

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

2026 - 2027

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. Seven (7) municipalities within Pinellas County: Largo, Oldsmar, Safety Harbor, Seminole, Tarpon Springs, Pinellas Park and Clearwater 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.

PINELLAS COUNTY

CITY/COUNTY OPIOID ABATEMENT

FUNDING PRIORITY LIST

This Priority List is submitted annually to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) as Pinellas County’s Implementation Plan outlining how the County intends to allocate and utilize City/County opioid settlement funds in alignment with the requirements of Schedule A, Core Strategies and Schedule B, Approved Uses under the Florida Plan.

In consideration of the Approved Uses and Core Strategies, Pinellas County has identified the following Priority List for FY2026-2027:

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

Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-2027 Funding Allocation

Pinellas Matters Program

SCHEDULE A- CORE STRATEGIES

- 1. Expansion Of Warm Hand-Off Programs and Recovery Services**
- 2. Medication Assisted Treatment “MAT” Distribution and Other Opioid Related Treatment**

Total Project Amount: Not to Exceed \$5,515,608.61 for three (3) years

FY 2026-2027 Amount: \$1,616,444.76

Vendors: Operation PAR, Inc

Recovery Epicenter Foundation, Inc.

Project Period: September 5, 2024- September 30, 2027

PINELLAS COUNTY

CITY/COUNTY OPIOID ABATEMENT

FUNDING PRIORITY LIST

Description: Provides 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. As the County expands, hospital coverage utilizing a pool of available RPS and Case Manager contractors are assigned to new points of service.

The Board of County Commissioners (Board) approved the ranking of firms and agreements on September 5, 2024.

Pinellas Matters Program Manager

A Program Manager was hired in November 2023 to oversee the Pinellas Matters Program and its expansion. The Program Manager is responsible for managing and evaluating program operations, including expanding program sites, data collection and quality oversight. Funding supports the Program Manager's salary & benefits, travel, supplies, equipment and a cell phone stipend.

FY 2026-2027 Amount: Approximately \$128,000

Pinellas Matters Implementation Team

The Implementation Team provides medical direction services for the Pinellas Matters program and its expansion, including clinical consultations with peers, the Program Manager, and hospital staff, as well as data research and analysis, administrative support and direct patient engagement. Funding supports the hourly rate for one physician and one non-physician.

FY 2026-2027 Amount: Approximately \$ 72,000.00

Vendor: Pre-Hospital Medicine Consultants, Inc.

Administrative Updates & Progress

The Pinellas Matters program currently operates in two hospitals, Orlando Health Bayfront Hospital and HCA Florida Northside Hospital and is actively expanding with the goal of establishing a presence in every hospital in Pinellas County. HCA Florida Largo Hospital and HCA Florida Largo West Hospital are the next planned expansion sites. Since its launch in July 2022, the Pinellas Matters team has engaged 3,804 patients, linking 27% of patients to the continuum of care, providing 9% with take-home naloxone, and delivering harm-reduction education to 65% of patients.