



ARC INSPIRE Initiative Q&A

February 4, 2025

The following are answers to the questions that were entered into the Q&A box during the INSPIRE Initiative pre-application webinar held on February 4, 2025.

NOSA and Application Specifics

Can you flag any major differences between the FY 2024 and FY 2025 NOSAs?

The major differences between the FY24 and FY25 NOSAs include a new layout, the use of plain language to make the FY25 NOSA easier to understand, and new funding priorities (e.g. research and evaluation).

Is there a way to view the entire application?

You can locate the full NOSA by visiting this site:

<https://www.arc.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/FY-2025-INSPIRE-NOSA.pdf>.

What is the Assistance Listing Number for the INSPIRE program?

Refer to page 1 of the NOSA. The listing number is 23.002.

Are the Executive Summary and the final application submitted as two separate documents?

Refer to page 18 in the NOSA. The Executive Summary and the final application must be uploaded as two separate files.

How do successful applicants stand out?

Successful and strong applications must follow all requirements as listed in the NOSA. Special attention should be paid to the Implementation (page 10) and Planning (page 15) grant scoring matrices.

Is October 1, 2025, the mandatory start date for INSPIRE projects?

Refer to page 8 of the NOSA. October 1, 2025 is not a mandatory start date. Grant start dates (as indicated in the SF-424) can be October 1, 2025 or later.

Can you have more than one Reviewr login?

Each individual needing access to the Reviewr site will need to create their own account with a unique email and password.

It looks like there is a section on stigma reduction. Is that the language we should use?

On page 7 of the INSPIRE NOSA, ARC describes the concept of “stigma reduction” for individuals with substance use disorder as one of many funding priorities for this program. ARC would not require our exact wording to be used as it pertains to any funding priority but encourages applicants to review them so that they can appropriately describe in their INSPIRE application how their project will address one or more of the priorities.

Project Eligibility

Do you have to show that all people served by the project are recovering from substance use disorder (SUD)? Or can it be a project that works with a mix of people?

All INSPIRE projects must target and focus on the SUD population; however the SUD population can be broad in the sense it can include some people with SUD use, or misuse, experiences with homelessness/lack of inadequate housing, prior or current incarceration, food insecurity, family challenges, etc.

We are interested in serving a transitional county, as there are no current projects in this county. Would that be advantageous for our project? Are more distressed counties prioritized at ARC?

ARC encourages all applicants to apply for funds based on what is appropriate and feasible given their capacity, resources, availability of partners, etc. However, the permissible ARC funding and match rates are determined by the counties served by the project. Distressed county projects are eligible to receive the most funding with the least required match. Please see our [Match Requirements for ARC Grants](#) webpage for more information.

How is "youth" defined for the INSPIRE program?

Refer to page 10 of the NOSA. An applicant's proposal must target youth (ages 15–24) and/or adults (ages 18 and older) to reduce future and/or current use, economic impacts of SUD, and associated harms within the region, with the ultimate goal of assisting individuals to enter or reenter the workforce.

Our non-profit is only 2 years old and we are currently operating in only one county. Are we eligible to apply for an INSPIRE grant?

Refer to page 3 of the NOSA. Eligible organizations include, but are not limited to non-profits, states, counties, institutions of higher education, and others.

Letters of Intent

How broad can the INSPIRE LOI be? We understand that the full application must align closely with the LOI to avoid disqualification, but we are still in the process of narrowing the project scope and defining our partners. Could you clarify how flexible the LOI can be at this stage?

Refer to page 8 in the NOSA. If your final application for INSPIRE FY 2025 funding substantially differs from the information included in the LOI, your project will be disqualified during the review process. Please keep in mind that your LOI must be specific enough to identify your intended project concept.

Where can I find an example of a successful letter of intent (LOI) or application?

Successful LOIs should include answers to every question, as appropriate to your scope of work, as well as enough content so ARC can get an understanding of your project plan and eligibility. For information on past awarded projects, please take a look at our [Investments in Action](#) page.

Match Requirements

What constitutes the required "match"? Can it be in-kind salaries and fringe or other resources that support the project?

Refer to page 3 in the NOSA. Matching funds can be federal or non-federal contributions, or a combination of both. They can be cash, in-kind, loans, other grants, etc. Match funds can be applied to any applicable budget category, including personnel and fringe benefits.

We plan to use opioid settlement funds as part of our match. The county only allocates funds one year at a time. Are there strategies for using future settlement funds in our project?

Each county, state, and municipality has set their own timeline and restrictions for using opioid settlement funding. However, INSPIRE match should be confirmed or accessible by July 12, 2025. If funds are set to be committed to your organization after July 12, 2025, please alert ARC by reaching out to SUD@arc.gov, and indicate this in your LOI and final application.

Can the value of a building where training and recovery housing units are located be counted as match?

The fair market value of a building may be used in some circumstances for programs that expect to operate long-term out of the building, however ARC will ultimately determine whether the fair market value may be applied to the grant. We recommend that applicants review [2 CFR 200.306, "Cost Sharing"](#) and, while this expected match may be included in the application, consider additional match possibilities in case the total fair market value cannot be applied to the grant.

Is it permissible to use funding from a Foundation as match?

Foundation funding may be used as match for an ARC project, so long as the final application includes a match letter from the Foundation or a grantee agreement.

Are match waivers available for INSPIRE applicants?

Waivers are not available; applicants must provide a match for INSPIRE projects. Matching funds should be confirmed or accessible by July 12, 2025. Please refer to page 3 and 4 of the INSPIRE NOSA.

Do we have to have all match amounts when we submit the LOI (due February 10, 2025, by 5 p.m. ET) and/or the grant application (due March 10, 2025, by 5 p.m. ET)?

Refer to page 4 of the NOSA. Match must be committed to the project by July 12, 2025. If funds are expected to be committed to your organization after July 12, 2025, please alert ARC by reaching out to SUD@arc.gov, and indicate this in your LOI and final application.

Allowable Costs

Under this grant, what can we hire new staff to do?

Refer to page 5 in the NOSA. INSPIRE project activities may include, but are not limited to, providing workforce training, building out peer support networks, and increasing organizational capacity as you work to improve your SUD ecosystem. The hiring of new staff is an allowable cost, but make sure you address the sustainability of any new positions paid for with the grant after the grant funding is exhausted.

Is transportation for recipients an allowable cost, for example the purchase of a van?

Refer to page 5 of the NOSA. INSPIRE activities may include addressing barriers to workforce participation, such as providing access to timely and reliable transportation, housing, legal services, etc.

Subgrantees/Partners

We are currently a subrecipient of an INSPIRE grant; a partner organization is the grant recipient. Are we eligible to apply for THIS opportunity as the grant recipient?

Current recipients, subrecipients, or project partners are eligible to apply for FY25 INSPIRE funds as long as their FY25 scope of work does not overlap with the current project they are working on. We encourage entities who find themselves in this situation to reach out to SUD@arc.gov with more information on their situation so ARC can help them determine whether there is an overlap.

If the lead applicant is a non-profit but they include partners (like small businesses) who are not non-profits, is that OK in building out the partnerships and planning efforts?

ARC evaluates this on a case-by-case basis. Generally, ARC does not permit for-profit subrecipients, but we permit for-profit project partners/supporters (e.g. business pledges to hire workers in recovery).

Are at least 3 partnerships required for planning grant applicants? Or is this implementation only?

At least 3 partnership/engagement letters are required for Implementation projects. See page 12 of the NOSA.

Miscellaneous

What are the chances this program will not be funded?

As described in the INSPIRE NOSA (pg. 1), the awarding of grants under this program is subject to enactment of a full year's Fiscal Year 2025 appropriation by Congress. When ARC receives any update on the program's funding, we will share it with applicants.

Do you plan on rescheduling the *Getting the Grant* workshops?

The *Getting the Grant* workshops have not yet been rescheduled. Please periodically check ARC's website for announcements about rescheduled and new events.