

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Center for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention
and
College of Nursing

Request for Applications

**Colorado MAT Expansion Program:
Expanding Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use
Disorders in Colorado Frontier and Rural Counties**

Applications Due: Close of Business September 16, 2019

Direct all queries to: MATexpansion@cuanschutz.edu

Attn: Tanya R. Sorrell, Ph.D.



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Application Submission Checklist

Use this checklist to confirm that all required elements are completed and ready for submission.

Applications due by close of business on September 16, 2019

Submit completed application to: MATexpansion@cuanschutz.edu

Use organization's name in the subject title

_____ Font: Times New Roman or Calibri, 11 or 12 point

_____ Limit of 16 pages

_____ Cover page (1 page)

- _____ a. Organization's legal name and address.
- _____ b. Type of clinic (community agency, private practice, or other).
- _____ c. Accreditation or special designation (e.g., Federally Qualified Health Center, Rural Health Center), if applicable.
- _____ d. Frontier/rural Colorado county or counties to be served
- _____ e. Name and contact information for the primary clinical manager of the proposed MAT expansion program.
- _____ f. Name and contact information for the responsible financial manager of the Applicant Organization.
- _____ g. Brief (250 word) summary of the proposed MAT expansion services.

_____ Budget table (1 page)

_____ Budget justification (up to 2 pages)

_____ a. Brief county-level needs assessment (up to 3 pages)

- _____ a1. Incidence of opioid use disorders identified
- _____ a2. Harmful consequences identified
- _____ a3. Unmet need for substance use disorder treatment described

_____ b. Description of organization's MAT expansion program (up to 7 pages)

- _____ b1. Proposed geographic service area(s) identified

- _____ b2. Description of plans to achieve improved access to MAT in proposed geographic area
- _____ b3. Proposed number of MAT providers
- _____ b4. Approximate number of patients to serve
- _____ b5. Description of integrating behavioral health therapies into MAT services
- _____ b6. Description of who and how data will be collected, entered, and reported
- _____ b7. Statement of intent to collaborate with the College of Nursing and the Center on clinic-level policies and procedures for MAT services
- _____ b8. Identification of expected outcomes of care for those with opioid use disorders
- _____ b9. Statement agreeing that MAT Expansion providers will participate in bimonthly teleconference meetings and periodic site visits
- _____ b10. Statement that the award recipient will participate in disseminating information about the Colorado MAT Expansion Program to the media

_____ Evaluation plan (up to 2 pages)

- _____ c1. Identification of responsible individuals to collaborate with the College of Nursing staff for program administration and evaluation/data collection
- _____ c2. Agreement to implement patient-centered interview and self-report tools twice per year
- _____ c3. Plan to submit de-identified client-level raw data using provided data entry templates
- _____ c4. Agreement to submit 1-2 page monthly report
- _____ c5. Agreement to provide data about program costs and revenues
- _____ c6. Agreement to gather data on effectiveness of program advertising and community outreach efforts
- _____ c7. Written commitment to provide semi-annual reports

Colorado MAT Expansion Program

**Jointly managed by the Center for Prescription Drug Abuse
Prevention/Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse
Prevention and the College of Nursing at the
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus**

Funds for the Colorado MAT Expansion Program are made available by appropriation of the Colorado General Assembly with the passage of [Senate Bill 2019-001](#) co-sponsored by Senate President Leroy Garcia (Pueblo) and Representative Bri Buentello (Pueblo)

I. Background

Based on research, evidence-based options are available for treating opioid use disorders. Collectively, these options are referred to as Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT). They include methadone, which can only be prescribed from a federally qualified opioid treatment program (OTP), as well as buprenorphine and naltrexone, which be prescribed in primary or integrated care settings, an OTP, or a substance treatment program. MAT, which includes the use of medication and behavioral health therapies to treat individuals with opioid use disorders, has proven to be clinically effective and shown to significantly reduce the need for an inpatient detoxification services for individuals with opioid use disorders.

The demonstrated effectiveness of MAT includes increased patient survival rates, improved retention in treatment, decreased illicit opioid use, decreased criminal activity, increased ability to attain and retain employment, and improved birth outcomes among pregnant women who have substance use disorders. MAT can contribute to lowering the risk of contracting HIV or Hepatitis C by reducing the potential for relapse.

In a preliminary MAT pilot program in Colorado that was implemented from 2017-2019 ([Senate Bill 17-074](#)), the CU College of Nursing partnered with three community agencies to develop new MAT services in Pueblo and Routt counties,

resulting in 10 new providers trained to offer MAT and 643 patients served in the first 12 months of clinical services. Preliminary data suggest improved health, more employment, and reduced legal system involvement in patients who completed six months of MAT.

Unfortunately, in many areas of Colorado, only a small percentage of individuals with OUD receive treatment. To further address the need for increased access to OUD treatment, the Colorado Senate General Assembly passed Senate Bill 19-001, a law creating the Medication-Assisted Treatment expansion program (Colorado MAT Expansion Program) to be continued in Pueblo and Routt, and developed in the San Luis Valley (including Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, Saguache, Custer and Huerfano counties), and in up to two other rural Colorado counties with a similar prevalence of opioid use disorder and lack of access to MAT.

The MAT Expansion is a two-year grant program beginning July 2019 through June 2021, intended to increase the number of MAT providers in the designated counties in order to increase overall access to evidence-based treatments for opioid use disorder and behavioral health therapies.

II. Purpose and Goals of the Program

See Senate Bill 19-001 for definitions.

Herein, this program is referred to as the Colorado MAT Expansion Program.

Purpose: Expand the Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Pilot (Senate Bill 17-074) by increasing the number of counties that may participate in the program, extending the duration of the program in existing counties, and expand the MAT workforce to treat opioid use disorder.

Goal One: Increase the number of MAT Waivered Providers who provide MAT in clinical organizations or practices in Routt and Pueblo, in the San Luis Valley, (including the counties of Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, Saguache, Custer and Huerfano), and in up to two additional rural Colorado counties with

demonstrated need and capacity development opportunities.

Goal Two: Increase access to MAT and other evidence-based treatment and behavioral health therapies for individuals with OUD in the designated program counties based on increases in the total number of patients with OUD who receive services.

III. Key Dates

a. Release of Request for Applications: Posted July 22, 2019

Technical assistance in responding to this Request for Applications will be available for applicants Wednesday, August 14 from 1:00-2:30pm . This session will be recorded and posted to the College of Nursing web page.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ucdenver.zoom.us/j/9422126124>

+16699006833,,9422126124# US (San Jose)

+16468769923,,9422126124# US (New York)

b. Letter of Intent due close of business: August 19, 2019.

Optional but encouraged. One page limit.

Address the letter to:

Dr. Tanya Sorrell

College of Nursing

Send the letter via email to MATexpansion@cuanschutz.edu with the subject title 'Letter of Intent' followed by the name of the submitting organization (Example: Letter of Intent Columbine Health Services)

c. Application due date: Close of business September 16, 2019

Submit completed application to: MATexpansion@cuanschutz.edu

Use organization's name in the subject title.

Page limit: 16 pages

Font: Times New Roman or Calibri, 11 or 12 point

d. Award notice: October 1, 2019

e. Award Period: November 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021

f. Services to patients: Begin no later than January 1, 2020

IV. Funding

The total funds available for implementation of the Colorado MAT Expansion Program is \$4.24M (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2021). Funding for single county applicants will be capped at \$400,000 for the two fiscal years. The chart below will help organizations determine the amount of service funds they are eligible to receive.

Non-SLV single county	Up to 200,000	Up to 200,000
Non-SLV two county	400,000	400,000
SLV single county	200,000	200,000
SLV multiple county	Up to \$1M	Up to \$1M
SLV All 8 counties	1,000,000	1,000,000

Please note:

- Per Senate Bill 2019-001 SLV is defined to include the counties of Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, Saguache, Custer and Huerfano. If an application is approved that will support services in all eight counties in the SLV, a single county/multiple county applicant will not be awarded.
- Funds will be allowed to be carried over from State Fiscal Year 2019-2020 to State Fiscal Year 2020-2021. An organization must submit a letter of request for use of carryover funds to the Center by May 30, 2020.
- Applicants can also apply for *an additional \$10,000 per county per year* to be used for program coordination/administrative support, community engagement events, or marketing efforts.

a. Award Information

Awardees will receive funding for eight months in State Fiscal Year 2019-2020, November 2019 through June 30, 2020 (year 1). Awardees may be eligible for additional funds in State Fiscal Year 2020-2021, beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 (year 2), contingent upon available funds, satisfactory progress toward meeting the two goals of the program, and approval by the MAT Expansion Advisory Board. See Appendix 1 for the role and membership of the Advisory Board.

Once an organization or partnership of organizations receives notice of the award, the awardee will invoice the Center for the total of year one funding. Once the 6 month report, which is due June 1, 2020, is reviewed and progress approved by the Center, the College of Nursing, and the Advisory Board, as well as confirmation of continued funding by the Colorado General Assembly, the organization will then invoice the Center for $\frac{1}{2}$ of the second year funding, with the final amount given upon receipt and approval of the semi-annual report due January 1, 2021.

b. Progress Reports

A 6-month report is due to the Center no later than June 1, 2020, a mid-year report due January 1, 2021 and a final report due to the Center June 1, 2021. Awardees must also agree to submit monthly reports and to collect patient-level data as described in the evaluation section below.

c. Applicant Eligibility

In order to qualify, the applicant or applicants:

- i. Must have practices serving at least one of the following counties: Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, Saguache, Custer or Huerfano counties; or in one or more rural Colorado counties where the need for access to MAT and the capacity to provide MAT with assistance from the MAT Expansion program is demonstrated.

- ii. Must demonstrate need in the county by including data on the prevalence of opioid use disorder, the overdose rate for that county, and the provider capacity in the practice.
- iii. Must describe how the applicant will improve access to MAT services including behavioral health therapies.
- iv. Must provide a written commitment to involve MAT providers in periodic consultations with the College of Nursing and Center staff for program administration and evaluation/data collection.
- v. Must identify a specific staff member or members responsible for data collection, data entry, and data reporting monthly.

V. Grant Application Requirements

To be considered for an award, an eligible organization or practice must submit an application in accordance with the Colorado MAT Expansion Program guidelines and procedures outlined below.

Applicants must provide the following information (16 page maximum):

- i. Cover page (1 page) with the following information:
 - a. Organization's legal name and address.
 - b. Type of clinic (community agency, private practice, or other).
 - c. Accreditation or special designation (e.g., Federally Qualified Health Center, Rural Health Center), if applicable.
 - d. Frontier/rural Colorado county or counties to be served
 - e. Name and contact information for the primary clinical manager of the proposed MAT expansion program.
 - f. Name and contact information for the responsible financial manager of the applicant organization.
 - g. Brief (250 word) abstract/summary of the proposed MAT expansion services.
- ii. Budget table (1 page) with the funds requested by category (e.g., staff

- salaries/benefits, data management staff, training fees, advertising and community outreach).
- iii. Budget justification (up to 2 pages) describing the purposes for which the applicant will use the funds. Justifications must be provided for each of the proposed categories in the budget table.
 - iv. A brief county-level needs assessment (up to 3 pages) for the proposed geographic area(s) to be served. See V.a below for details.
 - v. Description of the organization's proposed MAT expansion program (up to 7 pages). See V.b below for details.
 - vi. An evaluation plan (up to 2 pages). See V.c below for details.

a. Needs Assessment (up to 3 pages)

Applicants must demonstrate needs for access to MAT in the proposed geographic service area. The needs assessment should present a summary of data at the county level (where available) related to prescription opioid and illicit opioid use and abuse (i.e., more specific than statewide statistics on opioid use disorders (OUDs).

Sources of data include:

- [Consortium Data Dashboard](#) (Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention)
- [Prescription Drug Data Profiles](#) (Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment-county specific)
- [Miles Away from Help: The Opioid Epidemic and Medication-Assisted Treatment in Colorado](#) (Colorado Health Institute, 2018)
- [Needs Assessment for the SAMHSA State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis Grant](#) (Colorado Health Institute for the Colorado Office of Behavioral Health, 2017)
- [Heroin in Colorado, 2011-2016](#) (Heroin Response Work Group, Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention, 2018)

The summary of need should provide an overview of:

a1. The incidence of OUD in the county, including (if known) any evidence about specific vulnerable populations that are disproportionately affected by OUD; changes in the incidence of OUD over time in the county; and type of opioids used, for instance prescription painkillers versus heroin.

a2. Harmful consequences of OUD in the county, including (if known) any data about the overdose death rate, other adverse health consequences experienced by people with OUD, unemployment related to OUD, homelessness related to OUD, excessive emergency department or other health service utilization related to OUD, excess legal system involvement or costs related to OUD, or any other psychosocial consequences of OUD.

a3. Unmet need for substance use treatment in the county, including any evidence about the current MAT services available, the number of patients with OUD already receiving care, the estimated number of persons with OUD in the county who are out of care or not retained in care, or any special populations such as hospital ED patients or maternal-child health clients who are not currently receiving adequate treatment for OUD.

b. MAT Expansion Program Description (up to 7 pages)

Applicants must also demonstrate capacity to provide services in the proposed geographic area and discuss how the funds awarded will allow for further development of the MAT program or an expansion of services to address an unmet need discussed in section V.a above.

This section of the application must include:

b1. The proposed geographic service area(s). Applicants *must* provide evidence

of physical healthcare facilities located in the proposed rural county or counties to be served, or must provide a comprehensive plan and timeline to open such facilities.

Telehealth-only programs are not eligible for funding. However, the inclusion of telehealth or mobile services to *augment* the services offered at brick-and-mortar clinic locations is encouraged, and it is allowable to develop partnerships with other organizations that offer health care services at a physical location in the service area.

Evidence of any current or proposed partnerships/collaborations with other community partners- medical (e.g., hospitals, EMT, clinics), legal (e.g., probation, judges, parole), or other (e.g., schools, harm reduction centers) must be included, with letters of support, with the application.

b2. The number of providers willing to complete the required waiver training to become MAT providers, including their names, credentials, and experience if known, or specific plans to recruit and hire such individuals if not currently employed by the organization.

b3. Approximate number of patients treated in the last two years with MAT, including buprenorphine or naltrexone, and capacity of current and proposed providers (e.g. Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant) to increase the number, types of care/treatment provides, novel groups to be provided MAT care/treatment they anticipate treating under MAT Expansion.

b4. Description of how the organization will integrate behavioral health therapies into the proposed MAT Expansion Program.

b5. Description of who and how data will be collected, entered, and reported monthly.

b6. A statement of intent to collaborate with the College of Nursing and the Center to institute clinic-level policies and procedures for implementing MAT

according to federal and state guidelines, and review of progress. Staff of the College of Nursing will assist with establishing such policies and procedures.

b7. A description of how the applicant(s) plans to achieve improved access to MAT in the proposed geographic area, such as community outreach and publicity efforts, establishment of referral networks, screening strategies, public relations, partnerships with community agencies or health care providers, etc. Include current or proposed plans for partnerships/collaboration with other agencies (legal, medical, schools, etc.) to facilitate referrals and coordination of services in the proposed geographic area.

Agencies' plans for patient recruitment should specifically address any areas of unmet need identified in the needs assessment summary, such as how the waitlist can be reduced, how vulnerable at-risk populations in the county can be reached, or how retention in care can be improved.

As part of the recruitment plan, please also describe the applicant organization's patient recruitment track record. Approaches to patient recruitment, should be included.

b8. Identification of expected outcomes of care for those with opioid use disorder, which should relate to the harms of OUD identified in the needs assessment.

b9. A statement agreeing that MAT Expansion providers will participate in at least monthly teleconference meetings and periodic site visits with the College of Nursing and other Colorado MAT Expansion Program sites for discussing implementation success and challenges.

b10. A statement that the award recipient will participate with the College of Nursing and Center in disseminating information about the Colorado MAT Expansion Program to the media.

c. Evaluation Plan (up to 2 pages)

The evaluation plan must include:

c1. Identification of a responsible individual to collaborate with the College of Nursing staff in establishing and implementing an evaluation plan, including a statement of that person's qualifications and experience.

c2. An agreement to implement patient-centered interview and self-report tools provided by the College of Nursing twice per year with each client receiving MAT services.

c3. A plan to submit de-identified client-level raw data using the College of Nursing data entry templates to the College of Nursing for combined data analysis, using an online data submission portal provided and managed by the College of Nursing.

c4. An agreement to submit a 1-2 page monthly report to the College of Nursing with:

- i. the number of waived providers trained and available to offer MAT that month and cumulative;
- ii. the number of unique patients starting MAT that month, by type of medication;
- iii. the number of unique patients receiving behavioral health therapies for OUD; and
- iv. a summary of any staff training received, policies and procedures implemented, new program marketing or outreach strategies attempted, new behavioral therapy modalities offered, barriers to providing MAT, and successes or innovations to improve the quality of the MAT program.

c5. An agreement to provide data about the program's costs and revenues to the College of Nursing as part of the monthly reports (e.g., staff salaries, percent of time allocated to training, patient advertising and outreach costs, training costs, number of patients seen, reimbursement rates).

c6. An agreement to gather data about the effectiveness of the advertising and community outreach efforts referred to in section b.7, above.

c7. A written commitment to provide semi-annual reports described in the Reporting Requirements and participate in the evaluation process.

VI. Reporting Requirements

- i. Each organization or practice that receives funding through the program must submit monthly progress reports, a semi-annual summary progress report, and an annual report to the Center and College of Nursing by dates set by the College of Nursing. At a minimum, the reports must include the information shown in the report template in Attachment 1.
- ii. In addition to these reports, each MAT Expansion site must submit client-level data on a continuous basis as described in the "evaluation plan" section above and as finalized collaboratively with the College. See Attachment 3 for proposed client-level measures, as may be modified from time to time in collaboration with the Center, CU College of Nursing, the Advisory Board, and MAT Expansion recipients.
- iii. On or before June 30, 2020, and on or before June 30, 2021, the Center shall submit a summarized report on the Colorado MAT Expansion Program to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Senate and the Health, Insurance, and Environment and Public Health Care and Human Services Committees of the House of Representatives, or any successor committees and to the Governor.

This report will be shared with sites participating in the program.

- iv. At a minimum, the report must include:
 - a. A description of the MAT expansion program.
 - b. A list identifying the award recipients, including the amount awarded to each award recipient and a detailed description of how each grant recipient used the grant award.
 - c. The total number of providers who completed the required waiver training and became certified to prescribe buprenorphine, listed by the county participating in the program.
 - d. The total number of patients served during the course of the program, listed by county participating in the program.
 - e. A summary of evaluation results of the program.
 - f. A summary of lessons learned and recommendations for implementing MAT in other communities in the state.

VII. Application Review Process and Criteria

The College of Nursing and the Center will review the applications and make initial recommendations to the Advisory Board, which will review and discuss the recommendations, jointly making final award decisions.

a. Scoring of Applications

The applications will be scored as follows:

- i. Cover page: completeness of items and narrative overview. (5 points)
- ii. Budget table: completeness of budget table to address anticipated cost items. (5 points)
- iii. Budget justification: adequacy of justification for each item in the budget table. (10 points)
- iv. Needs assessment: comprehensiveness of the statement of unmet needs, including epidemiology of OUD, harms caused by OUD, and gaps in current

services. (20 points)

- v. Program description: thoroughness of each of the required program items in meeting the two goals, including collaborations with other partners in the geographic area served. (40 points)
- vi. Evaluation plan: completeness of the evaluation plan and its approach. (20 points)

Total points: 100

b. Review Criteria

The following criteria will be used in evaluating applications:

- i. The number of providers willing to complete the required waiver training.
- ii. The number of people anticipated to be served by the applicant organization.
- iii. The commitment of the applicant to participate fully in the required evaluation activities with the College of Nursing.
- iv. The written commitment of the applicant to collaborate with the College of Nursing and the Center on implementation, including MAT policies and procedures.
- v. The written commitment of the applicant to participate in periodic consultations with College of Nursing and Center staff.
- vi. The planned community outreach and advertising activities.
- vii. The strategy(ies) to improve access to MAT and/or reduce waitlists.
- viii. The plan to either provide behavioral health therapies in the practice or have a referral mechanism in place.
- ix. The written plan for how data will be collected, entered and reported on monthly.
- x. The eligibility of the applicant(s), including a physical location(s) in the

proposed service area and the availability of healthcare providers affiliated with the organization to offer MAT.

The Center will provide funding to the approved applicants based on these guidelines after discussion with the Advisory Board.

Appendix 1: Colorado MAT Expansion Program Advisory Board

The responsibilities of the Colorado MAT Expansion Advisory Board are to:

- Review and update program guidelines and procedures;
- Advise the Center for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention and the College of Nursing on the implementation of the MAT Expansion Program;
- Review and make recommendations on grant applications, including recommendations for grant award amounts;
- Provide guidance and recommendations to the Center and the College of Nursing on evaluating the MAT Expansion Program.

County/region	Organization	Board member
Statewide	CO Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention	Rob Valuck, PhD
Statewide	CO Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention	Jose Esquibel
Statewide	CU College of Nursing	Tanya Sorrell
Statewide	CU College of Nursing	Mary Weber
Statewide	CU College of Nursing	Paul Cook
Routt	Northwest Colorado Community Health Partnership	Mara Rhodes
Pueblo	Pueblo County Heroin Task Force/SURE	Mike Nerenberg, MD
Statewide	Department of Health Care Policy and Financing	Kim McConnell, PhD
SLV	Valley Wide Health Systems	Emelin Martinez, FNP, MSN
SLV	Valley Wide Health Systems	Justin Hanel, Pharm. D.
SLV	County Commissioner	Gene Glover (Rio Grande County)
SLV	San Luis Valley Area Health Education Center	Charlotte Ledonne, RN, BSN, MA, LPC
SLV	Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials	Della Vieira, RN, MPH
Pueblo	Appointed from County Commissioner Board	Chief Jeffrey Teschner
Routt	County Commissioner	Beth Melton
Western Slope	West Slope Casa	Carmen Iacino
Statewide	Colorado Department of Human Services	Katie Wells

Clear Creek	Evergreen Nursing Service	Mary Pat Dewald, APN
Statewide	Colorado Nurses Association	Donna Strickland
Add'l county TBD	County Commissioner	TBD
Add'l county TBD	County Commissioner	TBD

Appendix 2. Sample Monthly Report Template

Provider Agency:

Date:

1. Please list all MDs, NPs or PAs currently available to provide MAT (name and credentials):

2. Please list all training received by your staff in the previous calendar month related to the MAT program (training title, training provider, names and titles of staff participating):

3. Have you implemented new policies or procedures related to the MAT program? Please describe:

4. How many unique patients received services in the previous calendar month (e.g., for February report: from the first through last day of January)? Please separate by MAT vs other services.

Service Type	# Patients seen by NPs or PAs	# Patients seen by MDs or others
Buprenorphine induction		
New methadone patients		
New naltrexone/vivitrol pts		
Ongoing MAT (any type)		
Other behavioral health therapies		

5. Please describe any recent changes in the types of behavioral health therapies available at your site.

6. What outreach and community engagement strategies have you tried in order to reach new MAT patients? How many prospective patients were reached, and how many started MAT?

7. What costs were incurred in implementing the MAT program in the previous calendar month? Note: Please estimate all costs incurred relative to the MAT program, not just those invoiced to CU.

Marketing	\$	Training	\$
Provider Salaries	\$	Administration	\$
Provider Incentives	\$	Patient Incentives	\$
Other	\$	Describe:	

8. What revenues were received for the MAT program? Please include Medicaid payments, private insurance fee-for-service payments, block grant money used to support the MAT program, etc.

9. What barriers did you encounter in the MAT program this month? Any strategies that helped?