

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

2025 - 2026

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.

CITY/COUNTY OPIOID ABATEMENT FUNDING PRIORITY LIST

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

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, Pinellas County has identified the following Priority List for FY2025-2026:

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

Funded Programs

Pinellas Matters- Hospital Bridge Program

Schedule A- Core Strategies

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

Contracted Amount: \$5,515,608.61

Vendors: Operation PAR, Inc (\$724,625 Budgeted for FY25/26)

Recovery Epicenter Foundation, Inc. (\$387,427 Budgeted for FY25/26)

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

Description: Hospital Bridge Program. 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. Recovery support services currently provided at Bayfront Hospital and HCA’s Northside Hospital, with plans for expansion to two (2) hospitals per year.

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

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.

Amount: \$122,010 (Annual Salary & Benefits)