

PINELLAS COUNTY REGIONAL OPIOID ABATEMENT FUNDING PRIORITY LIST

As approved by the Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board on April 14, 2026.

2026-2027

SUMMARY

Purpose/Goal

The Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board (“OAFAB”), utilizing the data and projections from the Pinellas County Opioid Taskforce and other relevant and reputable sources, will recommend how to allocate Regional Opioid Settlement Funds allocated to Pinellas County. The OAFAB will strive to fund services and programs that are available to all residents of Pinellas County and allocate funding and services in a manner that equally benefits all residents of Pinellas County.

Pinellas County Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board Members

Chief Lindsay Judah, Chair, City of St. Petersburg, Fire Rescue Division Chief
Dr. Ulyee Choe, Vice-Chair, Florida Dept. of Health in Pinellas County, Director
Lina Teixeira, City of Clearwater, Councilmember
Ricky Butler, City of Pinellas Park, Councilmember
Kathleen Peters, Pinellas County, Commissioner

Background

The Pinellas County Opioid Abatement Priority List (“Priority List”) is a requirement of the negotiated opioid litigation settlement. The settlement conditions are defined by the Interlocal Agreement Governing Use of Pinellas County Regional Opioid Settlement Funds (“Interlocal”), attached hereto for reference (Attachment 1). The Priority List was informed by the Core Strategies and Approved Uses enumerated in the Interlocal.

The Interlocal Agreement is the result of a collective effort by the County, the City of St. Petersburg, the City of Pinellas Park, and the City of Clearwater, to establish the County as a “Qualified County” for purposes of receiving regional opioid settlement funds and established the OAFAB.

The OAFAB is tasked with reviewing opioid-related data, setting priorities for regional settlement funding, and after competitive solicitations administered by Pinellas County Human Services, recommending funding recipients and programs to the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners.

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In 2026, Pinellas County will finalize negotiations of a Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center (BHUCC) to include expanded access to Medication Assisted Treatment and Residential Substance Use Treatment for Women. Opioid Abatement Funding will support both initial capital improvements, implementation, and treatment services. The OAFAB will continue to review opportunities to expand countywide data governance throughout implementation of the Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center.

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 regional opioid settlement funds in alignment with the requirements of Schedule A, Core Strategies and Schedule B, Approved Uses under the Florida Plan.

In alignment with the Approved Uses and Core Strategies, and to support implementation of the Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center, and the ongoing strategic assessment of substance use service in Pinellas County, the OAFAB has identified the following Priority List for FY26-27:

1. COMMUNITY/STRATEGIC PLANNING – LEADERSHIP, PLANNING & COORDINATION

- a. Statewide, regional, local, or community regional planning to identify root causes of addiction and overdose, goals for reducing harms related to the opioid epidemic, and areas and populations with the greatest needs for treatment intervention services; to support training and technical assistance; or to support other strategies to abate the opioid epidemic described in this opioid abatement strategy list.

2. EVIDENCED BASED DATA COLLECTIONS AND RESEARCH ANALYZING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ABATEMENT STRATEGIES WITHIN THE STATE

- a. Monitoring, surveillance, data collection, and evaluation of programs and strategies described in this opioid abatement strategy list.
- b. Geospatial analysis of access barriers to MAT and their association with treatment engagement and treatment outcomes.

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

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

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- c. Broaden scope of recovery services to include co-occurring substance use disorder (“SUD”) and/or mental health conditions
- d. Provide comprehensive wrap-around services to individuals in recovery including housing, transportation, job placement/training, and childcare through all phases of recovery
- e. Hire additional social workers or other behavioral health workers to facilitate expansions above

4. 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
- c. Treatment and Recovery Support Services such as residential and inpatient treatment, intensive outpatient treatment, outpatient therapy or counseling, and recovery housing that allow or integrate medication with other support services.

5. PREGNANT AND POSTPARTUM WOMEN

- a. Expand Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment ("SBIRT") services to non-Medicaid eligible or uninsured pregnant women
- b. Expand comprehensive evidence-based treatment and recovery services, including MAT, for women with co-occurring Opioid Use Disorder ("OUD") and SUD/mental health disorders for uninsured individuals for up to 12 months postpartum
- c. Provide comprehensive wrap-around services to individuals with OUD including housing, transportation, job placement/training, and childcare

6. EXPANDING TREATMENT FOR NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME

- a. Expand comprehensive evidence-based and recovery support for NAS babies
- b. Expand services for better continuum of care with infant-need dyad
- c. Expand long-term treatment and services for medical monitoring of NAS babies and their families

Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-2027 Funding Allocation

On February 26, 2026, OAFAB approved funding for Operation PAR, Inc., the highest-ranking applicant under the Treatment and Recovery Services Solicitation for a Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center (BHUCC). The funding recommendation and Agreement are pending approval from Board of County Commissioners, scheduled for June 16, 2026. The BHUCC aligns with the following Schedule A Core Strategies and Schedule B Approved Uses.

Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center (BHUCC)

SCHEDULE A- CORE STRATEGIES

3. **Expansion Of Warm Hand-Off Programs and Recovery Services**
4. **Medication Assisted Treatment “MAT” Distribution and Other Opioid Related Treatment**
5. **Pregnant And Postpartum Women**

Total Project Amount: Not to Exceed \$33 million for one (1) year of capital and start-up costs and three (3) years of full-service delivery.

FY 2026-2027 Amount: Approximately \$6.6 million

Vendor: Operation PAR, Inc.

Project Period: July 1, 2026-September 30, 2030

Description: A Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center that will provide same-day, walk-in access to behavioral healthcare including but not limited to: assessment, brief intervention, stabilization, outpatient services, psychiatry, medication management, Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) satellite services, and care coordination for individuals experiencing urgent, non-life-threatening behavioral health needs. Additional services include primary healthcare and residential services for pregnant and postpartum women and their children, including women with substance use related infections.

Administrative Updates & Progress

Solicitations Released

Treatment and Recovery Services

Released Date- March 31, 2025

Due Date- June 2, 2025

Solicitation released seeking proposals from qualified organizations interested in providing programs with the primary purpose of abating the opioid epidemic that increase access to treatment services from precontemplation through active recovery including co-occurring and wraparound services, be system transformative programs with an emphasis on collaborative partnerships, inclusion of one or more OAFAB funding priorities and have the primary purpose or be in the furtherance of at least one of the Approved Uses or Core Strategies.

Awarded- (Pending Board of County Commissioner approval)

On February 26, 2026, OAFAB approved funding Operation PAR, Inc as the highest-ranking applicant for a Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center (BHUCC). The funding recommendation and Agreement is pending approval from Board of County Commissioners scheduled for June 16, 2026.

Previously Funded Programs

1. Leadership, Planning & Coordination- Gap Analysis

Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025

Schedule B- Approved Uses- Other Strategies

- COMMUNITY/STRATEGIC PLANNING – LEADERSHIP, PLANNING, & COORDINATION

Amount: \$478,000.00

Vendor: Ernst & Young U.S.LLP

Project Period: May 1, 2024-April 30, 2025 (early Closeout February 17,2025)

Description: Evaluation and gap analysis of the current state of the opioid epidemic and abatement programming in Pinellas County that included specific recommendations, guidance, and examples of best practices for use in competitive solicitations for opioid abatement services.

The Board of County Commissioners approved the funding recommendation on February 20, 2024.