

**PINELLAS COUNTY CITY/COUNTY
OPIOID ABATEMENT FUNDING
PRIORITY LIST**

2024 - 2025

SUMMARY

Purpose/Goal

Utilize the City/County Fund of the opioid abatement settlement to increase access to opioid and substance use education, treatment and other related programs and services. Pinellas County will strive to fund services and programs that are available to and equally benefit all residents of Pinellas County.

Background

Pinellas County, along with other Florida cities and counties, agreed to the Florida Opioid Allocation and Statewide Response Agreement (the “Florida Plan”) with the State of Florida. The Florida Plan governs the allocation and use of opioid litigation settlement proceeds and is attached hereto for reference as Attachment 1.

Pursuant to the Florida Plan, the State has established the City/County Fund to distribute funding directly to municipalities and counties. Five (5) municipalities within Pinellas County: Largo, Oldsmar, Safety Harbor, Seminole, and Tarpon Springs have assigned their City/County Fund distributions to Pinellas County. The assignment of these Cities’ funding to Pinellas County reduces duplication of services, reporting, and administration. The Assignment with each municipality is attached hereto for reference as Attachment 2. The County shall comply with all reporting requirements and use funds for Approved Purposes and Core Strategies as outlined in the Florida Plan.

CITY/COUNTY OPIOID ABATEMENT FUNDING PRIORITY LIST

This Priority List will be reviewed and updated, as required, to reflect community need and program performance.

Pinellas County has identified the following Priority List:

1. EXPANSION OF WARM HAND-OFF PROGRAMS AND RECOVERY SERVICES

- a. Expand services such as peer navigators, and on-call teams to begin MAT in hospital emergency departments
- b. Expand warm hand-off services to transition to recovery services

2. MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT “MAT” DISTRIBUTION AND OTHER OPIOID RELATED TREATMENT

- a. Increase distribution of MAT to non-Medicaid eligible or uninsured individuals
- b. Provide MAT education and awareness training to healthcare providers, EMTs, law enforcement, and other first responders

Administrative Updates & Progress

Pinellas Matters

Program Manager Hired

A Program Manager was hired November 2023 to manage the Pinellas Matters Program and expansion. The Program Manager oversees and evaluates ongoing program operations including expanding program sites, data collection and quality.

Solicitations Released

Pinellas Matters – Hospital Bridge Program

Released Date- December 14, 2023

Due Date- January 18, 2024

Priority List Focus

- EXPANSION OF WARM HAND-OFF PROGRAMS AND RECOVERY SERVICES
- MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT “MAT” DISTRIBUTION AND OTHER OPIOID RELATED TREATMENT

Solicitation released to support the continuation and expansion of the Pinellas Matters Hospital Bridge Program. County sought proposals to contract with one or more providers of recovery support services for Recovery Peer Specialist (RPS) and Substance Use Case Managers to co-locate in local hospital emergency departments (ED) to assist with identification, engagement, and support of individuals in accessing substance use treatment services both in the ED and at discharge to enhance follow-up to treatment post-discharge. This was to expand the current Pinellas Matters Pilot Program to additional hospital partners.

Three (3) applications were received. The Evaluation Committee completed rank and review of applications on February 29, 2024, and recommended moving forward with negotiations with the top two highest scoring applicants' Operation PAR, Inc and Recovery Epicenter Foundation, Inc.

County is engaged in negotiations to finalize agreement terms.

Awarded Vendors

Operation PAR, Inc.

Anticipated Start date- October 1, 2024

Final Execution of Agreement is Pending

Progress Summary- Operation PAR, Inc

Negotiations are currently in progress with Operation PAR, Inc to provide Recovery Peer Specialist (RPS) and Case Manager FTEs as the County expands hospital coverage utilizing a pool of available RPS and Case Manager contractors to be assigned to new points of service.

Recovery Epicenter, Inc.

Anticipated Start date- October 1, 2024

Final Execution of Agreement is Pending

Progress Summary- Recovery Epicenter, Inc.

Negotiations are currently in progress with Recovery Epicenter, Inc who will provide Recovery Peer Specialist (RPS) and Case Manager FTEs as the County expands hospital coverage utilizing a pool of available RPS and Case Manager contractors to be assigned, to new points of service.