

25-0569A - Regional Priority List

As approved by the Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board on April 1, 2025.

2025-2026

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 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.

PINELLAS COUNTY REGIONAL OPIOID ABATEMENT FUNDING PRIORITY LIST

This Priority List will be reviewed annually by the OAFAB and updated to reflect community need and program performance. OAFAB recognizes the necessity to both: 1) conduct a strategic assessment of Pinellas County's opioid treatment services to effectively plan for the long-term recovery and support of residents; and 2) respond to the immediate need of expanding co-occurring wraparound recovery services and treatment capacity throughout the County.

The Priority List will be 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 consideration of the Approved Uses and Core Strategies, a strategic assessment and wraparound service expansion, the OAFAB has identified the following Priority List for 2025-2026:

1. System-Level Data Governance

A data-sharing framework for agreement and governance at a system level to oversee data collection, insight generation and progress reporting for organizations in the county.

2. Enhanced Care Coordination and Individual Data Management

A technology platform that functions as a single access point to care with coordinating information and (potentially) individual-level interaction data.

3. Increase Access to Safe and High-Quality Housing for Individuals in Recovery

Increasing access across the spectrum of recovery-specific housing, from respite housing to independent living.

4. Expand the Role of Peer Specialists

Redefining peer specialist roles to improve job sustainability in the peer role. Facilitating easier access to certification, improving workplace conditions and ensuring equal treatment and career opportunities.

5. Expanding Access to Programming in Justice Settings

Increasing early diversion programs, implementation of Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) in jails for others besides pregnant females, providing

PINELLAS COUNTY REGIONAL OPIOID ABATEMENT FUNDING PRIORITY LIST

naloxone upon release from carceral settings and expansion of alternatives to incarceration.

6. Create Community Support Teams for Substance Use Disorder

Targeted Community Support Teams (CSTs) for individuals with substance use disorders that provide a level of care higher than traditional case management but at a lower level of care than Assertive Community Teams (ACT teams).

7. Enhance Quick Response Teams

Enhancement of Quick Response Teams (QRTs) for better performance through adoption of emerging practices such as incorporating peer specialists into QRTs, broadening resources for referrals, and implementation of proactive outreach strategies for individuals at risk.

8. Priority Populations

- Justice-Involved Individuals and Families
- Individuals and Families at risk of or with active Child Welfare and/or Dependency involvement.
- Neonatal Expectant Parents and Families

These OAFAB priorities are in alignment with the Approved Uses and Core Strategies under the Florida Plan including but limited to the following:

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

PINELLAS COUNTY REGIONAL OPIOID ABATEMENT FUNDING PRIORITY LIST

- 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
- 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

PINELLAS COUNTY REGIONAL OPIOID ABATEMENT FUNDING PRIORITY LIST

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

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.

Project Period- 12-36 months with consideration of project start-up and implementation.

Budget- \$3 million minimum annual operating budget. The total anticipated available funding under this solicitation is \$30 million.

PINELLAS COUNTY REGIONAL OPIOID ABATEMENT FUNDING PRIORITY LIST

Funded Programs

Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025

Leadership, Planning & Coordination- Gap Analysis

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 (Board) approved the funding recommendation on February 20, 2024.