

CHORE Chouteau County Harm Reduction & Opioid Response Enhancement

*2025 Montana Opioid Abatement Trust
Grants-second half of 2025*

Chouteau County DES

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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*

CHORE Chouteau County Harm Reduction & Opioid Response Enhancement

You may only select one Abatement Region, if you are applying for funding from more than one region you will need to fill out and submit a separate application for each region.

Select Multi County Abatement Region OR Metro Region*

Select the Multi-County Abatement Region **OR** the Metro Region you are requesting grant funds from. Click [HERE](#) for a detailed map of Multi-County Regions and Metro Regions.

Abatement Region 2

Regional Funding Request*

If you are applying to multiple regions, please select all the regions to which you are submitting applications.

Abatement Region 2

Application Overview

About the Organization/Program*

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

Chouteau County Disaster & Emergency Services (DES) coordinates emergency preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery for all Chouteau county jurisdictions. Our mission is to protect life, strengthen community resilience, and ensure effective, coordinated emergency response.

CHORE (Chouteau County's Opioid Prevention, Harm Reduction, and Emergency Response Project) expands our capacity to prevent opioid misuse, increase access to lifesaving resources, improve communications for overdose responders, and reduce public health risks through harm-reduction tools and education. CHORE integrates pharmacy-counter opioid education, RoIP communications upgrades, AED installation in libraries, Narcan access, sharps disposal systems, and part-time DES staffing to support program coordination and evaluation.

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
Recovery

Exhibit E List of Opioid Remediation Uses

Schedule A - select all that apply

A. NALOXENE/OTHER FDA-APPROVED DRUG TO REVERSE OPIOID OVERDOSES
G. PREVENTION PROGRAMS
H. EXPANDING SYRINGE SERVICE 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
F. PREVENT OVER-PRESCRIBING, ENSURE APPROPRIATE PRESCRIBING & DISPENSING OF OPIOIDS
G. PREVENT MISUSE OF OPIOIDS
H. PREVENT OVERDOSE DEATHS & OTHER HARMS (HARMS REDUCTION)
I. FIRST RESPONDERS
J. LEADERSHIP, PLANNING, & COORDINATION
K. TRAINING

How does the program meet the Opioid Remediation Guidelines*

Provide a detailed explanation of how the program fits into the approved Opioid Remediation Guidelines selected in the above question.

Please be specific

CHORE directly aligns with approved opioid remediation strategies under Exhibit E. Pharmacy education materials support Schedule B: G and F by improving responsible dispensing and preventing misuse. Installing Narcan access points and expanding naloxone availability supports Schedule A: A and Schedule B: H, expanding overdose reversal capabilities and harm reduction.

Sharps disposal boxes and contracted disposal services fall under Schedule A: H and Schedule B: H.9, reducing infectious disease risks and expanding syringe service protections. AED installation in public libraries supports Schedule B: I and H, addressing the risk of cardiac arrest during overdose events. RoIP communications upgrades support Schedule B: J, strengthening first-responder reliability during emergency overdose response. Adding part-time staffing supports Schedule B: J.4 and K.1, increasing capacity for oversight, outreach, training, program evaluation, and naloxone management.

CHORE provides a coordinated, county-level approach to prevention, harm reduction, and emergency response.

New Program or Existing*

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

A new program for your region.

Fiscal Information

Requested Amount*

\$90,780.00

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.

CHORE Budget.xlsx

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.

The CHORE Project does not currently receive funding from any other source. This request represents new funding for the development and implementation of opioid prevention, harm reduction, and emergency response enhancements within Chouteau County.

While Chouteau County Disaster & Emergency Services (DES) provides general emergency management coordination, no existing county, state, or federal funds are allocated specifically for the opioid-focused education, naloxone expansion, sharps disposal program, RoIP infrastructure improvements for overdose response, or the part-time opioid program coordination position proposed under CHORE.

Chouteau County Public Health has agreed to assist by providing supplemental naloxone supply; however, this contribution is supportive in nature and does not fund or replace any portion of the requested program budget. The CHORE Project funds will not supplant existing funding but will establish new and expanded opioid prevention, harm reduction, and emergency response capacity in the county.

Do you have a Fiscal Agent*

Yes

Fiscal Agent Contact Info

Fiscal Agent Name*

Diana Absher

Fiscal Agent Email Address*

diana.absher@chouteaucountymt.gov

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.

CHORE directly aligns with approved opioid remediation strategies under Exhibit E. Pharmacy education materials support Schedule B: G and F by improving responsible dispensing and preventing misuse. Installing Narcan access points and expanding naloxone availability supports Schedule A: A and Schedule B: H, expanding overdose reversal capabilities and harm reduction.

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Specific Goals*

Describe the primary goals your program seeks to achieve. For each goal, explain how the program intends to accomplish it.

Increase community knowledge and prevention through pharmacy education materials and library outreach. Expand access to lifesaving interventions by installing Narcan boxes and AEDs across the county. Reduce hazards from improperly discarded sharps via disposal units and professional removal services. Improve overdose response communication with RoIP connectivity improvements. Enhance program coordination and evaluation through a dedicated part-time DES CHORE coordinator.

Evaluation Method*

Please explain in detail how you will gauge the effectiveness and overall impact of the program. What specific evaluation methods, tools, or metrics will you use to measure success.

CHORE's effectiveness will be measured using:

Number of pharmacies participating & materials distributed

Library and community site Narcan refills and usage tracking

Sharps container collection volumes & service logs

AED device readiness checks and any activation reports

RoIP functionality reports, dead-zone reduction, and responder feedback

DES quarterly reporting, training attendance, and coordination metrics

Community education engagement (surveys, event turnout, resource distribution)

Outcomes will be compiled into quarterly and annual CHORE evaluation summaries.

Data Source*

What data or evidence will you collect to show you are meeting your program goals? What specific information, metrics and documentation will you provide to demonstrate the program objectives have been achieved.

EMS overdose call data

Communication logs (success/failure rates) in RoIP zones

Pharmacy education distribution tracking

AED maintenance logs

Narcan box refill and usage data

Sharps disposal contractor manifests

DES training, outreach, and reporting documentation

Public awareness survey responses

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.

CHORE will be promoted through county pharmacies, libraries, schools, the county website, social media, and partner agencies (EMS, fire, law enforcement, public health). Libraries will display AED and Narcan signage. Pharmacies will post prevention materials and disposal guidance. DES will conduct community presentations, distribute educational flyers, and collaborate with civic groups. The CHORE name and branding will be used consistently to create countywide recognition and encourage participation.

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.

Tax Letter.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

Letters of Support.pdf

Upload #2

Upload #3

Additional Information

Chouteau County Disaster & Emergency Services (DES) has extensive experience coordinating multi-agency emergency response initiatives, managing grant funds, and implementing structured, trackable public safety programs. The CHORE Project builds upon existing county emergency management infrastructure while introducing new opioid-specific prevention and harm reduction capacity.

CHORE is intentionally designed as a cost-effective, scalable initiative. Infrastructure expenses such as RoIP equipment and AED units are one-time investments that create long-term community benefit beyond the initial grant period. Recurring expenses have been minimized through strategic partnerships, including collaboration with Chouteau County Public Health to supplement naloxone supply and the use of as-needed sharps mail-back disposal services rather than fixed contractual pickups.

The proposed 0.5 FTE CHORE Coordinator position will operate within existing county administrative systems and fiscal oversight structures. All expenditures will be tracked using county financial controls, with quarterly internal reviews and reporting documentation aligned with Opioid Abatement Trust requirements.

Chouteau County's rural geography presents unique challenges in emergency response communications, access to healthcare resources, and harm reduction services. CHORE addresses these rural gaps directly by strengthening communications reliability, placing lifesaving equipment in accessible public facilities, and providing education at the point of medication dispensing.

The project emphasizes sustainability, interagency collaboration, and measurable outcomes. DES will compile quarterly reports including naloxone distribution data, sharps disposal manifests, education material tracking, RoIP functionality reporting, and EMS response data to evaluate impact.

CHORE represents a coordinated, fiscally responsible, and community-driven approach to reducing opioid misuse and improving overdose response capacity in Chouteau County.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- CHORE Budget.xlsx
- Tax Letter.pdf
- Letters of Support.pdf

Component	Item	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Pharmacy Education	Printed opioid prevention rack cards	1500	\$ 0.45	\$ 675.00
Pharmacy Education	Youth prevention materials	200	\$ 1.00	\$ 200.00
Pharmacy Education	Pharmacy counter display stands	2	\$ 85.00	\$ 170.00
Pharmacy Education	SBIRT quick-reference cards	150	\$ 1.00	\$ 150.00
Pharmacy Education	Community education flyers	1200	\$ 0.25	\$ 300.00
Pharmacy Education	Graphic design / layout			\$ 750.00
Pharmacy Education	Outreach events & supplies			\$ 500.00
Pharmacy Education	Mileage for outreach			\$ 785.00
RoIP Communications	RoIP gateway equipment	3	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 13,500.00
RoIP Communications	RoIP license/software	3	\$ 750.00	\$ 2,250.00
RoIP Communications	Antenna/interconnection hardware	3	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 4,200.00
RoIP Communications	Network connectivity (LTE/Starlink)	3	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
RoIP Communications	Installation & engineering labor			\$ 9,000.00
RoIP Communications	System testing & training			\$ 2,550.00
RoIP Communications	Travel for installation			\$ 1,000.00
RoIP Communications	Contingency (10%)			\$ 3,000.00
CHORE Coordinator (0.5 FTE)	Salary			\$ 24,960.00
CHORE Coordinator (0.5 FTE)	Payroll taxes/benefits			\$ 5,240.00

Library AED Program	AED units	3	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 4,200.00
Library AED Program	AED wall cabinets	3	\$ 450.00	\$ 1,350.00
Library AED Program	Pediatric pads	3	\$ 225.00	\$ 675.00
Library AED Program	Spare adult pads	3	\$ 180.00	\$ 540.00
Library AED Program	Installation labor			\$ 435.00
Narcan & Sharps	Narcan boxes	6	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,500.00
Narcan & Sharps	Narcan initial supply (18 doses)	18	\$ 75.00	\$ 1,350.00
Narcan & Sharps	Narcan refills (18 doses)	18	\$ 75.00	\$ 1,350.00
Narcan & Sharps	Sharps containers (hardware)	6	\$ 180.00	\$ 1,080.00
Narcan & Sharps	Mail-back sharps disposal			\$ 1,050.00
Narcan & Sharps	PPE & cleanup supplies			\$ 950.00
Narcan & Sharps	Educational signage			\$ 1,200.00
Narcan & Sharps	Outreach & training			\$ 2,870.00

\$ 90,780.00

Pharmacy Education				\$ 3,530.00
RoIP Communications				\$ 38,500.00
CHORE Coordinator (0.5 FTE)				\$ 30,200.00
Library AED Program				\$ 7,200.00
Narcan & Sharps				\$ 11,350.00

Grand Total

\$ 90,780.00



Alix Reid
Coordinator
P.O. Box 459
1308 Franklin, St.
Fort Benton, MT 59442
1(406)622-3027



2/12/26

To Whom It May Concern,

Chouteau County Disaster & Emergency Services (DES) is a department of Chouteau County, a political subdivision of the State of Montana.

As a governmental entity, Chouteau County is exempt from federal income taxation under Section 115 of the Internal Revenue Code and is not required to obtain 501(c)(3) status. Government entities are not issued IRS determination letters.

Please contact Chouteau County if additional verification of governmental status is required.

Sincerely,

Alix Reid
DES Coordinator
Chouteau County

Chouteau County 911/EMS



Kimberly Pimperton
Chouteau County 911/EMS
406-799-4272

E-mail: kmpimperton@gmail.com

February 11, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

As President of the Chouteau County 911 Board, I am pleased to offer support for the CHORE Project.

Effective emergency communication is the foundation of coordinated response. Dispatch relies on dependable field communications to ensure responder safety, manage resources, and maintain continuity of operations. Known radio coverage gaps present operational challenges that affect multiple agencies.

The proposed RoIP integration under the CHORE Project represents a strategic enhancement to the county's emergency communications network. Improving reliability in rural and dead-zone areas will strengthen dispatch coordination and enhance response outcomes during opioid-related emergencies and other critical incidents.

The 911 Board supports efforts that increase system resilience and improve interoperability across agencies.

Respectfully,
Kimberly Pimperton
President, Chouteau County 911 Board

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express strong support for the CHORE Project and its proposed communications improvements.

As Assistant Chief of Highwood Fire and a rural EMT responder, I have firsthand experience with the communication limitations present in certain areas of Chouteau County. During emergency responses, particularly medical calls involving possible overdoses, consistent radio contact is essential for patient care coordination, responder safety, and mutual aid support.

Dead zones hinder our ability to relay critical patient information, request additional resources, and maintain situational awareness. The proposed RoIP enhancements under CHORE would directly address these deficiencies and improve operational effectiveness in rural areas.

Strengthening communication infrastructure will enhance our ability to respond quickly and safely to opioid-related emergencies and other time-sensitive incidents.

I fully support this initiative and believe it will significantly benefit our responders and the community we serve.

Respectfully,
Austin Malek
Assistant Chief, Highwood Fire
Rural EMT Responder

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Austin Malek". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

Date: 2/11/2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of the CHORE Project: Chouteau County's Opioid Prevention, Harm Reduction, and Emergency Response Project.


As the individual overseeing Big Sandy Fire and Ambulance services, I can attest to the ongoing communication challenges experienced in portions of our response area. Radio dead zones create delays in transmitting patient updates, requesting additional resources, and coordinating mutual aid during medical emergencies, including suspected overdose incidents.

Reliable communication is critical when responding to opioid-related emergencies. Timely transmission of patient status, scene safety information, and coordination with dispatch and receiving facilities directly impacts patient outcomes. The proposed Radio-over-IP (RoIP) integration under the CHORE Project would significantly improve our ability to communicate effectively in known coverage gaps.

Improving interoperability and eliminating communication blind spots strengthens responder safety and enhances the quality of care delivered to our residents. I strongly support the implementation of RoIP infrastructure improvements as part of this initiative.

The CHORE Project represents a proactive and necessary investment in rural emergency response capacity.

Sincerely,



Pete Jerrel

Big Sandy Fire & Ambulance

2/12/2026

To Whom It May Concern,

Geraldine Fire supports the CHORE Project and the proposed improvements to emergency communication infrastructure within Chouteau County.

Our department serves a rural and geographically dispersed area where reliable communication is vital during emergency incidents. Overdose responses require rapid coordination between fire, EMS, law enforcement, and dispatch. Communication challenges can delay patient care and increase risk to responders.

The Radio-over-IP enhancements included in the CHORE Project will strengthen interoperability, improve responder safety, and increase efficiency during emergency operations.

We strongly support the county's effort to improve emergency communications and expand harm reduction and prevention efforts under this initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AJ', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chief Aaron Jones
Geraldine Fire

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Memorial Ambulance of Fort Benton, I am writing to express full support for the CHORE Project: Chouteau County's Opioid Prevention, Harm Reduction, and Emergency Response Project.

Memorial Ambulance regularly responds to medical emergencies throughout Chouteau County, including suspected overdose incidents. Timely communication, rapid access to life-saving interventions, and coordinated interagency response are essential to patient survival and responder safety.

The CHORE Project addresses several operational needs that directly impact emergency medical services:

- Expansion of publicly accessible Narcan
- Placement of AEDs in community facilities
- Sharps disposal to reduce exposure risks
- Improvements to emergency communications through RoIP integration
- Dedicated coordination support through a part-time DES position

Reliable communication is critical during overdose responses, particularly in rural and geographically dispersed areas of the county. Known communication gaps create challenges when relaying patient updates, requesting additional resources, or coordinating transport. The proposed RoIP infrastructure enhancements will strengthen interoperability between EMS, fire, law enforcement, and dispatch.

In addition, increasing community access to naloxone and AEDs supports earlier intervention before EMS arrival, which can significantly improve outcomes in time-sensitive emergencies.

Memorial Ambulance supports this coordinated and forward-thinking approach to addressing opioid-related challenges in our community. The CHORE Project represents a meaningful investment in public safety, responder support, and improved patient outcomes across Chouteau County.

Sincerely,



Mike Birkeland
Service Manager
Memorial Ambulance of Fort Benton