

Implementation Plan Year 1 (2023-2024) Non-Qualified County— St. Johns County

Funding Amount: \$1,203.709.21

Counties of service: St. Johns County

Core Strategy (From Schedule A)	Allowable Use (From Schedule B)	Service Provider/Vendor	Contract amount
Expand ability of treatment for OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions.	Provide the full continuum of care of treatment and recovery services for OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions	St Johns County BOCC	\$510,050
Expand ability of treatment for OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions.	staff training programs and services to improve the capability of government, community, and not-for-profit entities to abate the opioid crisis	St. Johns County BOCC	\$200,000
Expand ability of treatment for OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions.	Invest in infrastructure or staffing at government or not-for-profit agencies to support collaborative, cross-system coordination with the purpose of preventing overprescribing, opioid misuse, or opioid overdoses, treating those with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions,	St. Johns County BOCC	\$280,000
Mental Health Counseling for First Responders	Provision of wellness and support services for first responders and others who experience secondary trauma associated with opioid-related emergency events	St. Johns County BOCC	\$213,659.21

Scope of Work and desired outcome:

1. Expand ability of treatment for OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions. The ability to respond to an opioid overdose requires a comprehensive network of response resources strategically located within the jurisdiction. Opioid overdose is a life-threatening event that for a positive outcome is reliant on an expedited and available public safety response. As the opioid epidemic has spread through St. Johns County, our emergency response resources have been stretched necessitating the need to add new ambulances and replace aging apparatus in our fleet. Since 2021 we have seen a consistent increase in calls requiring the use of *Narcan*. Increasing from 349 emergency events in 2020 to 494 events in 2022. This represents an increase in likely opioid related emergency events of 41% in just two years. This increase is straining available resources and creating a potential for delayed response due to a limited number of responding apparatus
2. The ability to respond to opioid overdose requires training and experience to avoid poor outcomes. Utilizing grant funds allocated for addressing the opioid epidemic to support

paramedic training presents a strategic approach to combating the crisis. Paramedics play a crucial role in responding to opioid-related emergencies, administering life-saving treatments like naloxone to individuals experiencing overdoses. Paramedics can further this treatment by supporting airway management and providing advanced ventilatory skills. With comprehensive training, paramedics can better identify overdose cases, administer timely interventions, and potentially save lives in critical situations

3. Transport ventilators (14) at a cost of \$20,000 each will greatly enhance SJCFR's response to acute respiratory/cardiac emergencies due to opioid abuse and/or overdose.
4. Provide individual therapy to SJCFR personnel; bi-annual psychoeducation for employees and officers; Critical Incident Stress Management debriefs and consultations



ST. JOHNS COUNTY
FIRE RESCUE
3657 Gaines Road
St. Augustine, Florida 32084-6565

I N T E R O F F I C E M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Shawna Novak, Director HHS
FROM: Sean McGee, Acting Fire Chief
SUBJECT: FY 23-24 State Opioid Settlement Funds
DATE: November 29, 2023

The opioid crisis continues to impact St. Johns County Fire Rescue (SJCFR), which places an increased strain on the EMS system. The surge in opioid-related incidents has contributed to heightened call volumes and escalated the acuity of medical emergencies. First responders grapple with the relentless demand for assistance, taxing resources and stretching personnel to their limits. SJCFR finds itself at the forefront of this public health emergency.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the State of Florida and Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participants seeks to hold this group accountable for damage caused to Local Communities and Governments. It is the intent of the State of Florida and its Local Governments to use the proceeds from settlements with Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Participants to increase the amount of funding presently spent on opioid and substance abuse mitigation, response, education, treatment and other related programs and services.

In support of these goals, we propose using a portion of the settlement funds to increase SJCFR's capacity to respond to out-of-hospital medical emergencies caused by chronic opioid abuse and acute overdose. Below is a list of public safety funding options presented for approval by the Department.

1) Paramedic Response Advanced Life Support Ambulance and Associated Equipment - \$510,050

Direct Benefit: The ability to respond to an opioid overdose requires a comprehensive network of response resources strategically located within the jurisdiction. Opioid overdose is a life-threatening event that for a positive outcome is reliant on an expedited and available public safety response. As the opioid epidemic has spread through St. Johns County, our emergency response resources have been stretched necessitating the need to add new ambulances and replace aging apparatus in our fleet. Since 2021 we have seen a consistent increase in calls requiring the use of *Narcan*.

Increasing from 349 emergency events in 2020 to 494 events in 2022. This represents an increase in likely opioid related emergency events of 41% in just two years. This increase is straining available resources and creating a potential for delayed response due to a limited number of responding apparatus.

Utilizing grant funds allocated with this settlement agreement we would propose to purchase one (1) Advanced Life Support Ambulance as an addition to our current response fleet to mitigate the increase in call volume related to opioid related events and to improve resource availability and response times to

these life-threatening events. Our goal is that this purchase will provide more paramedics to the scene of these events in a timely manner and result in a positive outcome for opioid overdose related patients.

Approved Uses: Expand ability of treatment for OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions. (Schedule A,1.). The addition of this response resource will immediately provide an expansion of care and treatment to acute opioid related emergencies.

Provide the full continuum of care of treatment and recovery services for OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions. (Schedule B, 2.)

The full continuum of care often begins with the emergency response system and during the cycle may return to this system because of re-lapse related to some patients. Providing this response resource will enhance and improve this layer of the continuum of care and continue as a vital part of the recovery cycle related to opioid addiction.

2) Paramedic Training - \$200,000

Direct Benefit: The ability to respond to opioid overdose requires training and experience to avoid poor outcomes. Utilizing grant funds allocated for addressing the opioid epidemic to support paramedic training presents a strategic approach to combating the crisis. Paramedics play a crucial role in responding to opioid-related emergencies, administering life-saving treatments like naloxone to individuals experiencing overdoses. Paramedics can further this treatment by supporting airway management and providing advanced ventilatory skills. With comprehensive training, paramedics can better identify overdose cases, administer timely interventions, and potentially save lives in critical situations.

Approved Uses: Provide funding for staff training or networking programs and services to improve the capability of government, community, and not-for-profit entities to abate the opioid crisis. (Schedule B, K./1.)

Training and education regarding naloxone and other drugs that treat overdoses for first responders, overdose patients, patients taking opioids, families, schools, community support groups, and other members of the public. (Schedule B, H./3.)

Expand training for first responders, schools, community support groups and families; (Schedule A, A./1.)

3) Hamilton-T1 Intelligent Transport Ventilators - \$280,000

Direct Benefit: Transport ventilators (14) at a cost of \$20,000 each will greatly enhance SJCFR's response to acute respiratory/cardiac emergencies due to opioid abuse and/or overdose.

Approved Uses: Invest in infrastructure or staffing at government or not-for-profit agencies to support collaborative, cross-system coordination with the purpose of preventing overprescribing, opioid misuse, or opioid overdoses, treating those with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions, supporting them in treatment or recovery, connecting them to care, or implementing other strategies to abate the opioid epidemic described in this opioid abatement strategy list. (Schedule B, J./3.)

Support infrastructure and staffing for collaborative cross-system coordination to prevent opioid misuse, prevent overdoses, and treat those with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions, or implement other strategies to abate the opioid epidemic described in this opioid abatement strategy list (e.g., health care, primary care, pharmacies, PDMPs, etc.). (Schedule B, K./2.)

Educate law enforcement or other first responders regarding appropriate practices and precautions when dealing with fentanyl or other drugs. (Schedule B, I./1.)

4) Mental Health Counseling for SJCFR Personnel (Elbow Tree Cooperative, LLC) - \$204,000

Direct Benefit: Provide individual therapy to SJCFR personnel; bi-annual psychoeducation for employees and officers; Critical Incident Stress Management debriefs and consultations.

Approved Uses: Provision of wellness and support services for first responders and others who experience secondary trauma associated with opioid-related emergency events. (Schedule B, I./2.)

TOTAL REQUESTED EXPENDITURE: \$1,194,050

Thank you in advance for your consideration and please let us know if any clarification or explanation is required on our behalf.