



City of Ocala Implementation Plan

In the City of Ocala, Florida, we face a significant challenge in combating the opioid crisis—a crisis that has deeply impacted our communities, families, and individuals. Our Opioid Implementation Plan is a strategic response designed to address this issue through targeted actions. This plan, tailored to the unique needs of Ocala, aims to implement a multifaceted approach focusing on treatment, prevention, and education.

Our commitment is to provide effective, evidence-based strategies encompassing a broad spectrum of interventions, from expanding access to treatment and recovery services and enhancing the quality and oversight of care to pioneering preventative measures that curb the misuse of opioids. We understand that the path toward healing and recovery is not uniform; hence, our plan is inclusive, considering the diverse needs of our population.

This plan is a commitment to our community to use the resources available to us, collaborate across sectors, and continuously innovate to address this crisis. We are committed to building a future for the City of Ocala where the effects of opioid addiction are replaced with hope, health, and a revitalized sense of community resilience.

Background

In collaboration with Marion County, Ocala has entered into the Florida Opioid Allocation and Statewide Response Agreement (referred to as the "Florida Plan") with the State of Florida.

The Regional Opioid Settlement Committee was established in March 2023. It includes representatives from law enforcement, fire rescue, city and county personnel, a Marion County Hospital District trustee, and elected representatives.

Potential Implementation Strategies:

1. Prevention

- Collaborate with local schools to implement comprehensive opioid prevention education.
- Develop community workshops focusing on opioid misuse prevention and awareness.

2. Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT):

- Increase availability of MAT programs by providing grants to local clinics.

3. Recovery

- Develop and fund peer support groups and recovery coaching programs.
- Provide resources for housing, job training, and employment support for individuals in recovery.



4. Enforcement

- Provide funding for specialized training for law enforcement on opioid-related issues.
- Equip law enforcement with necessary resources to address opioid-related crimes effectively.
- Expand and promote drug take-back programs to safely dispose of unused medications.
- Increase the number of permanent drug disposal sites across the city.

5. Community Awareness and Education

- Launch a city-wide awareness campaign on the dangers of opioid misuse and available resources.
- Utilize social media, local media, and community events to spread awareness.

6. Partnerships and Collaboration:

- Partner with local organizations, nonprofits, and faith-based groups to amplify outreach efforts.
- Participate in and fund Ocala Fire Rescue personnel in the CORE program. This comprehensive approach expands every aspect of overdose response and treats all primary and secondary impacts of substance use disorder. From care and peer navigators directly within an emergency department, to sustainable overall health care, this structure disrupts the revolving door of addiction and overdose.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Regular Reporting:

- Require quarterly reports from funded programs and initiatives to track progress and outcomes.

Conclusion:

By strategically allocating the opioid settlement funds, the City of Ocala aims to create a comprehensive and sustainable response to the opioid crisis. This plan emphasizes prevention, treatment, recovery, enforcement, and community awareness to reduce opioid misuse and support affected individuals and families. Through collaboration and continuous evaluation, we will work towards a healthier and safer community for all.