

Bitterroot Cares Community Prevention Program

*2024 Montana Opioid Abatement Trust
Grants - 4th Quarter*

Bitterroot Cares

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Application Form

Region Selection

To collaborate with someone else on this request, click the blue "Collaborate" button in the top-right corner.

Project Name*

Bitterroot Cares Community Prevention Program

Select Abatement Region and/or Metro Region*

Select the Multi-County Abatement Region **and/or** the Metro Region you are requesting grant funds from. Select all regions that apply, for example if you are collaborating with multiple Counties **and/or** Abatement Regions select each region the program/project will serve. Click [HERE](#) for a detailed map of Multi-County Abatement Regions and Metro Abatement Regions

Ravalli County Metro Region

Application Overview

About the Organization/Program*

Give a brief description of the Organization/Program/Project. Include the mission statement and the services provided.

Our mission is to foster a future through education, connection, and community collaboration where youth receive the support they need to build resiliency, overcome behavioral health challenges and lead healthy lives free of substance abuse.

Ravalli County has had numerous prevention efforts pass through the community, numerous without sustainability plans, dedicated staff or data informed, evidence-based programming. Each new attempt was born from care but birthed skepticism of both prevention efforts and effectiveness. Bitterroot Cares is changing that. We are a group of dedicated community members, organizations, and sector representatives that share a deep investment in the community. Some, like the DUI Task Force Coordinator, have been in prevention for decades. Others are newer to prevention and eager to learn the science behind data driven community-level change. Community buy-in is our main objective for sustainability. Therefore, we seek to operate at a high collaborative capacity.

We utilize the Strategic Prevention Framework to guide prevention efforts across the continuum of care. By supporting or providing accessible, evidence-based education programs we equip youth with skills necessary for their behavioral health and well-being. Our focus includes assessing/connecting resources to strengthen a comprehensive network of community partners, ensuring youth and their families can access the support/services they require. Current goals/services include: conducting a comprehensive community needs assessment to reduce redundancy and tailor prevention efforts, providing prevention training and TA to other coalitions within Ravalli County, staffing a youth prevention specialist for use at Ravalli County school districts, and facilitating the community's Prevention Coalition. Our growing staff encapsulate the

knowledge of direct service providers, university researchers, K-12 educators, prevention advocates and public health professionals.

What category does the program fit into*

Check the category/categories the program fits into. You may select more than one option.

Click [HERE](#) for a list of approved opioid remediation uses

Prevention
Treatment

Exhibit E List of Opioid Remediation Uses

Schedule A - select all that apply

- A. NALOXENE/OTHER FDA-APPROVED DRUG TO REVERSE OPIOID OVERDOSES
- E. EXPANSION OF WARM HAND-OFF PROGRAMS AND RECOVERY SERVICES
- G. PREVENTION PROGRAMS
- I. EVIDENCE-BASED DATA COLLECTION & RESEARCH ANALYZING EFFECTIVENESS OF ABATEMENT STRATEGIES

Exhibit E List of Opioid Remediation Uses

Schedule B - select all that apply

- C. CONNECTIONS TO CARE
- G. PREVENT MISUSE OF OPIOIDS
- H. PREVENT OVERDOSE DEATHS & OTHER HARMS (HARMS REDUCTION)
- J. LEADERSHIP, PLANNING, & COORDINATION
- K. TRAINING
- L. RESEARCH

How does the program meet the Opioid Remediation Guidelines*

In detail, describe how the program fits into the approved Opioid Remediation Guidelines selected in the above question.

Please be specific

The Community Prevention Program has three arms: Community Health Worker Program, Youth Prevention Initiative, and Prevention Capacity Building, addressing key components of opioid prevention and remediation.

The Community Health Worker (CHW) Program supports "Connections to Care" (Schedule B, Item C) by deploying CHWs to provide direct support to individuals at risk of or experiencing OUD and related SUD/MH issues. This program strengthens Ravalli County's healthcare system by training/ensuring provider

screenings for OUD and creating school-based contacts to connect parents with treatment services for youth. Additionally, Bitterroot Cares will be assessing county-wide SBIRT implementation and crisis support through CHWs.

The Youth Prevention Initiative supports community prevention (Schedule B, Item G) and includes a comprehensive needs assessment to not only reduce redundancy within Ravalli but also guide selection of evidence-based programs in schools like Strengthening Families or LifeSkills Training. The initiative fills in identified gaps in the existing Youth Diversion Program in addition to implementing media campaigns (e.g., Parent Up, Talk. They Hear You) and curricula to prevent drug misuse, foster resilience, and address youth risk factors for opioid misuse. Emphasizing youth engagement, this initiative facilitates youth-led efforts in prevention.

Prevention Capacity Building aligns with Items J and K in Schedule B, strengthening leadership, planning, and coordination through needs assessment(s) and coalition efforts to identify root causes and reduce opioid-related harm. Through increased capacity, workforce development, and networking, this arm enhances the capacity of community, and nonprofit entities. By supporting infrastructure and cross-system coordination, Prevention Capacity Building aims to foster sustainable opioid misuse prevention across the community while reducing redundancy in programming and increasing overall effectiveness.

New Program or Existing*

Is the funding intended for a new program or to expand an existing program?

A proposed supplement or expansion to a program.

Fiscal Information

Requested Amount*

\$163,320.00

Program Budget*

How will the funds be allocated? Attach a detailed line item budget breakdown for the program. If the funds are intended for a multi-year program please specify the amount budgeted for each year.

Bitterroot Cares Prevention Program Year 1 Budget.pdf

Multi-Region funding

If funding is being requested from multiple abatement regions attach a detailed breakdown of amount requested from each region.

Multi-Region approval/denial

Does the application need to be approved by all regions to effectively accomplish it's goals?

No

Source of Funding*

Does the program currently receive funding from another source? If yes, please explain in detail. (i.e. amount, funding source, etc.)

Grant funding is intended for the creation or expansion of opioid prevention, treatment, and recovery projects. The money is **NOT** meant to replace or supplant existing funding.

Bitterroot Cares was awarded ONDCP's Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program grant. This provides \$125,000/year for up to five (5) years, with a possible extension for another five (5) year grant cycle. The DFC grant provides crucial funding for a PTE DFC Project Director, FTE DFC Project Coordinator, and PTE Youth Prevention Specialist. In addition to salaries, this funding covers required staff training, mandatory out-of-state DFC training attendance, and a \$7,000 programmatic fund. The purpose of DFC funding is to intended to cover the cost of prevention programming but rather to build coalition capacity. It does not cover the cost of prevention training or capacity building for community partners (an identified need), or any costs related to the Community Prevention Program or data collection.

We're submitting this proposal for 2024 Q4 Opioid Settlement funding for Year 1 of the Community Prevention Program.

Do you have a Fiscal Agent*

No

Multi-Region request funding additional information

Regional Funding

Please explain in detail the effectiveness of the program, for each region, if not every region approves the application.

Program Abstract

Program Description*

Describe the objectives of this project. Provide a detailed overview of the program, including its purpose, priorities & objectives, and intended results.

The program's objectives are to enhance community support systems, empower youth through education, and develop a sustainable, collaborative framework for prevention in Ravalli County. These efforts align with the core priorities of reducing opioid use disorder (OUD), increasing access to behavioral health support, and fostering resilience within the community.

Overall Goals include:

1. Reduce opioid misuse and associated behavioral health issues through evidence-based strategies, programming and community engagement.

2. Build capacity within the local healthcare systems to screen, identify, and connect individuals at risk with appropriate services.
3. Engage youth and families in preventive education and resilience-building to address risk and protective factors in behavioral health.
4. Strengthen community infrastructure to support long-term, sustainable prevention efforts through collaborative partnerships.

The purpose of the Community Prevention Program is to create an action-driven interconnected system of support that addresses root causes and early risk factors of opioid misuse. Priorities include: (1) Connecting individuals to care through community health workers who can provide direct support, resources, and referrals for OUD and other behavioral health challenges. (2) Empowering youth through prevention education, focusing on substance misuse prevention, mental health resilience, and family engagement in schools. (3) Strengthening Ravalli's capacity for prevention by developing a multi-sectoral workforce trained in evidence-based practices and supporting coordinated, cross-system collaboration.

The program's intended results include a decrease in substance misuse among community members, particularly youth; increased access to mental health and substance use resources through CHWs; and a strengthened, coordinated prevention infrastructure capable of sustaining long-term community health improvements. Through the Community Prevention Program, Bitterroot Cares aims to foster a healthier, more resilient community where individuals are supported, informed, and connected to the resources they need to thrive.

Program Reach

If you are requesting funds from multiple Abatement Regions please specify how your program serves each region.

Be specific.

Specific Goals*

What are the specific goals of the program? List several goals the program hopes to accomplish and how the program intends to meet these goals.

The Bitterroot Cares Community Prevention Program aims to significantly reduce substance abuse and related behavioral health issues in youth. We utilize the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) strategies to ensure our focused efforts also attain community-level, wholistic and data driven results. Measurable and specific goals of the Bitterroot Cares Community Prevention Program over the next 3-6 years will be accomplished by utilizing universal prevention programs (e.g., school and community-based education), community-based interventions (e.g., coalition efforts, media campaigns) and combined strategies (multi-sector prevention approaches, SBIRT training/screening, connections to care). Goals are as follows:

Goal 1: Reduce substance misuse and associated behavioral health issues through evidence-based strategies, programming and community engagement.

Goal 2: Build capacity within the local healthcare and prevention organizations to screen, identify, and connect individuals at risk with appropriate services.

Goal 3: Engage youth and families in preventive education and resilience-building to address risk and protective factors in behavioral health.

Goal 4: Strengthen community infrastructure to support long-term, sustainable prevention efforts through collaborative partnerships.

Evaluation Method*

Describe how you plan to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and what the method for evaluation will be.

Bitterroot Cares is working collaboratively with other local coalitions and a strategic planner to develop a process to collect the data necessary to measure the effectiveness of our action plan.

Process Evaluation: We will measure how closely Bitterroot Cares is executing its strategic plan and meeting its timelines, any deviations from the plan and any impact the deviations have on Bitterroot Cares objectives – this includes Quarterly reviews of the strategic plan will be conducted to determine if meetings, feasibility studies, projects, and campaigns were implemented as and when planned;

- Percentage of program recipients who report short-term positive impacts from a program,
- Percentages of Bitterroot Cares members who report positive outcomes with Bitterroot Cares collaborative projects;
- Number and types of programs offered, materials distributed, enforcement strategies and media campaigns.

Program Evaluation: Bitterroot Cares will continue to compare survey results and outcomes of different programs and strategies to analyze differences among programs, program effectiveness and population appropriateness. This helps determine which program/contextual factors or individual factors were associated with outcomes. Data will be collected continuously and reported quarterly to monitor progress and to ensure timely implementation of identified changes to individual strategies.

Community-level Outcome Evaluation: We will use the MPNA and YRBS to measure community-level change in youth substance use and related risk factors. Specifically, we will track the following measures:

1. Initiation: Age of substance use initiation of youth grades 8-12
2. Use: Past 30-day use of alcohol and marijuana among youth grades 8-12
3. Use: Lifetime use of opioids among youth grades 8-12
4. Risk Factor- Youth Perception of Harm: Youth in grades 8-12 (combined) who report a perception of risk (great-moderate) associated with initiating use of substances
5. Risk Factor – Parental Attitudes: Youth in grades 8-12 (combined) who report their parents think drinking alcohol is wrong or very wrong

Data Source*

What information are you going to collect or use to demonstrate you have accomplished your goals?

The primary data source for tracking the goals and objectives of Bitterroot Cares is student surveys, with a focus on the Montana Prevention Needs Assessment (MPNA). The MPNA is a highly reliable and valid instrument, with an accuracy range of $\pm 3\%$, ensuring precise insights across different demographics, including gender, age, and culture. This tool enables Bitterroot Cares to gather actionable data, which serves as the foundation for reporting on four GPRA (Government Performance and Results Act) measures and additional outcomes every even year.

Bitterroot Cares employs a longitudinal approach to analyze MPNA data, comparing current results with previous years to identify trends and progress. To enhance reliability and provide a broader context, MPNA data is cross-referenced with multiple sources, including Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) data, committee reports, feedback from town hall meetings, and raw data on arrests, DUIs, and Minor in Possession (MIP) citations. These comparisons ensure a comprehensive understanding of the community's challenges and progress.

Quarterly reviews of process indicators provide an ongoing assessment of the number, type, and reach of prevention activities. These indicators evaluate the effectiveness of each initiative in engaging target

audiences and shifting perceptions, serving as early markers of success or areas for adjustment. Through collaborative efforts and partnerships, we aim to promote prevention as a data-driven, science based modality. We believe in building current prevention programs up, rather than starting everything from the ground floor. This includes assessing and establishing evaluation criteria for current programming such as the Impaired Driving Program (RavCo DUI Task Force), Healthy Relationships Talks (SAFE) and ReACT groups (RavCo Tobacco Free Program).

See attached Goals and Objectives for detailed data points to be collected and evaluated.

Awareness*

How do you plan to create awareness of this program? Briefly describe what action the program plans to take to create awareness in the community.

Bitterroot Cares is committed to creating a comprehensive and inclusive approach to disseminating data, outcomes, and outreach initiatives related to substance use prevention and mental wellness. Our strategies aim to engage and inform all segments of the community, ensuring no group is left behind in receiving crucial information and support.

To achieve this, Bitterroot Cares is developing a robust multi-channel communication strategy. Social media platforms will be established to engage younger audiences and those who prefer digital interaction. We are finalizing a user-friendly and informative website, with feedback from focus groups ensuring it meets community needs and preferences. Additionally, traditional outreach methods such as regular postal service mailings and email listservs will provide consistent updates to residents and stakeholders. Partnerships with local media outlets will amplify our reach, publishing articles that highlight key issues, prevention strategies, and successes.

Annually, Bitterroot Cares will release a "Report Card," a comprehensive document summarizing results from surveys and questionnaires, highlighting trends in community responses, and identifying at-risk behaviors. This report will also emphasize significant improvements and areas for continued focus. Information from the Report Card will be presented to County officials, parents, school boards, alcohol/marijuana retailers, and the broader community, ensuring transparency and access to critical data.

To further engage the community, Bitterroot Cares will present updates during town hall-style meetings hosted by the Ravalli County Resource Advisory Council. Collaborative efforts with diverse community representatives will ensure widespread awareness of outcomes and next steps.

Currently, Bitterroot Cares is in the assessment and capacity-building phase for several innovative awareness projects under the Community Prevention Program. These include a youth Photovoice Project, where youth will use photography to highlight community challenges and assets related to substance use prevention, with an inaugural display at the county fair. A youth-led Sticker Shock Campaign during Red Ribbon Week will engage local retailers to raise awareness about underage alcohol sales and misuse. Additionally, our goal is to have Community Health Worker (CHW) stations at local libraries to provide educational materials and connect residents with resources and raise awareness.

Additional Documents

Tax Exempt Organization*

By clicking this box you are confirming the applying organization is a tax exempt organization.

Yes

Tax Exempt Determination Letter*

Please upload a copy of the Organization 501(C)(3) Tax Exempt Determination Letter.

FinalLetter_93-4164787_BITTERROOTCARES_01112024_00-2.pdf

Use this section to upload or explain any additional information regarding the program/organization. ie. a detailed budget projection, program/organization history, etc.

Upload #1

BC Community Prevention Program Goals and Objectives.pdf

Upload #2

Upload #3

Additional Information

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- Bitterroot Cares Prevention Program Year 1 Budget.pdf
- FinalLetter_93-4164787_BITTERROOTCARES_01112024_00-2.pdf
- BC Community Prevention Program Goals and Objectives.pdf



BITTERROOT CARES PREVENTION PROGRAM

Opioid Abatement Settlement Funding

YEAR 1	QTY	PROJECTED COST	PROJECTED SUBTOTAL	COMMENTS
Staff			\$ 80,860.00	
Program Director	1	\$7,020.00	\$ 7,020.00	PTE 260 HRS @ \$27/hr
Youth Prevention Specialist	1	\$21,840.00	\$ 21,840.00	PTE 1040 HRS @ \$21/hr
Program Coordinator	1	\$52,000.00	\$ 52,000.00	FTE 2080 HRS @ \$25/hr
Fringe Benefits			\$ 18,460.00	
Program Director			\$ -	none
Youth Prevention Specialist	1	\$5,460.00	\$ 5,460.00	@ 25%
Program Coordinator	1	\$13,000.00	\$ 13,000.00	@ 25%
Core Strategies			\$ -	Exhibit E: List of Opioid Remediation Uses
Naloxone Education			\$ -	Schedule A, Item A (Items 1 & 2)
School & Youth Focused Edu.			\$ -	Schedule A, Item B (Item 2)
Expand SBIRT Services			\$ -	Schedule A, Item C (Item 1)
Expand Warm Hand-Off Programs			\$ -	Schedule A, Item E (Items 1, 4 & 5)
Justice-Involved Youth Diversion			\$ -	Schedule A, Item F (Items 1 & 2)
General Prevention			\$ -	Schedule A, Item G (Items 1-5)
Treatment			\$ -	Exhibit E: List of Opioid Remediation Uses
Support People in Treatment/Recovery			\$ -	Schedule B, Item B (Items 2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14 & 15)
Connection to Care			\$ -	Schedule B, Item C (Items 1, 3, 5, 9, 10, 12, 13 & 15)
Justice-Involved Youth Diversion			\$ -	Schedule B, Item D (Items 1, 3 & 7)
Pregnant or Parenting Women			\$ -	Schedule B, Item E (Items 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9)
Prevention			\$ 34,000.00	Exhibit E: List of Opioid Remediation Uses
Prevent Over-Prescribing			\$ -	Schedule B, Item F (Items 1 & 2)
Prevent Misuse of Substances	1	\$22,000.00	\$ 22,000.00	Schedule B, Item G (ALL ITEMS)
Prevent Overdose Deaths	12	\$1,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	Schedule B, Item H (Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12 & 13)
Other Strategies			\$ 30,000.00	Exhibit E: List of Opioid Remediation Uses
Leadership, Planning & Coordination			\$ -	Schedule B, Item J (Items 1, 3 & 4)
Training	1	\$5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	Schedule B, Item K (ALL ITEMS)
Research	1	\$25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	Schedule B, Item L (Items 1, 3, 4 & 8)
PROJECTED TOTAL			\$ 163,320.00	



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
Tax Exempt and Government Entities
PO Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201

BITTERROOT CARES
209 N 10TH ST SUITE C
HAMILTON, MT 59840

Date:
01/19/2024
Employer ID number:
93-4164787
Person to contact:
Name: Customer Service
ID number: 31954
Telephone: 877-829-5500
Accounting period ending:
September 30
Form 990-PF required:
Yes
Effective date of exemption:
October 27, 2023
Addendum applies:
No
DLN:
26053416005074

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a private foundation within the meaning of Section 509(a).

We further determined you qualify as a private operating foundation under IRC Section 4942(j)(3). We'll treat you as a private operating foundation as long as you continue to meet the requirements of Section 4942(j)(3).

You're required to file Form 990-PF, Return of Private Foundation or Section 4947(a)(1) Trust Treated as Private Foundation, annually, whether or not you have income or activity during the year. If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to www.irs.gov/charities. Enter "4221-PF" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PF, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Private Foundations, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Martin
Director, Exempt Organizations
Rulings and Agreements



Community Prevention Program Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Reduce substance misuse and associated behavioral health issues through evidence-based strategies, programming and community engagement.

SMART Objectives:

Prevention (Px):

1. Reduce the number of Ravalli youth grades 9-12 who report first use of alcohol or marijuana before age 13 years old by 10% from 20% in 2023 to 10% in 2027 as measured by the Youth Risk Behavior Survey.
2. Reduce reported lifetime use of opioids among Ravalli youth by up to 5% from 11.4% in 2023 to 6.4% in 2027 as measured by the Youth Risk Behavior Survey.
3. Increase the number of Ravalli youth in grades 8-12 (combined) who report a perception of risk (great-moderate) associated with initiating use of substances by 15% from 64% in 2020 to 49% in 2028 as measured by the Montana Prevention Needs Assessment.
4. Increase the number of Ravalli youth in grades 8-12 (combined) who report their parents think drinking alcohol is wrong or very wrong by 10% from 70% in 2020 to 80% in 2028 as measured by the Montana Prevention Needs Assessment.

Harm Reduction (HR):

5. Increase Naloxone education for opioid overdose-related GTA 911 responses in Ravalli County as measured by Naloxone administration documentation from 41% in 2023 to 80% in 2027 in the Montana EMS Data Report.

Treatment and Recovery (TR)

6. Establish a community prevention network to increase access to resources that will support successful recovery among individuals in treatment. Baseline data to be collected in the proposed Community Needs Assessment.

Strategies (From Budget and Exhibit E):

- Naloxone education (HR)

- School and youth focused education (Px)
- General Prevention (Px)
- Support for People in Treatment (TR)
- Connection To Care (TR)
- Prevent Over Prescribing (Px)
- Prevent OD Deaths (HR)
- Prevent Misuse of Substance (Px)

Goal: 2: Build capacity within the local healthcare and prevention organizations to screen, identify, and connect individuals at risk with appropriate services.

SMART Objectives:

7. Strengthen Ravalli community collaboration related to preventing and reducing substance abuse among youth by increasing the number of Coalition members or organizations from 8 in 2024 to 15 in 2025 as measured by signed Coalition Involvement Agreements and meeting sign-in sheets.
8. Reduce redundancy and overlap in prevention programming within Ravalli County as measured by a quarterly prevention newsletter and yearly programmatic calendar.

Strategies (From Budget and Exhibit E):

- Expand SBIRT Services (HR)
- Expand Warm Hand-off Programs (TR)
- Leadership, Planning and Coordination
- Training
- Research

Goal: 3: Engage youth and families in preventive education and resilience-building to address risk and protective factors in behavioral health.

SMART Objectives:

9. By April 2025, develop or acquire an evidence-based Alternative to Suspension curriculum in collaboration with Youth Court for youth and their families to target unaddressed substances (alcohol and marijuana).
10. By April 2025, develop metrics for current and proposed Alternative to Suspension programming in collaboration with Youth Court and MTUPP ensuring that at least 75% of participants report increased knowledge and skills in post-program evaluations.
11. By September 30, 2025, increase participation in preventive education workshops for youth and families by 20% (from 100 participants to 120 participants) by implementing targeted outreach through schools, community centers, and media campaigns.

Strategies (From Budget and Exhibit E):

- Justice Involved Youth Diversion (Px)
- School and youth focused education (Px)
- General Prevention (Px)

Goal 4: Strengthen community infrastructure to support long-term, sustainable prevention efforts through collaborative partnerships.

SMART Objectives:

12. By September 30, 2025, provide at least three coalition training sessions on evidence-based prevention strategies to a minimum of 25 community leaders, with 85% of participants reporting increased knowledge and readiness to implement collaborative prevention initiatives in post-training surveys.
13. By August 30, 2025, complete a community-wide needs assessment to identify gaps in behavioral health prevention services, collecting input from at least 200 stakeholders through surveys, focus groups, and interviews, and develop a report to guide collaborative partnership strategies by October 2026.
14. By December 31, 2024, organize and deliver two specialized training workshops for 20 prevention professionals, focusing on best practices in youth behavioral health and community engagement, with at least 80% demonstrating improved skills as measured by pre- and post-assessment scores.

Strategies (From Budget and Exhibit E):

- Leadership, Planning and Coordination
- Training
- Research