APPENDIX B: Early Access Rubric

	Poor /or Incomplete (1)	Meets Expectations (2)	Exceptional (3)
PROGRAM OVERVIEW			
Critical Access Need Choose with of the following Critical Access shortage areas are in need to be addressed: 　1) Residential Treatment Continuum of Care 　2) Crisis Continuum of Care 　3) Medications Assisted Treatment (MAT) for Justice-Involved Individuals 　4) Prenatal & Perinatal SUD Treatment Programs			
Project Description Provide a detailed description of the project(s) that are to be offered through critical access funding. Including level(s) of care, community-based approaches, and trauma-informed practices.	Unclear or missing description of services.	Describes promising practices that address regional priority goals.	Services are clearly described, include evidence-based practices, and strongly align with the selection of critical access shortage in need of early-access funding.
DEMONSTRATION OF NEED			
Service Gaps Describe the behavioral health service gaps in your region and provide data on unmet needs (e.g., wait times, ED utilization, incarceration rates for individuals with SUD, maternal/infant outcomes, etc.).	Service gaps are vaguely described or unsupported by data.	General service gap identified with some supportive data.	Comprehensive understanding of behavioral health service gaps, clearly supported by data.

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How Needs are Identified Summarize how these needs were identified, including whether they stem from network inadequacy (access to care), coverage limitations (e.g., not covered by Medicaid), or other contributing factors/barriers. *Use both qualitative and quantitative data where available.*	Identification of needs are unclear.	Some needs are identified with limited data. Barries may be mentioned but not well explored.	Unmet needs are clearly articulated and supported with data.
Urgency of Immediate Service Delivery Explain the urgency of immediate service delivery and why early intervention is critical.	Limited explanation of urgency.	Some explanations of urgency, but rationale is vague or lacks depth.	Clear and compelling explanation of why immediate service delivery is critical and how early intervention will address pressing needs.
Target Population Describe who will benefit from the project, including rural, frontier, and tribal communities. Provide a clear description of the key characteristics and size of the primary population, *supported by data.*	Shows limited understanding of target population; little or no data provided.	Basic understanding of population needs, identified with some data.	Displays strong understanding of primary demographic being served. Showcases how needs are determined by target population, supported by comprehensive data.
HOW NEED IS MET			
Service Alignment Explain how the proposed regional priority addresses the identified needs within the region.	Services do not appear connected to the identified need. Does not identify how this plan fills a service gap within the community.	Services loosely align with stated need but lack detail on how services directly respond to it.	Design is clearly aligned with the defined need, showing well-articulated service gap with measurable impact.
Behavioral Health Service Standards Explain how the proposed service expansion that aligns with the priority meets the Service Standards set forth by BHSD.	Meets none or very few requirements within the Behavioral Health Service Standard Guidelines.	Meets most of the requirements within the Behavioral Health Service Standard Guidelines.	Meets or exceeds all of the requirements within the Behavioral Health Service Standard guidelines.

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Cultural Humility Addresses how the plan and service delivery will be tailored to meet the needs of diverse, underserved, disparate populations.	No evidence that services are culturally adapted, or that diverse population needs have been considered.	Some mention of diverse population needs, but with limited strategy to address them.	Provides a comprehensive strategy for addressing diverse service needs with strong cultural alignment.
FUNDING STABILITY			
Use of Funds Proposal details explanation with how funds will be utilized to meet the needs of the identified priority. Proposal outlines a plan for use of necessary expenditures and justifiable costs, given the proposed priority.	Funding request is vague, unclear, or lacks detail. Proposal does not explain how funds will be used to meet identified priorities	Proposal outlines a plan for use of necessary expenditures and justifiable costs, given the proposed priority. Basic alignment with goals is present.	Detailed, well-justified funding request clearly explains how funds will be used to meet the needs of the identified priority. Strong alignment with service goals and deliverables.
MEASURING SUCCESS			
Performance Metrics Defines how success will be measured, including indicators, metric baselines, benchmarks, and reporting tools.	None or vague metric tools identified.	Basic metrics are outlined or may lack specificity.	Data-driven performance plan with robust reporting tools.