal.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate and demonstrate alignment with Palm Beach County's Resilience and Recovery Ecosystem approach to Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Care.</li> <li>• Demonstrate that your organization conducted a crosswalk and mapping of the 2024 Plan's overarching priority and opioid settlement recommendations; opioid settlement fund core strategies and approved uses; SDoH categories; and RCI indicators with standards, outcomes and measures are integrated as part of the preparation of your proposal for submission.</li> <li>• Demonstrate integration of SAMHSA's best practice guides, including standards and evaluation of process and program outcomes. Proposals shall include what is being measured, the standards for measuring and short and long-term program outcomes.</li> <li>• Demonstrate how resilience will be measured and improved.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree to participate in the County’s Shaping A Healthier Palm Beach County, a health campaign.</li> <li>• Agree to participate and cooperate in research related to initiatives.</li> <li>• Comply with State and Local reporting requirements (as applicable).</li> <li>• Comply with Opioid Settlement State and County reporting requirements (as applicable).</li> </ul> <p>Additionally, all proposals shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scalable</li> <li>• Data-driven</li> <li>• Incorporate and integrate into planning SAMHSA’s definition of Recovery and the four (4) major dimensions that support a life in recovery</li> <li>• Include Multisystemic Resilience Factors in the description of the proposal and how these factors will be integrated during implementation:</li> <li>• Sensitive caregiving, close relationships, social support</li> <li>• Sense of belonging, cohesion</li> <li>• Self-regulation, family management, group or organization leadership</li> <li>• Agency, beliefs in system efficacy, active coping</li> <li>• Problem-solving and planning</li> <li>• Hope, optimism, confidence in a better future</li> <li>• Mastery motivation, motivation to adapt</li> <li>• Purpose and a sense of meaning</li> <li>• Positive views of self, family, or group</li> <li>• Positive habits, routines, rituals, traditions, celebrations</li> </ul> <p><b>Services Offered:</b></p> <p>Clearly describes what services will be provided but leaves out some key points, such as how the services are connected to what is being asked for in the NOFO.</p> <p>Priority Populations are mentioned with some detail regarding why the Agency is well-suited to work with the priority population(s).</p> <p>Proposal includes a Memorandum of Agreement to work with a grass-roots organization.</p>
<p>Excellent Response (30-40 Points)</p>	<p><b>Overarching Principles:</b></p> <p>(Q. 10 &amp; 11) Response addresses alignment of system of service delivery within the person centered recovery oriented ecosystem of care and it is integrated throughout the proposal.</p> <p>(Q 12) Response includes evidence-based or evidence informed practices and measurement tools that will be utilized to implement the proposal, along with a cohesive explanation of why the practices and tools were selected and why these choices are best for this proposal.</p> <p>(Q 13) Narrative makes clear connections between activities from the proposal to Recovery and/ or how proposal aligns with the CDC’s social determinants of health.</p>

(Q 14) Agency demonstrates and describes its crosswalk process in a cohesive manner.

**Program Implementation:**

(Q 15-17) Recovery and Resiliency are addressed comprehensively and well integrated into the actual proposal. The proposed program assessment has strong connections to the proposal goals, objectives and/or theory of action.

**Partnerships:**

(Q 18-19) Partnerships and MOU or MOA is directly connected to the proposal to make an impact and starts at the beginning of the proposal's planning and development process. It also includes joint planning and mentoring throughout the process of preparation and implementation. Many grass-roots organizations have the contacts and relationships that will increase the reach of a proposal even though such organizations may not have the infrastructure or experience to prepare and submit a proposal. MOU or MOAs should demonstrate strong role delineation and sub-awards to small-scale non-profit, grass-roots corporations particularly from marginalized communities.

(NOTE: More weight is to be given to proposals that include MOU or MOAs which demonstrate sub-awards to small-scale non-profit, grass-roots corporations particularly from marginalized communities.

(Q 20) Barriers and/or Challenges are identified (as applicable). There is a plan to address barriers and/or challenges and plan seems reasonably tailored to the issues.

**Required Components of Proposals: Almost all of the required components are clearly addressed in the proposal (at least 90%).**

- Incorporate and demonstrate alignment with Palm Beach County's Resilience and Recovery Ecosystem approach to Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Care.
- Demonstrate that your organization conducted a crosswalk and mapping of the 2024 Plan's overarching priority and opioid settlement recommendations; opioid settlement fund core strategies and approved uses; SDoH categories; and RCI indicators with standards, outcomes and measures are integrated as part of the preparation of your proposal for submission.
- Demonstrate integration of SAMHSA's best practice guides, including standards and evaluation of process and program outcomes. Proposals shall include what is being measured, the standards for measuring and short and long-term program outcomes.
- Demonstrate how resilience will be measured and improved.
- Agree to participate in the County's Shaping A Healthier Palm Beach County, a health campaign.
- Agree to participate and cooperate in research related to initiatives.
- Comply with State and Local reporting requirements (as applicable).
- Comply with Opioid Settlement State and County reporting requirements (as applicable).

Additionally, all proposals shall be:

- Scalable

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data-driven</li> <li>• Incorporate and integrate into planning SAMHSA’s definition of Recovery and the four (4) major dimensions that support a life in recovery</li> <li>• Include Multisystemic Resilience Factors in the description of the proposal and how these factors will be integrated during implementation:</li> <li>• Sensitive caregiving, close relationships, social support</li> <li>• Sense of belonging, cohesion</li> <li>• Self-regulation, family management, group or organization leadership</li> <li>• Agency, beliefs in system efficacy, active coping</li> <li>• Problem-solving and planning</li> <li>• Hope, optimism, confidence in a better future</li> <li>• Mastery motivation, motivation to adapt</li> <li>• Purpose and a sense of meaning</li> <li>• Positive views of self, family, or group</li> <li>• Positive habits, routines, rituals, traditions, celebrations</li> </ul> <p><b>Services Offered:</b></p> <p>Clearly describes what services will be provided that are directly connected to what is being asked for in the NOFO.</p> <p>Priority Populations are mentioned with comprehensive detail regarding why the Agency is well-suited to work with the priority population(s).</p>
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**Evaluation Approach (40 Points)**

Insufficient Response (0 -10 Points)	<p>Did not submit a logic model; uploaded the wrong logic model (uploaded a logic model from a different program than what is being proposed), or did not complete the logic model correctly. Method for evaluating is not organized and tools and strategies for data collection and utilization are not explained or connected to proposal.</p>
Moderate Response (11 - 20 Points)	<p>Uploaded the correct logic model but pieces are not well connected. Evaluation methods are mentioned, but there is not enough detail about why the methods were selected or how data will be utilized throughout implementation.</p> <p>Agency currently uses data in a minimal way.</p>
Good Response (21 - 29 Points)	<p>The logic model seems reasonable given the program design. Evaluation methods and tools make sense given the proposal.</p> <p>Agency has some experience with data, including collection and analysis, but data are not used or integrated in a systematic manner.</p>
Excellent Response (30 - 40 Points)	<p>The logic model provides a detailed story of how the program will be managed and evaluated. Tools, strategies and intended use of data are clear and align well with the proposal.</p> <p>Agency currently uses data in an extensive way and/or articulates an excellent way to integrate data into every day decisions.</p>



### Organizational Capacity (15 Points)

Insufficient Response (0 - 3 Points)	Did not answer the questions (Q26 – Q40) completely.
Moderate Response (4 - 7 Points)	<p>Q26-33 are not answered in a way that demonstrates that the Agency and proposed sub-award organization can effectively implement the proposal. (OSF proposals only, as FAA does not allow for sub-recipients.)</p> <p>For FAA proposals, questions 26-33 are answered, but the responses do not demonstrate that the Agency/Organization will be able to effectively implement its proposal given the explanations to the questions posed.</p> <p>The agency does not use resources that are applicable or relevant to their proposed program or does not use the resources in a way that would benefit their proposed program.</p>
Good Response (8 – 10 Points)	<p>Questions 26-40 are answered with adequate detail and explanation of how concepts will work within the proposal.</p> <p>Agency uses some resources that are applicable and relevant to the proposed program and uses these resources in a beneficial way for the community.</p>
Excellent Response (11-15 Points)	<p>Questions 26-40 are answered with clear detail and includes a relatively comprehensive explanation demonstrating the depth of skill and knowledge the organization (or organizations if applying for OSF with a sub-awardee) has to implement the proposal.</p> <p>The agency uses reasonable, applicable, and relevant resources and clearly describes how they will utilize these resources to support programmatic decisions.</p>

### Budget (5 Points)

Insufficient Response (0 -1 Points)	Did not provide a complete budget.
Moderate Response (2 - 3 Points)	The budget is provided but does not meet all of the requirements noted in Q 42-50. There are calculation errors that are over-budget.
Good Response (4 Points)	The budget is provided and meets most of the requirements in Q 42-50. The budget is accurate.
Excellent Response (5 Points)	Budget is correct and addresses all of the requirements in Q 42-50.