

Request for Proposals: Regional Opioid Data Assessment & Gap Analysis Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, and Washington Counties

1. Project Overview

Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare manages National Opioid Settlement funds for the five-county area (Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, and Washington Counties). We are seeking a qualified consultant or firm to conduct a comprehensive data gathering and assessment project to evaluate the current state of opioid use, service availability, and systemic gaps within the five-county Region 6 area. The goal of this project is to establish a data-driven picture of the current crisis to better inform future resource allocation.

- Budget: Not to exceed \$50,000.
- Timeline: Proposals due by August 28, 2026, 5 pm. Project to commence on or around October 20, 2026, with final deliverables due by June 30, 2027.

2. Scope of Work & Key Deliverables

The primary deliverable is a Comprehensive Regional Assessment Report that synthesizes quantitative and qualitative data. Key data points should include:

- Epidemiological Trends: Prevalence, overdose rates, and emergency-related data (stratified by county).
- The Service Continuum: Mapping of existing prevention programming, treatment services, and recovery supports.
- Barrier Analysis: Identification of obstacles to service access (e.g., transportation, stigma, wait times).
- Gap & Misalignment Analysis: Highlighting where current services fail to meet the actual needs of the community.

3. Core Research Objectives

The selected partner will be expected to address the following investigative priorities:

- The Evolving Landscape: How has the opioid crisis changed and what is the current reality? We seek to understand the shift from prescription-led OUD to the current fentanyl-driven environment.
- Sector-Specific Pressing Issues: Identifying the most acute challenges facing Law Enforcement, Healthcare, Prevention, and Social Services.
- Methodological Rigor: Given the limitations of traditional phone-based surveys for stigmatized behaviors, how can we capture a truly representative picture of "hidden" prevalence and qualitative experiences?

4. Proposal Requirements

Interested bidders should submit a proposal (5 – 7 pages) including:

1. Project Approach: A brief description of the methodology for gathering both quantitative and qualitative data.
2. Timeline: A phased schedule leading to the June 30, 2027 completion date.
3. Relevant Experience: Examples of previous community health assessments or substance use research.
4. Budget Breakdown: A high-level allocation of the proposed fee.

Proposals must be submitted to Tad Spencer, Manager of System Initiatives, at tspencer@regionsix.com by the deadline. It is the responsibility of the applicant to confirm receipt of submission.

5. Limits on Communication / Question Submission Process

After the release of the RFP, no verbal statements made by individual members of the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee, Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare personnel, or members of the Review Committee shall be binding for the Regional Governing Board. Questions regarding the grant application must be submitted in writing to be answered.

Applicants may submit written questions to Tad Spencer, Manager of System Initiatives, at tspencer@regionsix.com. Responses to all written questions will be provided directly to the person who submitted the question and then posted on the Region 6 website at regionsix.com.

Apart from the written communication outlined above, prospective applicants are prohibited from contacting Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare personnel, Behavioral Health Advisory Committee members, and/or Regional Governing Board members regarding the application process during the review period and until application determinations are made and announced.

If there are changes or important interpretations to be communicated to prospective applicants before the application due date, those will be posted on the Region 6 website. It is the responsibility of the agency or organization submitting an application to monitor the website for additional communication.

6. Application Review Process

A review committee will independently evaluate each application. Review committee names and any working documents, including applicant scores, will not be made public or released to individual applicants. Recommendations from the review committee will be taken to Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare's Advisory Committee for approval before being forwarded to the Regional Governing Board for final determination.

We anticipate presenting the selected application to the Regional Governing Board for approval at the October 14, 2026 meeting. (Date subject to change.) Applicants will be notified of their status afterward.