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Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP)

State Fiscal Year 2026

Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (BSCI): Building Engagement Around Crisis, Outreach, and Navigation (BEACON) Program

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)

Applicant Technical Assistance Call
Wednesday, August 20th, 2025 1:00 - 2:00 PM

gocpp.maryland.gov/grants/

General Housekeeping

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- Subtitles and Translation Services are available by enabling Closed Caption and/or Interpretation in the navigation panel at the bottom of the screen 
- To ask questions, please type them in the Q&A Feature. Panelists may unmute you to ask or clarify aloud
- The presentation will be posted to its corresponding grant program page on the GOCPP website

GOCPP- BSCI Team: Introductions

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GOCPP Staff Directory

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Technical Assistance Objectives

Understand key concepts related to submission of an application under the SFY2026 BSCI BEACON Program, including:

- Goals and priorities of this program
- Eligibility
- Award information
- Application requirements
- Application review process

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Grants Management System (GMS): Access

For new GMS users, please follow the instructions under Request GMS Access webpage:

- https://gocpp.maryland.gov/grants/requesting-access/

For GMS technical support (system support such as GMS access/login), please contact our GMS Help Desk via the following email:

- support@goccp.freshdesk.com

For GMS resources, please use the following link:

- https://gocpp.maryland.gov/grants/gms-help-videos/

Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program
ERPO Liaison Site Partner Program

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NOFA Link: https://gocpp.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/SFY2026-BSCI-BEACON-NOFA.pdf

- The SFY26 BSCI Building Engagement Around Crisis, Outreach, and Navigation (BEACON) Program provides funding to support local governments and nonprofit organizations in implementing innovative crisis response, outreach, and engagement strategies that reduce firearm violence and address behavioral health needs.
- Successful applicants will propose initiatives that:
  - Strengthen crisis intervention and outreach efforts within their communities
  - Build partnerships that expand access to supportive services and resources
  - Enhance public awareness and engagement around crisis response and prevention
- Programs must align with at least one of the following core objectives:
  - Improve crisis intervention and engagement through partnerships and collaboration
  - Expand access to training, education, and public awareness initiatives
  - Connect individuals in crisis to services that address their risks and needs holistically

Funding Eligibility

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Eligible Entities: Nonprofit Organizations (including community-based and faith-based); nonprofit institutions of higher learning, local government agencies, state government agencies

- *Ineligible* Applicants:
  - Individuals
  - For-Profit Entities

BEACON Program Goals

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- Organizations must strive to meet the following goals through the implementation of supporting activities, tailored to **address firearm violence prevention, crisis intervention, behavioral health response, and youth violence prevention efforts.**
- **Three Primary Goals***
  - **Strengthen crisis intervention and firearm violence prevention** through expanded court-based, hospital-based, and community-based programs, improved risk identification, and stronger coordination across systems
  - **Expand access to services and strengthen collaboration** by integrating mobile crisis response, hospital and community resources, peer supports, and long-term case management to ensure holistic support
  - **Promote awareness and comprehensive training** for stakeholders and the public through education campaigns, accessible training programs, and culturally responsive outreach in high-need areas.

**Note: Goals are tailored based on the applicant's proposed strategy – whether focused on direct crisis intervention, service expansion, or community education and training efforts.*

Funding Priorities

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To ensure alignment with Maryland's existing firearm violence prevention efforts, applicants MUST demonstrate how their proposed project will support at least 1 (one) of the following priority areas identified by the Maryland Byrne Advisory Board:

- **Behavioral Health Crisis Response** - Strengthen mobile crisis teams, expand co-responder models, and build peer support networks for post-crisis recovery.
- **Court-Based Programs** - Enhance courts' ability to identify firearm risks, expand specialty courts, and implement validated risk assessment tools.
- **Youth Violence Prevention** - Implement school-based firearm safety/conflict resolution programs, expand mentoring/after-school initiatives, and support violence interruption efforts.
- **Hospital-Based Intervention** - Strengthen HVIPs with trauma-informed care, bedside engagement after firearm injuries, long-term case management, and coordination with ERPO processes where applicable.

Award Details

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Due Date for Applications: Friday, September 5, 2025 by 11:59 PM

Period of Award: October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026

- Number of Awards: Up to 30
- Funding Range: $50,000 to $200,000
- Maximum Award Amount: $200,000

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Program Narrative

All applicants are **required** to adhere to the word limits applied to each section of their narrative:

- Overall Organization Information (Word Limit: 500)
- Problem Statement/Needs Justification (Word Limit: 500)
- Program Purpose Area (Word Limit: 150)
- Project Design (Word Limit: 750)
- Goals & Objectives (Word Limit: 1,500)
- Data Collection Plan (Word Limit: 250)
- Grant Personnel (Word Limit: 500)
- Sustainability (Word Limit: 200)
- Applicant Disclosure of Pending Applications Statement (Word Limit: 150)
- Budget Details and Spending Plan (Word Limit: 750)

Budget - Allowable Costs

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All budget line items must be reasonable, allowable, and allocable to the project proposed for funding.

Allowable Costs:

- Salaries and fringe benefits for:
  - Crisis responders, behavioral health professionals, and peer support specialists
  - Case managers and service coordinators assisting individuals and families post-crisis
  - Public education/outreach staff for awareness campaigns
  - Data analysts and evaluators to track outcomes and improve service delivery
- Operating Expenses
  - Rental space, printing, and communication costs directly related to program implementation
- Travel
  - Costs for attending training, fieldwork, or inter-agency collaboration
    - Mileage, lodging, and per diem
    - Ground transportation expenses

Note: There is **no match required for this funding source**. Do NOT enter a match into your budget. If you wish to show other financial or in-kind contributions to your program, it may be written into your narrative.

Budget - Allowable Costs

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All budget line items must be reasonable, allowable, and allocable to the project proposed for funding.

Allowable Costs:

- Contractual Services
  - Partnering with hospitals, community-based service providers, and victim service organizations
  - Hiring subject matter experts to deliver crisis intervention or firearm violence prevention training
  - Contracting media/marketing firms to conduct public awareness campaigns
- Equipment (Over $10,000 per unit)
  - Purchases must support BSCI - BEACON Program activities and have a useful life of at least one year
  - Equipment with a unit cost less than $10,000 should be reported in the “Other” category
- Other Costs:
  - Wraparound support services (e.g., housing assistance, mental health counseling, substance use treatment)
  - Public outreach and engagement activities in high-risk or underserved communities
  - Program evaluation and reporting
  - Examples: mobile crisis response technology, case tracking systems, secure data-sharing platforms
  - Program materials and supplies necessary for outreach, training, and engagement activities
  - Indirect costs (if applicable)
  - *If there are contracts for services, those should be listed under “Contractual Services”*

Note: There is **no match required for this funding source**. Do NOT enter a match into your budget. If you wish to show other financial or in-kind contributions to your program, it may be written into your narrative.

Budget - Unallowable Costs

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- Alcoholic beverages
- Bad debt
- Bonuses or Commissions
- Construction/Capital Expenses/Land Acquisition
- Corporate Formation (Costs associated with incorporation fees, brokers' fees, fees to promoters, organizers or management consultants, attorneys, accountants, or investment counselors in connection with the establishment or reorganization of an organization)
- Fundraising
- Honorarium
- Lobbying Costs (including membership fees to organizations whose primary activity is lobbying)
- Meals (exception to consider food consumed by clients must be pre-approved)
- Trinkets (items such as hats, mugs, portfolios, t-shirts, coins, and gift bags)

Example Grant Program

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Title: Firearm Crisis Response & Navigation Initiative (FCRNI) **Fictitious Program**

Purpose: Strengthen mobile crisis response capacity to address behavioral health emergencies involving firearms by integrating trained co-responders, firearm safety planning, and peer navigation for post-crisis stabilization

Eligibility: Community-based Nonprofit

We will use this example program throughout the presentation to illustrate different sections of the application narrative

FCRNI Project Summary Sample

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Good:

The Maryland County Behavioral Health Collaborative's *Firearm Crisis Response & Navigation Initiative (FCRNI)* program helps strengthen crisis response and reduce firearm-related harm in Maryland County. The program embeds a co-responder clinician with law enforcement and adds a peer navigator to provide post-crisis follow-up. These services ensure individuals in behavioral health emergencies involving firearms are connected to treatment, safe storage practices, and community supports. Program funds support personnel, contractual services, and operating expenses.

Not so great:

This project will reduce firearm violence. We will add staff and provide help.

FCRNI Organization Information Sample

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Good: Mission Statement:

The Maryland County Behavioral Health Collaborative (MCBHC) is dedicated to reducing firearm-related harm through crisis response, behavioral health care, and coordinated community support. Our mission is to create safer communities by addressing behavioral health emergencies involving firearms with evidence-based, trauma-informed interventions.

Founded in 2015, MCHBC is a nonprofit organization that strengthens connections between behavioral health services and public safety. MCBHC operates a 24/7 crisis stabilization center, provides outpatient therapy for individuals at elevated risk of violence, and leads community workshops on firearm safety and safe storage. In 2020, MCBHC launched a peer mentoring program for youth impacted by community violence, which has served over 300 participants and reduced rates of re-arrest among participants by 28%. MCBHC has also facilitated law enforcement trainings on trauma-informed crisis de-escalation, equipping more than 200 officers since 2022.

Key Organizational Information:

- Total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) employees: 31
- Total current organizational budget: $2.3 million
- Percentage of organizational budget this application is requesting: 4.35%
- Primary jurisdictions served: Maryland County and surrounding municipalities
    - Zip Codes Served: 01010, 01012, 01013
- Primary client population served: Individuals and families impacted by firearm-related harm, including youth, adults in crisis, and returning citizens.

Not so Great: MCBHC helps people in Maryland County with behavioral health and firearm issues. We do outreach and have 31 staff.

FCRNI Problem Statement Sample

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Good:
The Firearm Crisis Response & Navigation Initiative (FCRNI) will expand behavioral health crisis response programs, a BEACON priority, by embedding a co-responder clinician and peer navigator into Maryland County's Crisis Team. Services include firearm safety planning, care navigation, and post-crisis stabilization for individuals and families. This initiative aligns with MCBHC's mission to reduce firearm-related harm through crisis response, behavioral health care, and trauma-informed support. With nearly a decade of experience bridging behavioral health and violence prevention, and operating a 24/7 crisis stabilization center, MCBHC has the staff, partnerships, and infrastructure to implement FCRNI effectively.

In 2023, law enforcement/EMS handled 1,127 firearm-related crisis calls, yet 42% lacked follow-up care within 30 days. In Eastside – where firearm violence rates are 2.5x higher than the county average – a 2024 Eastside Community Research Associates survey (n=412) found 76% of residents were unsure where to seek help during firearm-related behavioral health crises. Anticipated barriers include fragmented coordination among law enforcement, hospitals, and behavioral health providers, as well as limited public awareness of available services. FCRNI addresses these challenges by embedding trained navigators to improve referrals, formalizing partnerships for coordinated care, and ensuring families have direct, accessible pathways to support.

MCBHC has not previously received GOCPP funding for this work. To address the need, the organization piloted a small peer support program in 2023 with foundation dollars, which showed strong demand but lacked capacity to scale. This request will expand services to meet identified needs.

Not so great: Firearm violence is a big problem in Maryland County, and a lot of people in crisis don't get the help they need. Families and providers often don't know where to turn, so people don't get connected to services. This project will provide navigators to help connect people to services and reduce firearm violence.

FCRNI Program Purpose Area Sample

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Good: Our project aligns directly with the BEACON NOFA priorities, particularly the focus on enhancing crisis response and reducing firearm-related harm. Through the Firearm Crisis Response & Navigation Initiative (FCRNI), we will embed a behavioral health clinician and peer navigator with law enforcement to respond to firearm-related behavioral health emergencies.

At least 85% of our funding will be dedicated to supporting mobile crisis response and post-crisis navigation services, ensuring individuals in crisis are stabilized and connected to ongoing behavioral health treatment and community resources. Additionally, this project supports Maryland's Comprehensive State Crime Control and Prevention Plan, which prioritizes violence prevention, behavioral health integration, and collaborative crisis intervention. By improving crisis response capacity and providing direct support services, this initiative will reduce the risk of firearm-related harm and strengthen public safety and community well-being.

Not so great: Our project follows the NOFA priorities and will help respond to people in crisis. We will have staff work with law enforcement and connect people to services.

FCRNI Project Design Sample

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Good:

A. Project Implementation & Services: FCRNI will embed a behavioral health clinician with law enforcement for crisis co-response and add a peer navigator for post-crisis follow-up. Services include firearm safety planning, referrals to treatment, and family support. Case management software will track outcomes and ensure no at-risk individual falls through the cracks.

B. Community Engagement & Outreach: Services will be promoted through referrals from law enforcement, hospitals, and providers, plus outreach in high-risk neighborhoods. Materials will be culturally-tailored and shared through clinics, schools, and faith-based organizations. Community forums will build trust and increase awareness.

C. Best Practices & Methodology: The initiative follows evidence-based co-responder and hospital-based models. Research shows behavioral health integration reduces repeat incidents. Effectiveness will be monitored through follow-up inquiries, service linkages, and reduced recurrence of firearm-related crises.

D. Collaboration & Stakeholders:: The Maryland County Behavioral Health Collaborative will lead implementation with law enforcement, hospitals, and nonprofits. Courts and victim service agencies will provide referrals, while community groups hold outreach events. Partnerships will formalize cross-sector coordination and reduce duplication.

Not so great: We will use the funds to hire staff to help with firearm crises. Law enforcement and nonprofits will help us connect people to services.

FCRNI Goals and Objectives Sample

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Good:

Goal #1 Improve crisis response and behavioral health integration

Objective #1: Deploy a co-responder team pairing a licensed clinician with law enforcement

- Project Activities - Conduct joint crisis response, provide on-site behavioral health assessments, and create firearm safety plans
- Resources - FCRNI clinician and peer navigator, law enforcement partners, grant funds for training and equipment.
- Program Measurement - Track number of crisis calls served, referrals to behavioral health services, and a 20% reduction in repeat crisis calls over a 12-month period.
- Past Performance Indicators - Our organization has successfully coordinated over 300 crisis interventions in the past year, with 70% resulting in voluntary treatment engagement.

Not so great:

Goal 1: Respond to crises

Objective: Pair police and clinicians

Objective: Help people find services

FCRNI Data Collection Plan Sample

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Good: To measure the effectiveness of the project, we will use a combination of crisis response data, client follow-up tracking, and stakeholder feedback.

1. **Data Collection Methods:**
    - **Surveys:** Pre- and post-crisis engagement surveys will measure changes in client stress levels, service awareness, and satisfaction with crisis response.
    - **Stakeholder Interviews:** Conducted with law enforcement, clinicians, and clients to assess strengths, gaps, and barriers in co-response operations.
    - **Crisis Call & Referral Data:** Track the number and type of crisis calls handled by the co-response team, referrals made to behavioral health services, and follow-up engagement rates.
    - **Safe Storage & Risk Reduction Metrics**. Track the number of firearm safety training sessions conducted, the number of firearm safe storage devices distributed, and outcomes with participating clients
2. **Data Systems and Tools:**
    - **Google Forms & Excel:** Used to distribute surveys and track referrals
    - **Case Management Software:** Used to track client demographics, services provided, and follow-up engagement
    - **Law Enforcement Dispatch Logs:** To cross-reference call types, locations, and frequency of repeat incidents.

These methods and tools will help us measure both program outputs (e.g., number of joint crisis responses, safe storage devices distributed) and outcomes (e.g., reduced repeat crisis calls, increased behavioral health service uptake).

Not so great: We will ask people if the response helped and keep track of how many calls we go to.

FCRNI Grant Personnel Sample

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Good:

The Maryland County Behavioral Health Collaborative is a community-based nonprofit that has led behavioral health and crisis response initiatives for over 10 years. Our team includes clinicians, peer recovery specialists, and community outreach staff, making us well positioned to implement the Firearm Crisis Response & Navigation Initiative (FCRNI).

Project oversight will be led by Lisa Reynolds, Executive Director. Lisa holds a Master's in social work and has over 18 years of experience managing community-based violence prevention and behavioral health programs. Her salary is fully funded by the collaborative, and she will oversee this project as part of her ongoing responsibilities. Fiscal oversight will be provided by Monica Patel, Fiscal Officer, who has over 12 years of experience in nonprofit grant and fiscal management. Monica currently manages MCBHC's $2.3M organizational budget and ensures compliance with federal, state, and private funding requirements; her salary is also fully funded by the organization.

Grant Funded Personnel:

- **David Carter, Crisis Response Coordinator**
  Requesting $55,000 to fully fund this new position. 100% of time will be dedicated to coordinating co-response calls, managing follow-up services, and leading safe storage outreach efforts.

Not so great:

Project Director: Lisa Reynolds will oversee this project. She is a full-time employee and we are seeking 50% of her salary through this grant. She will spend 10% of her time on this project.

FCRNI Sustainability Sample

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Good:

This application is requesting full funding for one position (Crisis Response Coordinator) during the grant period. Afterward, firearm crisis response and navigation services will be integrated into the Collaborative's existing behavioral health and community outreach programs.

The Maryland County Behavioral Health Collaborative has secured commitments from local hospital partners and the county health department to continue referral pathways and technical support. We will also seek continued funding through state crisis intervention grants, private foundations, and local philanthropic partners to sustain FCRNI services. Our organization holds annual fundraising events, including community wellness fairs and benefit dinners, which will be expanded to support long-term program costs.

Not so great:

Once the project ends, we will determine if more funding is needed. If sustainability becomes an issue, we will apply for other grants.

SCI-EOSP Disclosure of Pending Applications Sample

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Good:

Within the last 12 months, we have submitted one other pending application for this project:

1. Funding Agency: GOCPP
2. Solicitation Name: CBVP, Project Name: Maryland County Violence Prevention
3. Point of Contact: Rachel Johnson
4. Funding Request: $75,000

Not so great:

We have applied for other grants this year.

FCRNI Budget & Spending Plan Sample

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For the purposes of this sample, we will be referring to a budget for one position (Crisis Response Coordinator)

Good:

Budget Plan:

i. This request is for a new project that would 100% be covered through BSCI funding during the project period. This requested funding supplements our agency's budget for overall services, but no funding has been committed for this project's costs, therefore there is no supplanting.

ii. Costs are solely for this project and no other funding sources involved, therefore proration is not applicable.

iii. N/A regarding proration

iv. N/A regarding proration

Spending Plan:

- Contract Execution Deadline: November 15, 2025
- Invoice Dates: Monthly, beginning December 2025
- Schedule of Activity: $65/hour x 250 contracted hours = $16,250 total, fairly evenly distributed from November 2025 to September 2026
- Contract End Date: September 30, 2026

Not so great:

Contractual Services: $20,000

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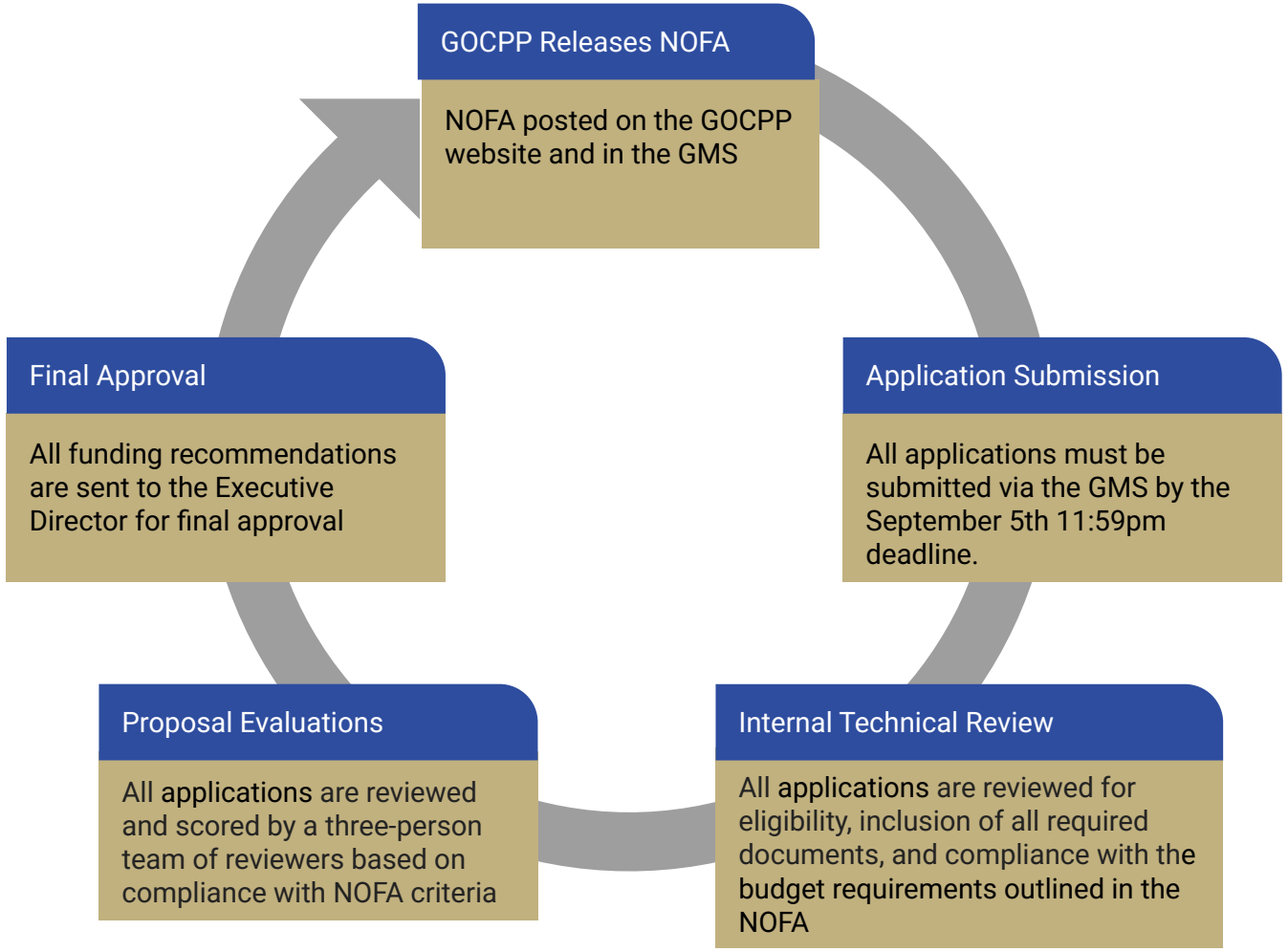
Required Documents

The following documents are **required** to be submitted with your application:

- Certified Assurances (GMS Generated)
- Equal Employment Opportunity Form
- Certification Regarding Lobbying (GMS Generated)
- Current W-9 Form
- Screenshot of SAM.gov/Unique Entity Identifier Registration
- Certificate of Applicable Financial Reporting Requirements and Required Financial Report Uploading
- Determination of Suitability to Interact with Minors Form
- Subrecipient Organizational Capacity Questionnaire and Required Attachments
- Most Recent Organizational Chart
- Proof of 501 (c)(3) Status REQUIRED for all NEW nonprofit applicants

Application Process Overview

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Application Technical Review

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- An internal reviewer will assess the following components of the application:
  - Applicant eligibility
  - Submission of all required documents (**points will be deducted from the final score for each missing required document**)
  - Budget compliance
    - If the applicant requests more than the maximum allowable, **points will be deducted from the final score**
    - Unallowable costs will be identified and those costs will be deducted from the final award if the application is approved for funding
  - Compliance with new word limits applied to each section of the application
    - Text that exceeds the word limit will be redacted prior to the scoring review.

Application Scoring Review

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1. Each eligible application will be assigned to a three-person team that will review and score the application based on compliance with the criteria outlined in the NOFA
2. Each reviewer will score each section of the application, calculate a final score, and make a funding recommendation
3. The three scores will be used to calculate a preliminary score
4. **Bonus and deduction points will be applied to the preliminary score to calculate the final score**
5. Applications will be ranked based on final score and funding amounts will be assigned
6. Those applications recommended for funding will then be submitted for review and approval by the GOCPP Executive Director
7. Once the recommendations have been approved, applicants will be notified and applications will be processed for award

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ANY QUESTIONS?

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Any Feedback?

Please use the below link to complete our FY26 NOFA TA Survey so that we can improve our calls in the future.

Link: https://forms.gle/1VsrUarByPyYYnSq5

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