

Together We RIZE

5th Anniversary Grant Program Request for Proposal



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Introduction and Background

RIZE Massachusetts Foundation (RIZE) is the only public-private partnership solely dedicated to funding solutions to end the overdose crisis. Guided by those with lived experience and unafraid of new ideas, RIZE partners with organizations across the Commonwealth to build networks, design programming, and support novel approaches to prevent overdose. Created in 2017, RIZE has been on a mission to solve the overdose crisis, follow the evidence, and take big risks along with its partners to reach **zero stigma** and **zero deaths**.

Unfortunately, the crisis continues. In Massachusetts we lose over 2,000 lives each year to overdose—with a disproportionate impact on Hispanic and Black men who have experienced a recent increase in fatal overdoses. We lost more people to overdose in 2021 than any year ever recorded, due in part to the ongoing stressors related to the COVID-19 pandemic and continued prevalence of fatal fentanyl in the drug supply.

Through ***Together We RIZE***, we hope to continue our fierce and unwavering commitment to our partners by funding bold, community-driven projects and initiatives that have the potential to bend the curve of this crisis. Working together, we can meet the urgency of the moment and put this tragic period behind us.

***Together We RIZE* will make funding available for five one-year grants of up to \$100,000. We recognize that real change can take longer than 12 months. We will do our best to work iteratively with our partners to continue projects that have demonstrative results.**

The ***Together We RIZE*** grant program has been created to commemorate our five-year fight to end the overdose crisis. We have learned a lot from our collaborative approach in our first five years. These lessons together serve as a foundation for our collaboration with current and future partners to end the stigma associated with addiction, keep people safe from overdose, and ensure that anyone who wants it has access to quality care no matter who they are or where they live. The five lessons below are what fuel us and will undoubtedly be helpful as we mark our fifth anniversary with our partners through ***Together We RIZE***:

1 **People closest to the problem often have the best solutions.** They're often farthest away from where decisions are made too. RIZE is working to change that. We include people with lived experience in our decision making, on our teams, and in our partnerships, and we compensate them for their knowledge. With funding from this program, we hope that our partners will have the resources and support they need to do the same.

2 **Treatment is not one size fits all.** It should be guided by science and delivered with compassion and respect for the dignity and autonomy of the individual. Everyone should be offered immediate access to a range of treatments, including all types of medication for opioid use disorder (OUD), psychosocial interventions, and recovery supports. However, many people who need services do not receive them, in large part due to behavioral health workforce shortages. We are working to bolster all components of the behavioral health workforce needed to deliver effective care, without stigma, for all people with substance use disorders in Massachusetts.

- 3 The drug overdose crisis in Massachusetts continues to evolve.** Although fentanyl is a main driver of deaths, most overdose deaths now co-occur with a non-opioid drug. Understanding the causes and developing solutions to increase the availability of harm reduction services and treatment for polysubstance use is a priority.
- 4 Harm reduction is an important part of the treatment continuum.** Harm reduction focuses on keeping people who use drugs alive and as safe as possible, regardless of whether their goal is recovery. We must work together to build up and support harm reduction services and make them an equal part of the treatment continuum for OUD.
- 5 The social determinants of health must be addressed.** Other aspects of life — poverty, racism, classism, social isolation, sexual exploitation, and other social inequities — must be considered in order to treat the whole patient and reduce overdose. Understanding the root causes of addiction and eliminating the harmful impacts of stigma on people who use drugs is a key driver for success in ending this epidemic.

For *Together We RIZE*, we invite you to share your boldest solutions to end the stigma associated with addiction, keep people safe from overdose, and ensure that anyone who wants it has access to quality care no matter who they are or where they live.

To foster our desired outcomes, our approach for *Together We RIZE* will be rooted firmly in our imperative to ensure that people with lived experience, and those who love them, are part of the decision-making process. Once grants are selected, we will continue to do all that we can to ensure that funded organizations have the support they need to be successful.

Community-Driven Grant Selection Approach



For **Together We RIZE**, we invite you to share ideas that fall within one of the three strategies below. We have also included several project ideas below, just for illustrative purposes. We encourage out-of-the-box thinking – and as always, RIZE hopes to partner with those that bring the boldest approaches to disrupt the status quo and have real potential to help end the overdose crisis. RIZE especially welcomes ideas for projects aligned with our current impact areas to bolster and support the behavioral health workforce, build up and support harm reduction services, and increase access and equity.

RIZE MA Foundation Impact Areas 2022 - 2023

 <p>Workforce</p>	 <p>Harm Reduction</p>	 <p>Access & Equity</p>
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Example Projects

Catalyze Effective Interventions



Compassionate and creative approaches across the care continuum:

- Novel approaches for person-centered services for clients or patients
- New strategies to increase access to services and eliminate inequities
- Inventive harm reduction programming designed by people who use drugs
- Creative approaches to increase access to harm reduction services and treatment for polysubstance use and/or co-occurring mental health disorder
- Innovative efforts to bolster or enhance the behavioral health workforce

Generate and Disseminate Knowledge



Analysis, research and evaluation, and dissemination of programmatic or policy interventions to increase visibility, expand the evidence base, and inform policy:

- Internal data analysis for promising programs within our impact areas
- Research to improve policies and interventions to end the overdose crisis
- Knowledge generation to enhance, scale, or replicate promising practices

Inform and Inspire Bold Partnerships to Drive Solutions Forward



Organizations coming together to end the overdose crisis:

- New collaborations to create space or find common ground to develop unexpected approaches, promote promising practices, accelerate action or allocate resources to keep people safe from overdose
- New regional collaboratives or municipal partnerships to share best practices, create linkages to care, and/or to develop community-led ideas to optimize the state’s opioid settlement funds
- Best practice sharing to educate and inspire leaders, particularly to better serve Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) who use drugs

There are a few activities that we are not able to fund:

- Fundraising pursuits
- Capital campaigns or annual appeals
- Clinical or drug trials
- Support for individuals, for-profits, or for the promulgation of religious beliefs

Who can apply

RIZE encourages applications from individual non-profit organizations as well as from partnerships that already have an existing relationship or that are newly coming together to end the overdose crisis.

Individual non-profit organizations	One grant to one organization
Partnerships	One grant to a lead non-profit organization that will subgrant to its partners

How we plan to show up in partnership with you

RIZE sees this program as an opportunity to partner closely with grantees and other collaborators. To do this well, we imagine we may want to:

- Host virtual or in-person meetings and convenings to create space for sharing ideas and/or for community-led learning opportunities
- Request a brief end of year grant report for shared learning, two-way communication, to document what we learn, and to share information with our funders, and others who might benefit from learning alongside us
- Collaborate on potential publicity, media, and dissemination to advance shared goals

Timeline

August 23, 2022	Release request for proposals
September 7, 2022	Questions due via email to sarah.merrefield@rizema.org
September 9, 2022	Questions and answers posted on RIZE website
October 5, 2022	Proposals due
November 8, 2022	Decisions announced