

STATEWIDE COUNCIL ON OPIOID ABATEMENT

MEETING PACKET



Combating the Opioid Epidemic

See how the State of Florida is serving communities by supporting prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts statewide.

March 31, 2026

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Statewide Council on Opioid Abatement

Meeting Agenda

March 31, 2026

1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. EST

In-Person at 91 Eslinger Way, Sanford, FL 32773

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Council Members

Attorney General James Uthmeier Chair	1:00 – 1:15	Welcome/Call Meeting to Order/Opening Remarks Sheriff Dennis M. Lemma, Delegate Chair
Sheriff Dennis M. Lemma Delegate Chair	1:15 – 1:20	Roll Call and Approval of October 22, 2025, Meeting Minutes Aaron Platt, DCF Staff Liaison
Secretary Taylor N. Hatch Vice Chair	1:20 – 1:50	State of the State: Florida’s 2025 Opioid Recovery Efforts Amanda VanLaningham, DCF Assistant Secretary for Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Amy Ronshausen Governor’s Appointee	1:50 – 2:20	The Pearl Project Joy Zedler, Executive Director
Guy Wheeler Senate President’s Appointee	2:20 – 3:00	Opioid-Related Interventions and Crisis Intervention Training for First Responders Sheriff Dr. Gregory Tony, Broward Sheriff’s Office
Sheriff Robert A. Hardwick Office of the Speaker’s Appointee	3:00 – 3:10	Break
Commissioner Chris Dougherty Florida Association of Counties	3:10 – 3:40	Recovery Peer Jail Program Sara Barkley, CEO Fellowship Recovery Community Organization (FRCO)
Commissioner Lee Constantine Florida Association of Counties	3:40 – 3:45	Public Comment
	3:45 – 4:00	Closing Remarks Sheriff Dennis M. Lemma, Delegate Chair
Mayor Keith James Florida League of Cities Appointee		
Council Member Josh Fuller Florida League of Cities Appointee		
Vice Mayor Jolien Caraballo Florida League of Cities Appointee		



Statewide Council on Opioid Abatement

Council Members

Attorney General James Uthmeier
Chair

Sheriff Dennis M. Lemma
Delegate Chair

Secretary Taylor Hatch
Vice Chair

Amy Ronshausen
Governor's Appointee

Dr. Guy Wheeler
Senate President's Appointee

Sheriff Robert A. Hardwick
Office of the Speaker's Appointee

Commissioner Chris Dougherty
Florida Association of Counties

Commissioner Lee Constantine
Florida Association of Counties

Mayor Keith James
Florida League of Cities Appointee

Council Member Josh Fuller
Florida League of Cities Appointee

Vice Mayor Jolien Caraballo
Florida League of Cities Appointee

Virtual Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2025

2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. EST

Welcome/Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by Delegate Chair, Sheriff M. Lemma. Roll call was taken by Aaron Platt.

Attendance Summary

Sheriff Lemma, Delegate Chair

William Hardin for Secretary Taylor Hatch, Vice Chair

Amy Ronshausen, Governor's Appointee

Major Todd Shear, President's Appointee

Commissioner Chris Dougherty, Florida Association of Counties, Appointee

Commissioner Lee Constantine, Florida Association of Counties Appointee

Mayor Keith James, Florida League of Cities Appointee

Opening Remarks

Sheriff Dennis Lemma opened the meeting by welcoming council members and providing a high-level overview of the agenda. He shared that the purpose of the meeting is to approve the 2025 Opioid Abatement Council recommendations.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion passed to approve minutes from the September 5, 2025, meeting.

Motion: Council Member Lee Constantine

Second: Council Member Chris Dougherty

Annual Legislative Report Review, Discussion, Approval

Delegate Chair Lemma reviewed statistics from the past year supporting successful opioid abatement. Fourteen total recommendations are proposed in the 2025 report. A motion to approve the report was made by Council Member Lee Constantine. The motion was seconded by Council Member Chris Dougherty. The motion to approve the report passed with no opposition.

Delegate Chair Lemma informed the Council of a discussion with Broward County Sheriff Dr. Gregory Tony. The Broward County Sheriff's Department launched a training course focused on opioid use disorder and crisis intervention specifically for first responders. Sheriff Dr. Gregory Tony will be invited to present at a future Opioid Abatement Council meeting.

Public Comment

No comment from the public.

Closing Remarks

Sheriff Lemma provided closing remarks and thanked council members. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:20 PM.



STATE OF THE STATE YEAR IN REVIEW 2025 OPIOID RECOVERY EFFORTS

Amanda VanLaningham, Esq.

Assistant Secretary for Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Florida Department of Children and Families

March 31, 2026

OVERVIEW

Role of the Department of Children and Families (Department)

As the single state agency for Substance Abuse and Mental Health and the State Opioid Treatment Authority, the Department is responsible for:



Providing treatment for substance abuse through a community-based provider system that offers detoxification, treatment and recovery supports for children and adults affected by substance misuse, abuse, or dependence.



Planning, managing, and evaluating a statewide program of mental health services and supports, including community programs, crisis services, state residential treatment facilities, and children's mental health services.



OVERVIEW (CONTINUED)

The Department of Children and Families also:



Contracts with seven Managing Entities to operate the behavioral health system of care that serves uninsured and underinsured individuals needing treatment, recovery, and other supports.



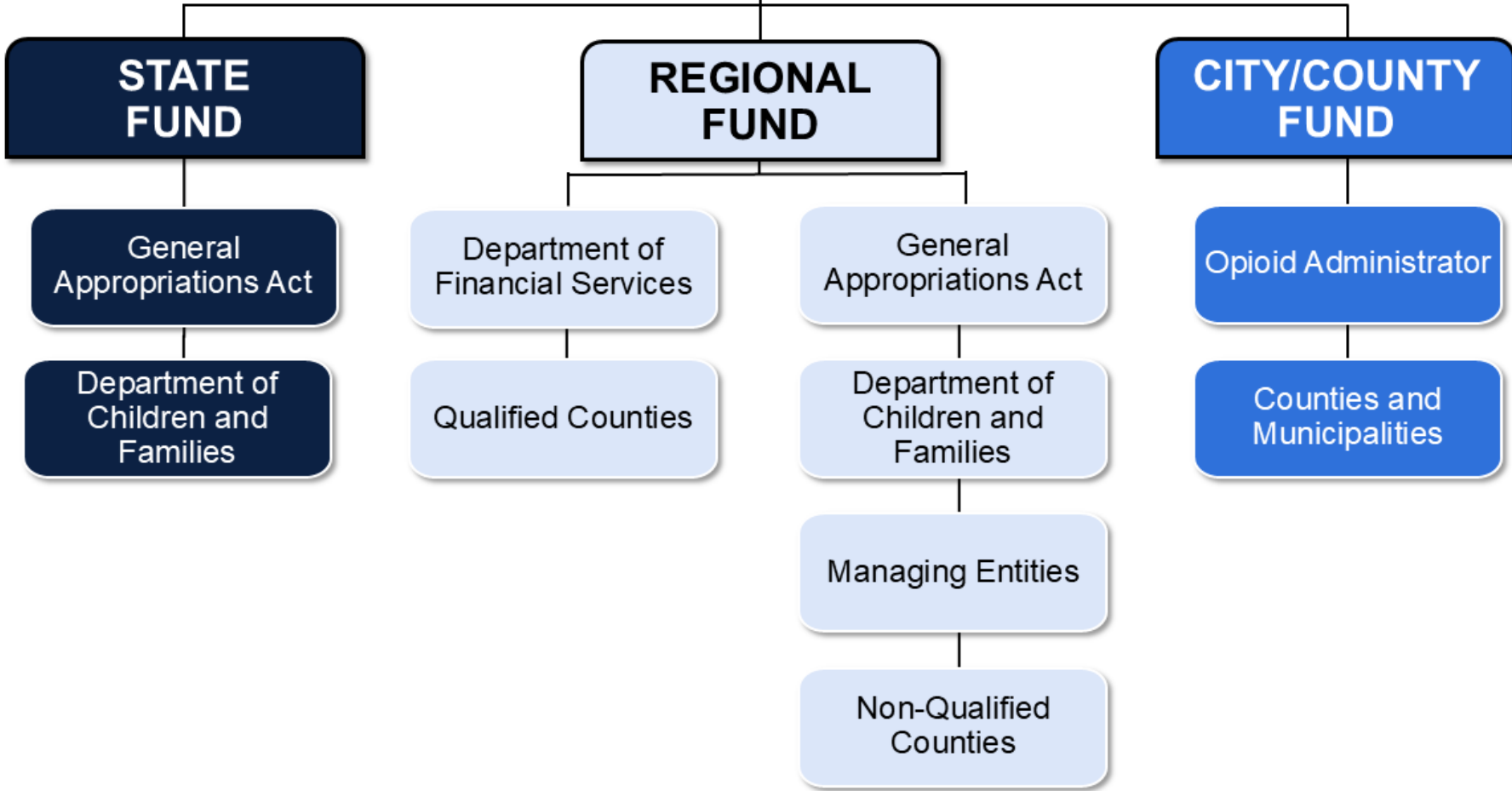
Offers administrative support to the Statewide Council on Opioid Abatement, which is established in s. 397.335, Florida Statutes.



Has responsibility for developing the Legislatively-approved state plan and allocations for the Opioid Settlement Trust Fund, in accordance with the allowable uses in the Florida Opioid Allocation and Statewide Response Agreement.



**FLORIDA OPIOID
SETTLEMENT FUNDS**
\$3.1 Billion Over 18 Years



QUALIFIED VS. NON-QUALIFIED COUNTIES



The Regional Fund is divided into two subtypes: The Regional Fund for qualified counties and the Regional Fund for non-qualified counties.

Qualified Counties



There are 20 qualified counties that are classified as such because they:

- Have a population of at least 300,000 individuals
- Have an opioid task force (or similar entity)
- Have an opioid abatement plan.



Regional Funds for qualified counties are distributed directly by the Department of Financial Services. These funds do not flow through the Department.

Non-Qualified Counties



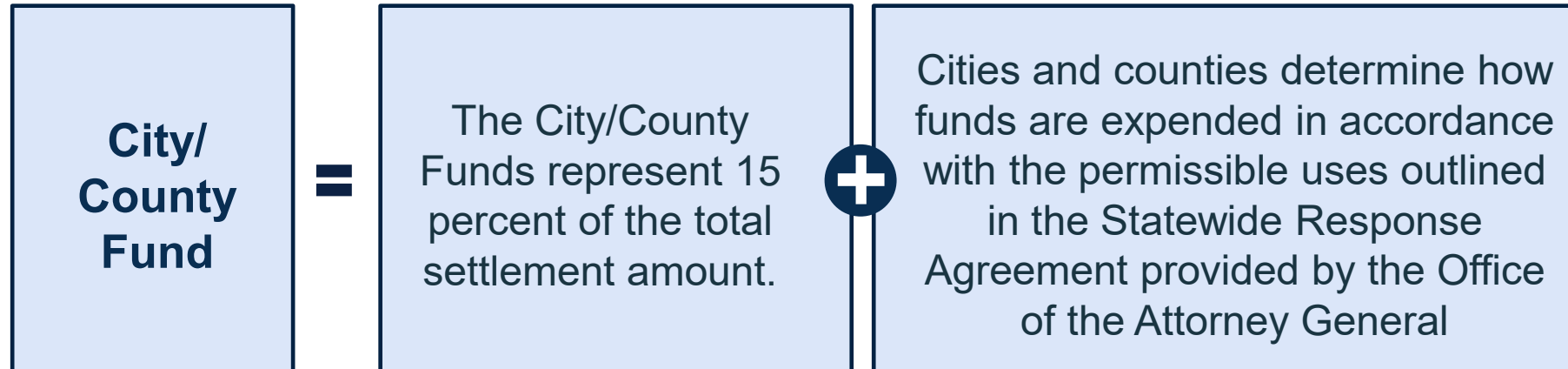
There are 47 non-qualified counties.



The Regional Funds for non-qualified counties are appropriated through the General Appropriations Act and flow through the Department to the Managing Entities which contract for services in those regions.



CITY/COUNTY FUND



FY 2025-2026 APPROPRIATIONS

DCF Initiative through State Fund	FY 2025-2026	Recurring	Non-Recurring
Coordinated Opioid Recovery Network (CORE)	\$ 31,804,964.00	\$ 31,804,964.00	\$ 0
Treatment and Recovery Support Services	\$ 26,541,309.00	\$ 19,943,661.00	\$ 6,597,648.00
Primary Prevention and Media Campaigns	\$ 22,453,150.00	\$ 0	\$ 22,453,150.00
Member/Local Projects	\$ 14,543,000.00	\$ 0	\$ 14,543,000.00
Recovery Housing	\$ 15,720,560.00	\$ 8,720,560.00	\$ 7,000,000.00
Overdose Prevention through Naloxone Saturation	\$ 11,502,352.00	\$ 5,250,000.00	\$ 6,252,352.00
Peer Supports and Recovery Community Organizations	\$ 11,000,000.00	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 9,000,000.00
Court Diversion	\$ 7,000,000.00	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 5,000,000.00
On-Demand, Mobile MAT	\$ 6,000,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 4,500,000.00
Statewide Integrated Data System (Tech and Data Supports)	\$ 5,000,000.00	\$ 5,000,000.00	\$ 0
Office of Opioid Recovery	\$ 4,510,702.00	\$ 4,510,702.00	\$ 0
Specialized Training in Graduate Medical Education	\$ 4,066,854.00	\$ 4,066,854.00	\$ 0
Hospital Bridge Programs	\$ 4,000,000.00	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 2,000,000.00
Applied Research	\$ 4,000,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00
Fixed Capital Outlay (FCO)	\$ 3,700,000.00	\$ 0	\$ 3,700,000.00
Managing Entity (ME) Administrative Support	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 0	\$ 3,000,000.00
Jail-Based MAT	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 0
Online Bed Availability System	\$ 1,650,000.00	\$ 1,450,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 178,492,891.00	\$ 91,246,741.00	\$ 87,246,150.00

The total shown excludes the allocation for Non-Qualified Counties. The total legislative appropriation, including the Non-Qualified Counties allocation, is **\$196,301,741**.

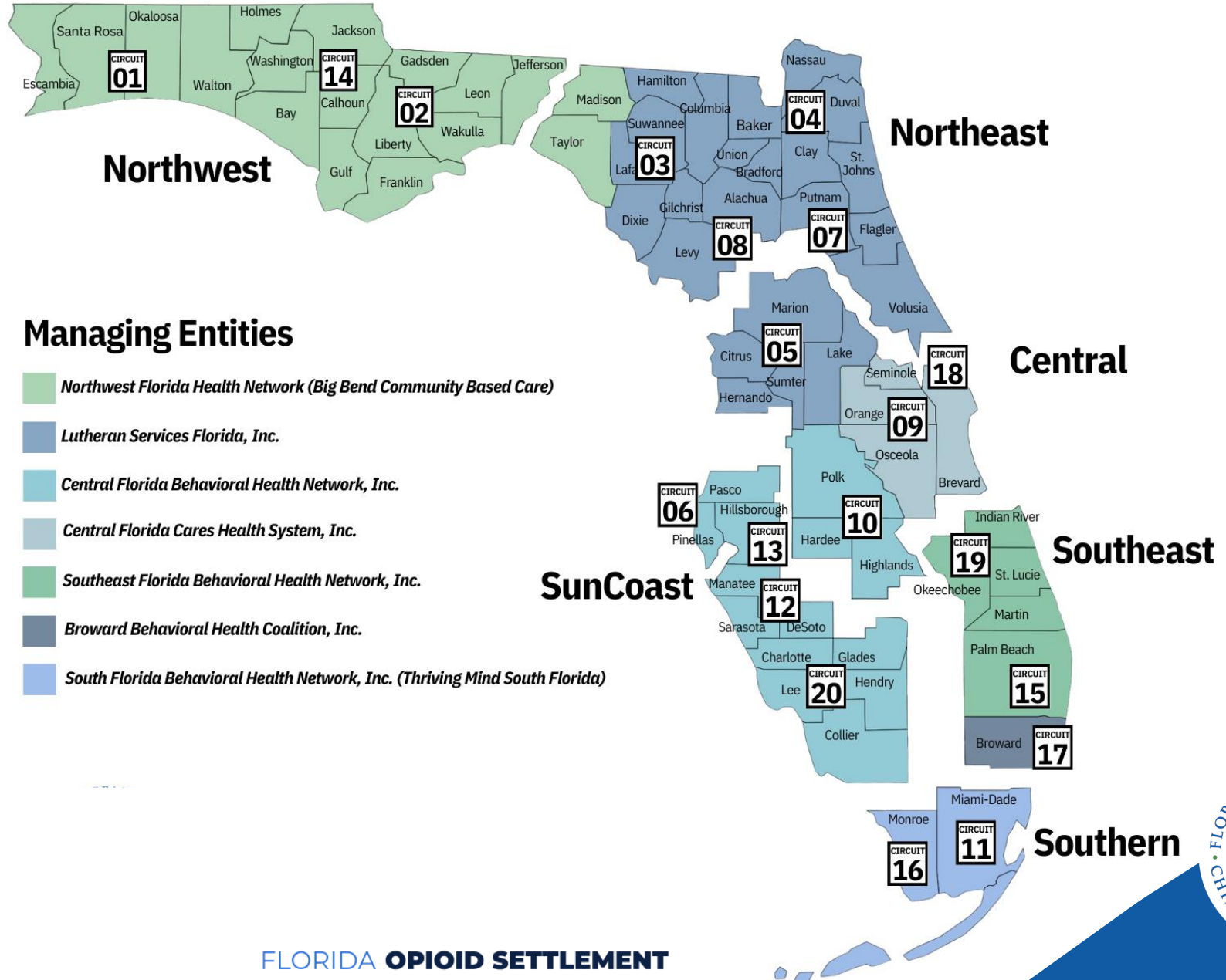


A TRANSPARENT AND COLLABORATIVE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

- For the State Fund, LBR development entails using data to document unmet needs among special populations and articulation of the expected outcomes and return on investment.
- LBRs must align with the priorities of the Governor and the Legislature.
- Those requests are reviewed through the state budget process, and the Legislature ultimately determines the appropriations and approved uses reflected in the General Appropriations Act.
- Many programs begin as local pilot projects and are later expanded when they achieve the intended outcomes and can be disseminated with tools to support fidelity monitoring and any adaptations or enhancements as needed.
- For the entirety of the opioid settlement, this Council supports the process by reviewing data and publishing an annual report on how opioid settlement funds were spent, with recommendations on how funds should be prioritized in the future – informed by local Implementation Plans, Financial Reports, and service data.
- This Council’s work is also supported by the following resources:
 - The Florida Opioid Allocation and Statewide Response Agreement, which identifies “Core Strategies” to be prioritized, and “Approved Uses.”
 - Settlement funds are approved for services adhering to the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) National Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder.
 - Qualified Counties that have local opioid taskforces or councils within qualified counties.



MANAGING ENTITIES



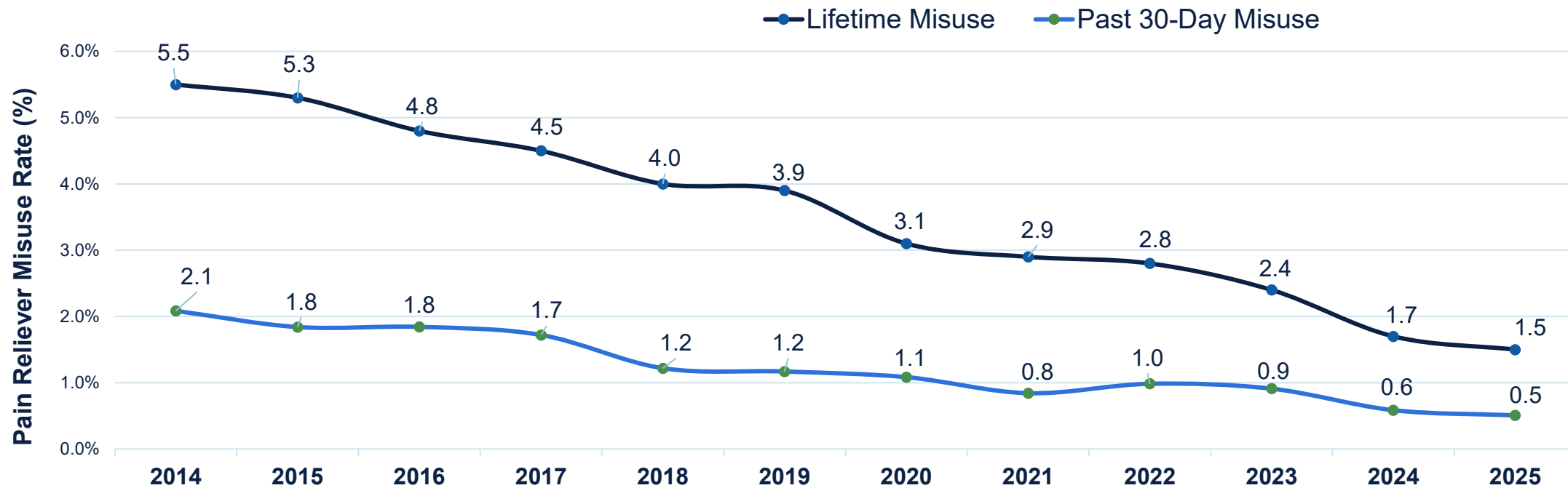
OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS DISTRIBUTED TO THE MANAGING ENTITIES

DCF Initiative from State Fund	FY 2025-2026	Recurring	Non-Recurring
Coordinated Opioid Recovery (CORE)	\$28,993,750	\$28,993,750	\$0
Treatment and Recovery Support Services	\$24,677,391	\$19,943,661	\$4,733,780
Peer Supports and Recovery Community Organizations	\$8,250,000	\$2,000,000	\$6,250,000
Hospital Bridge Programs	\$4,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Non-Qualified Counties	\$17,808,850	\$0	\$17,808,850
Member/Local Projects	\$ 5,000,000	\$0	\$ 5,000,000
Managing Entity (ME) Administrative Support	\$ 3,000,000	\$0	\$ 3,000,000
TOTAL	\$91,729,911	\$52,937,411	\$38,792,580

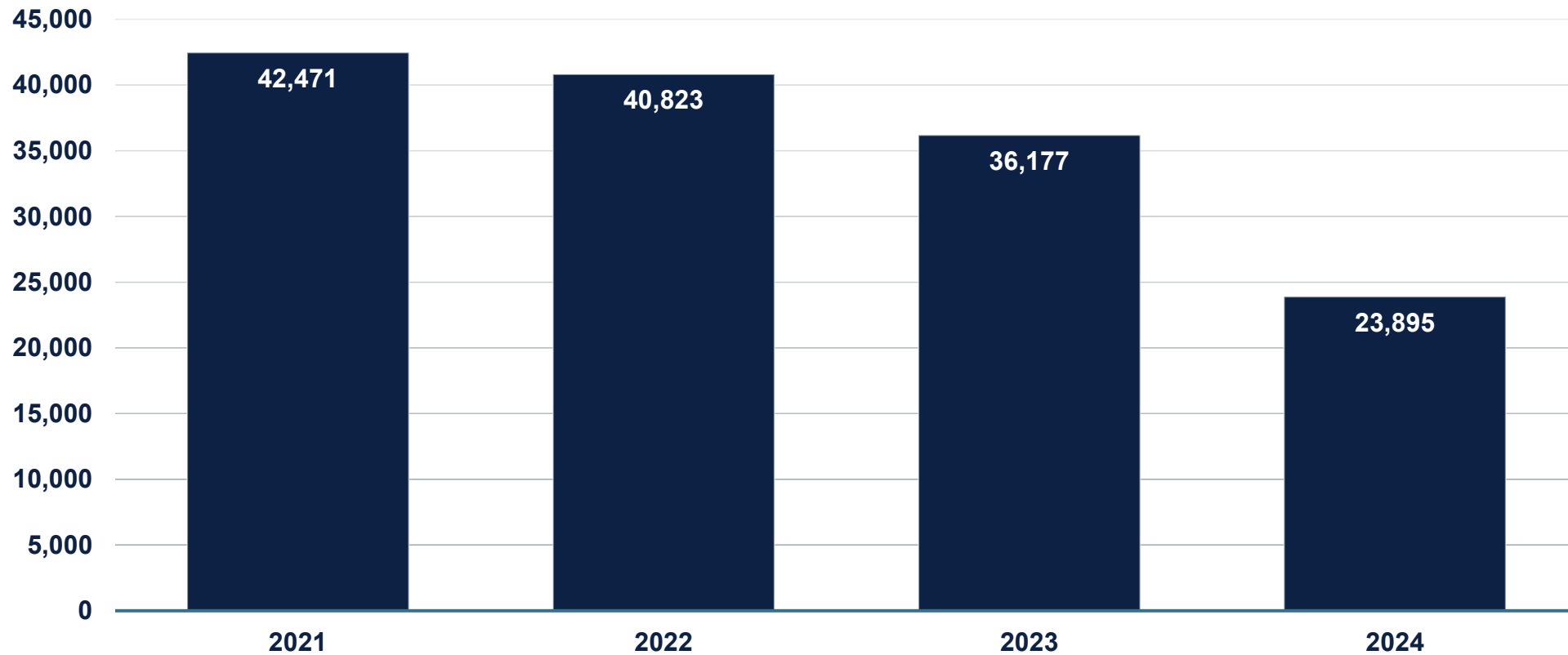


FLORIDA YOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE SURVEY

ADOLESCENT PRESCRIPTION PAIN RELIEVER MISUSE RATES, 2014-2025



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE (EMS) RESPONSES TO SUSPECTED OPIOID OVERDOSES IN FLORIDA, 2021-2024



Provisional data as published on FLHealthCharts.gov and accessed on February 20, 2026.

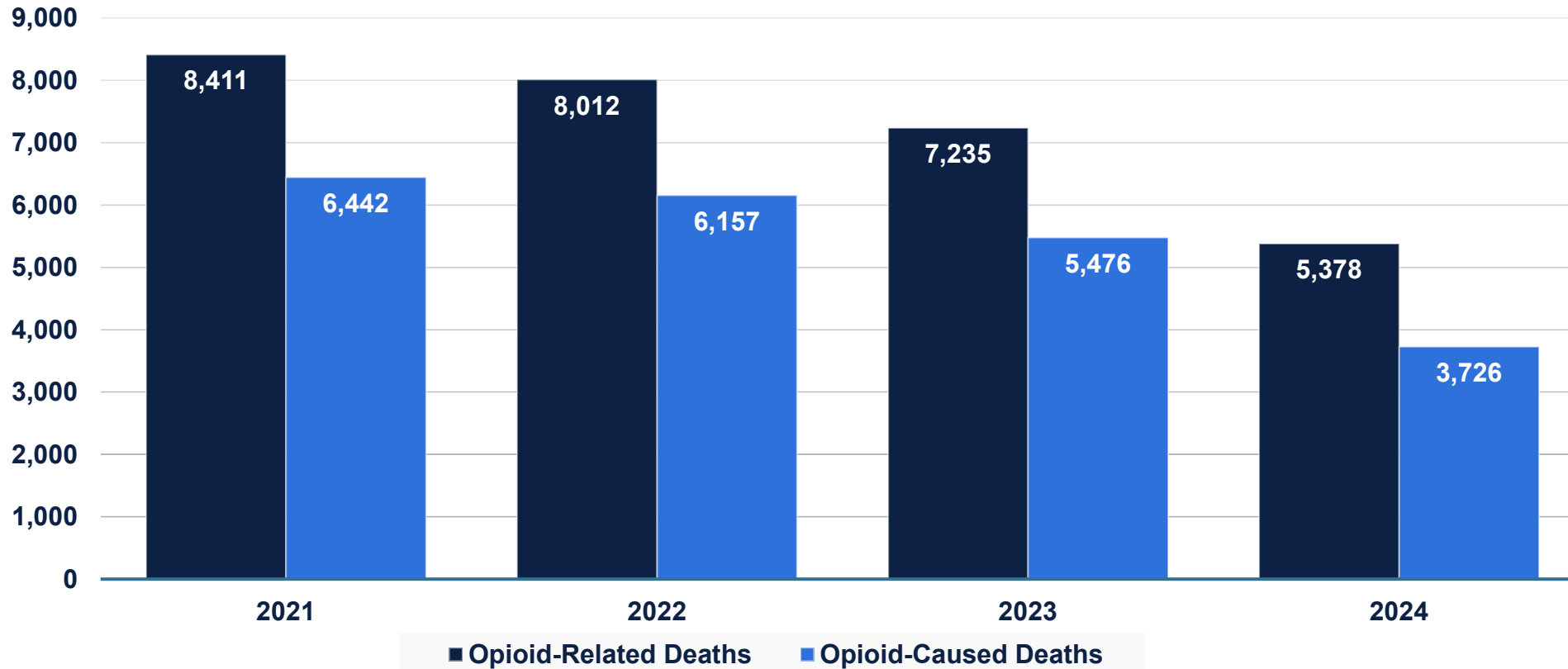


REDUCTION IN OPIOID-CAUSED AND OPIOID-RELATED DEATHS, 2021-2024

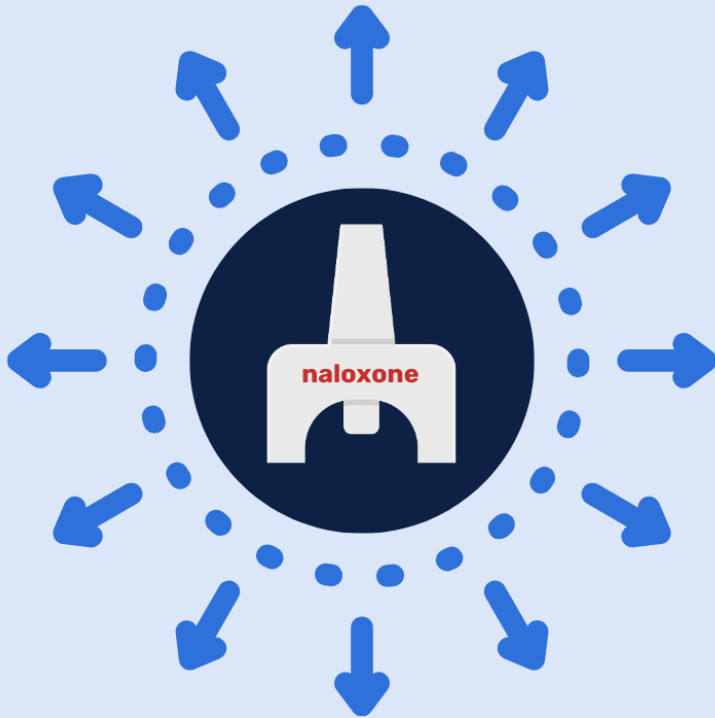


Florida experienced a decrease in both opioid-caused deaths and opioid-related deaths from calendar years 2021 to 2024.

Opioid Deaths in Florida

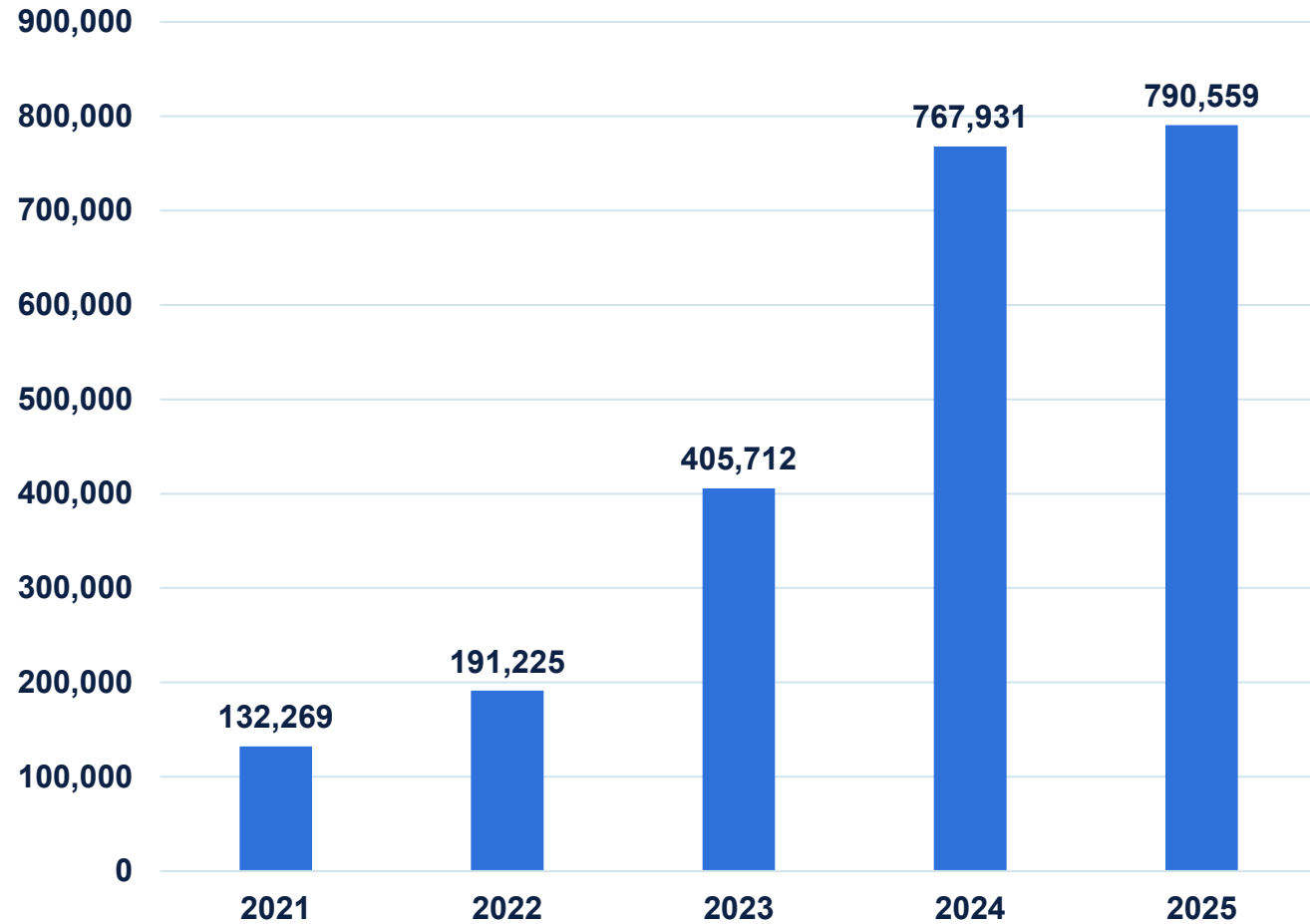


LIFE SAVING EFFORTS



RECOGNIZE • RESPOND • REVERSE

NALOXONE DISTRIBUTION, 2021-2025



FY 2024-2025 COUNTY EMS AND CORE CLINIC HIGHLIGHTS



HOPE FOR ADDICTION RECOVERY



EMS responded to 200,647 calls for individuals with substance use disorder (SUD), of which 17,267 were for individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD).



EMS responded to 55,944 overdose calls and reversed an overdose with naloxone on 16,998 of the calls.



CORE receiving clinics or treatment centers have served 74,531 individuals with SUD.



Of the 74,531 individuals served with an SUD, 32,787 (44%), had OUD.



Of the 32,787 individuals served with OUD, 22,955 (70%) received medication assisted treatment (MAT).

To date, the CORE Network has reached full statewide expansion covering 67 counties.

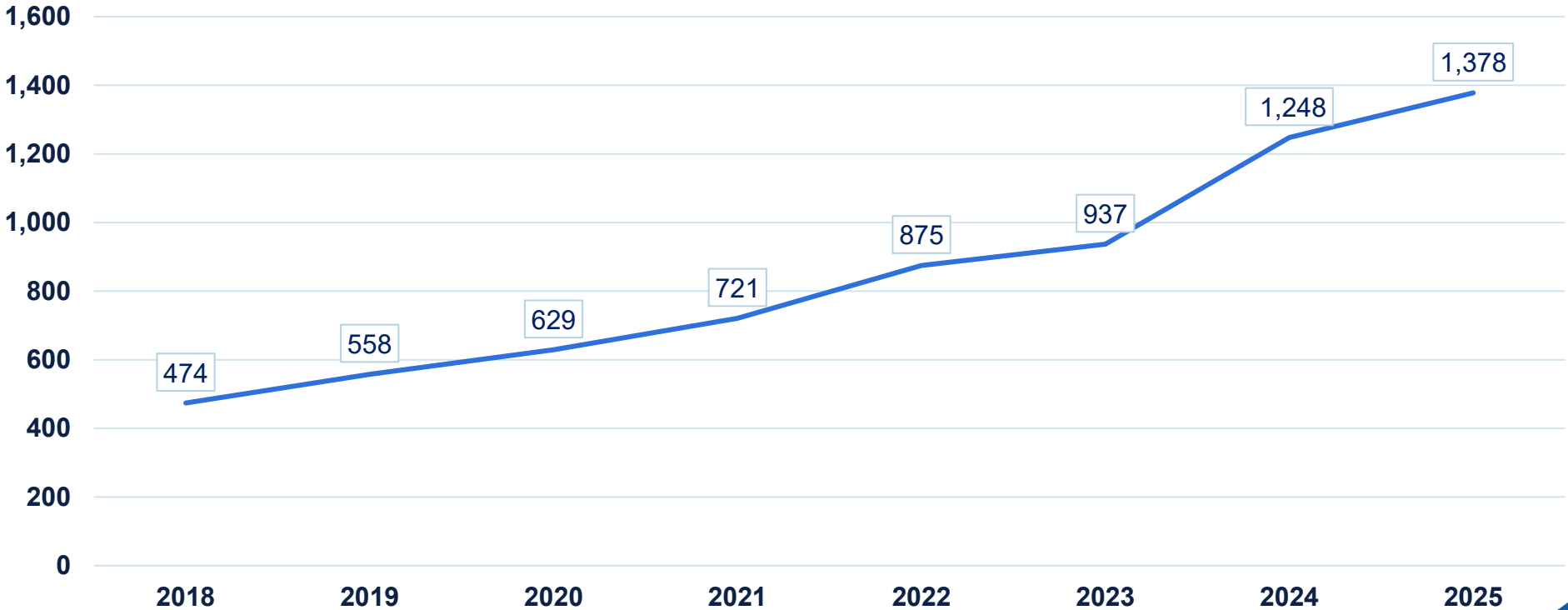


PEER SUPPORT SERVICES EXPANSION



Florida has continued to expand the number of Certified Recovery Peer Specialists statewide by 190 percent from 2018-2025.

TOTAL CERTIFIED RECOVERY PEER SPECIALISTS, 2018-2025



RECOVERY HOUSING

- Recovery housing provides safe, stable, and supportive living environments to help individuals sustain recovery.
- The opioid settlement agreement authorizes the use of funds for recovery housing that allows or integrates FDA-approved medications.
- Oxford Houses are peer-run and self-sustaining recovery homes that admit residents taking medications for substance use disorders.
- From December 2023 through February 2026, opioid settlement funds have been deployed to establish 40 new Oxford Houses, increasing the total number of Department-funded homes up to 293. These homes provide a total of 2,569 beds for men and women.
- In FY 2024-2025 alone, 19 new Oxford Houses were added using settlement funds, which housed 908 individuals.
- Additionally, the Department competitively procured 5 contracts for recovery housing, which assisted 94 individuals from November 2025 through February 2026.



CONTACT INFORMATION

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

OFFICE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH

Amanda VanLaningham



Assistant Secretary



Amanda.VanLaningham@myflfamilies.com



QUESTIONS?

For more information on the Florida Opioid Settlement , scan the QR code:





thepearlproject.org

OUR HISTORY



THE PROBLEM



**Childhood
Trauma**



Secondary Trauma



**Attachment
Wounds**

OUR SOLUTION



EDUCATE



ENCOURAGE



ENGAGE

TRAININGS

PARENT COACHING

SUPPORT GROUPS

THERAPEUTIC GROUPS

RETREATS

FAMILY EVENTS/CAMPS

ABUSE



Physical



Emotional



Sexual

NEGLECT



Physical



Emotional

HOUSEHOLD DYSFUNCTION



Mental Illness



Incarcerated Relative



Mother treated violently



Substance Abuse

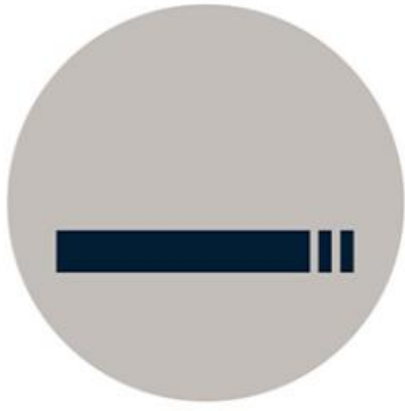


Divorce

BEHAVIOR



Lack of physical activity



Smoking



Alcoholism



Drug use



Missed work

PHYSICAL & MENTAL HEALTH



Severe obesity



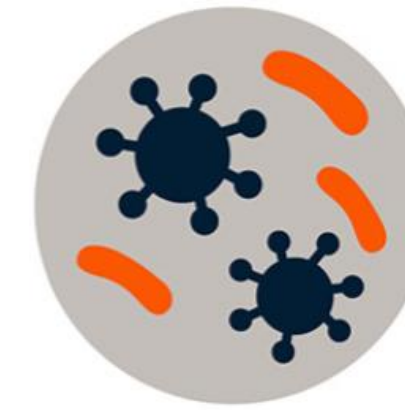
Diabetes



Depression



Suicide attempts



STDs



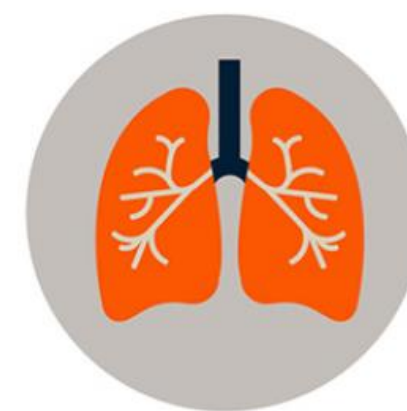
Heart disease



Cancer



Stroke



COPD



Broken bones

THE 5 BS OF TRAUMA

BODY

SENSORY & PHYSIOLOGICAL ISSUES

BRAIN

OVERACTIVE FIGHT/FLIGHT/FREEZE RESPONSE

BIOLOGY

CHANGES IN DNA CAN BE PASSED DOWN

BELIEFS

LOW SELF-ESTEEM AND LOW SELF-WORTH

BEHAVIOR

RELATIONAL AND REGULATION STRUGGLES



"Children who are harmed in relationship will only find healing through relationship."

-Dr. Karyn Purvis

Trust-Based Relational Intervention[®]

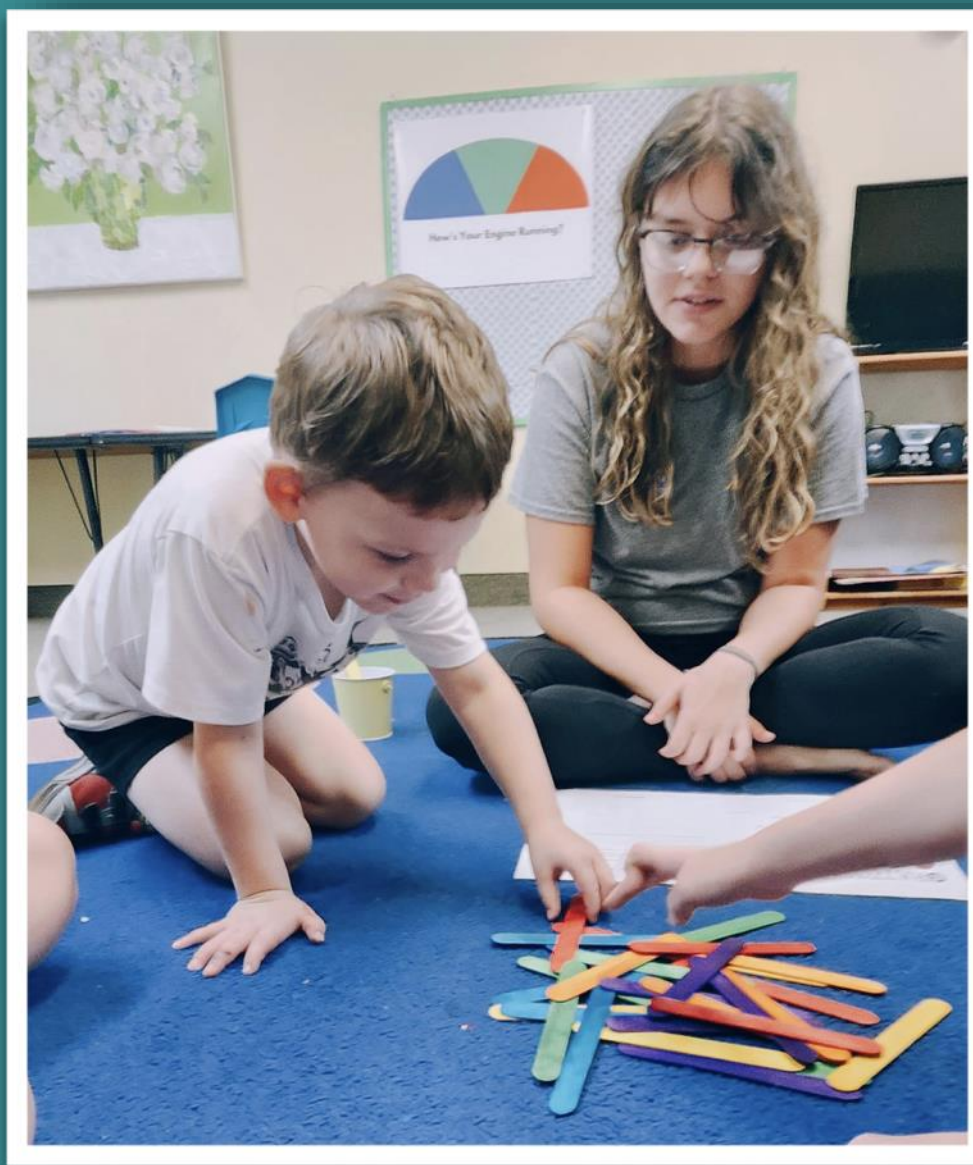
CORRECTING!

Empowering

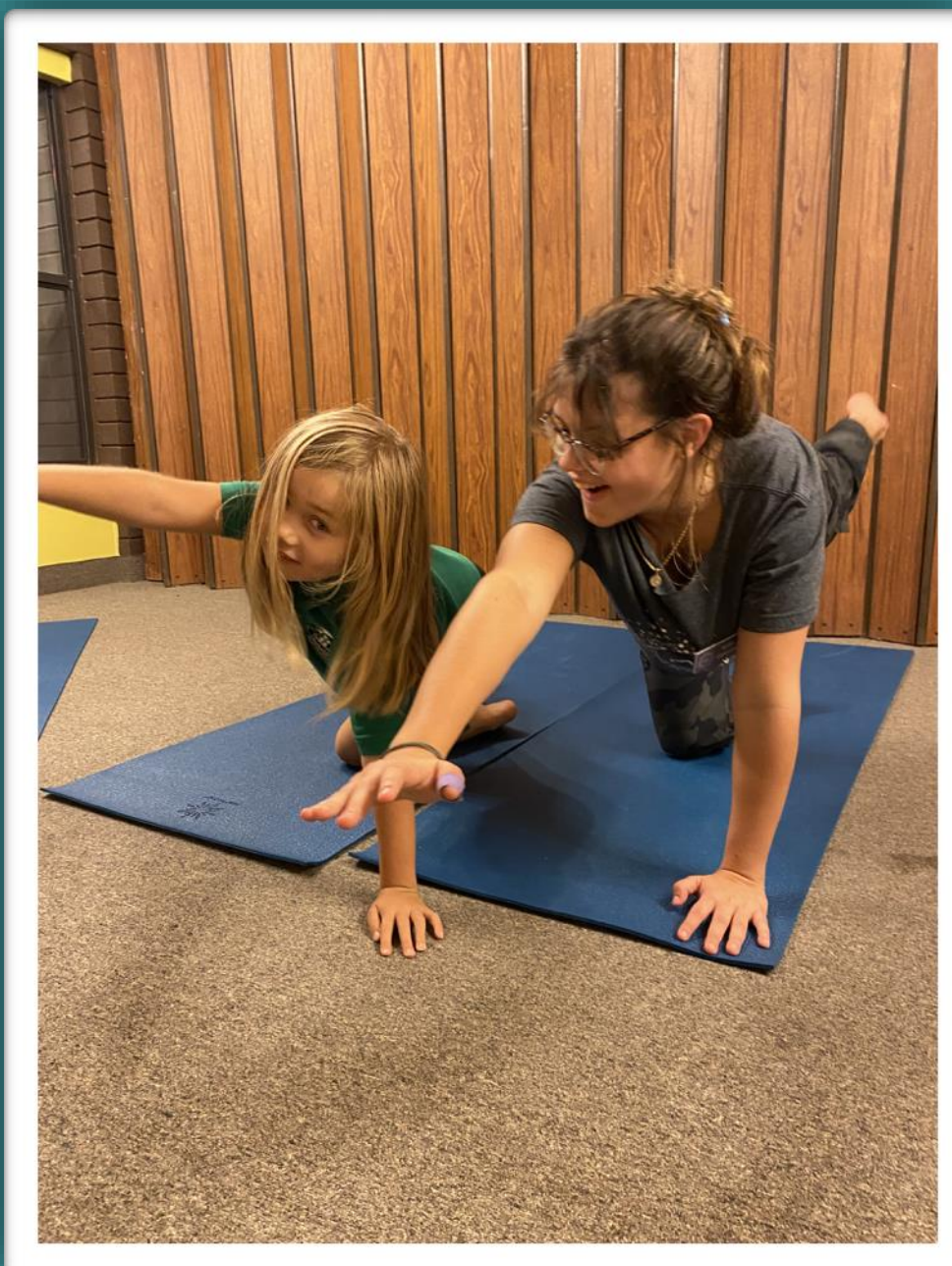
CONNECTING!

Trust-Based Relational Intervention[®]





HEALING HAPPENS BEST THROUGH PLAY!



PARENT COACHING PROGRAM



100% IMPROVED EMOTIONAL HEALTH

90% IMPROVED ATTACHMENT

100% REDUCED PARENTAL FRUSTRATIONS

100% IMPROVED PARENTAL CONFIDENCE

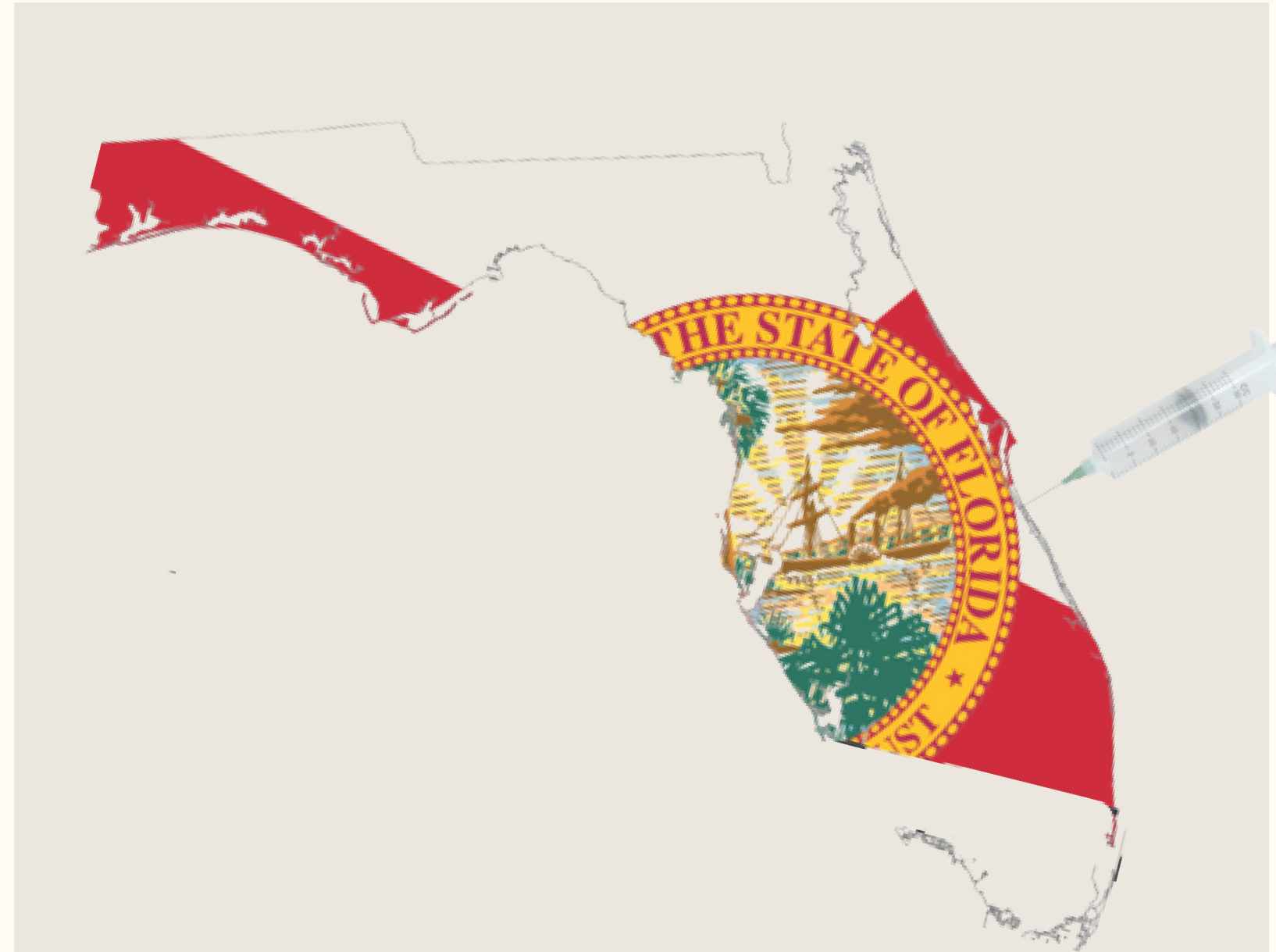
“The coaching program has been LIFE CHANGING!”



thepearlproject.org

THE OPIOID CRISIS

Positioning Florida as a National Leader in
Training and Preparedness



Presented by:

Dr. Gregory Tony and
Associate Dean Rony Shir, University of Miami Herbert Business School

MARCH 31, 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



CHALLENGE

Florida's law enforcement agencies continue to confront complex challenges from the opioid epidemic, including impacts on mental health, crime, and community safety.

RESPONSE

First responders increasingly serve as the frontline response to opioid-related emergencies.

RESOURCE

The National Public Safety and Opioid Readiness Initiative provides a fully funded, evidence-based training opportunity for Florida agencies.

Florida has the opportunity to strengthen response capabilities while helping lead the national model for public safety preparedness.

THE CHALLENGE

The Opioid Crisis is Expanding the Role of Law Enforcement

Training is necessary to ensure officers can respond safely and effectively.



THE BIGGER PICTURE

Florida's law enforcement agencies continue to confront complex challenges from the opioid epidemic, including impacts on mental health, crime, and crisis intervention training.

Opioid Crisis = More than Overdoses



WHAT OFFICERS ARE FACING

First responders increasingly serve as the frontline response to opioid-related emergencies. Deputies and correctional staff encounter:

- Overdoses
- Substance use disorders
- Behavioral health emergencies



TRAINING HASN'T KEPT UP

Traditional training focuses on enforcement and fails to address behavioral health complexity, leaving officers underprepared.



AMBIGUITY OF FUNDING

Florida's law enforcement agencies experience challenges in accessing funds to support vital training needs.

WHY THIS MATTERS NOW

The rise of fentanyl has dramatically increased overdose lethality and officer exposure risk.

EMS responded to 102,454 suspected non-fatal overdose incidents in FL

35%

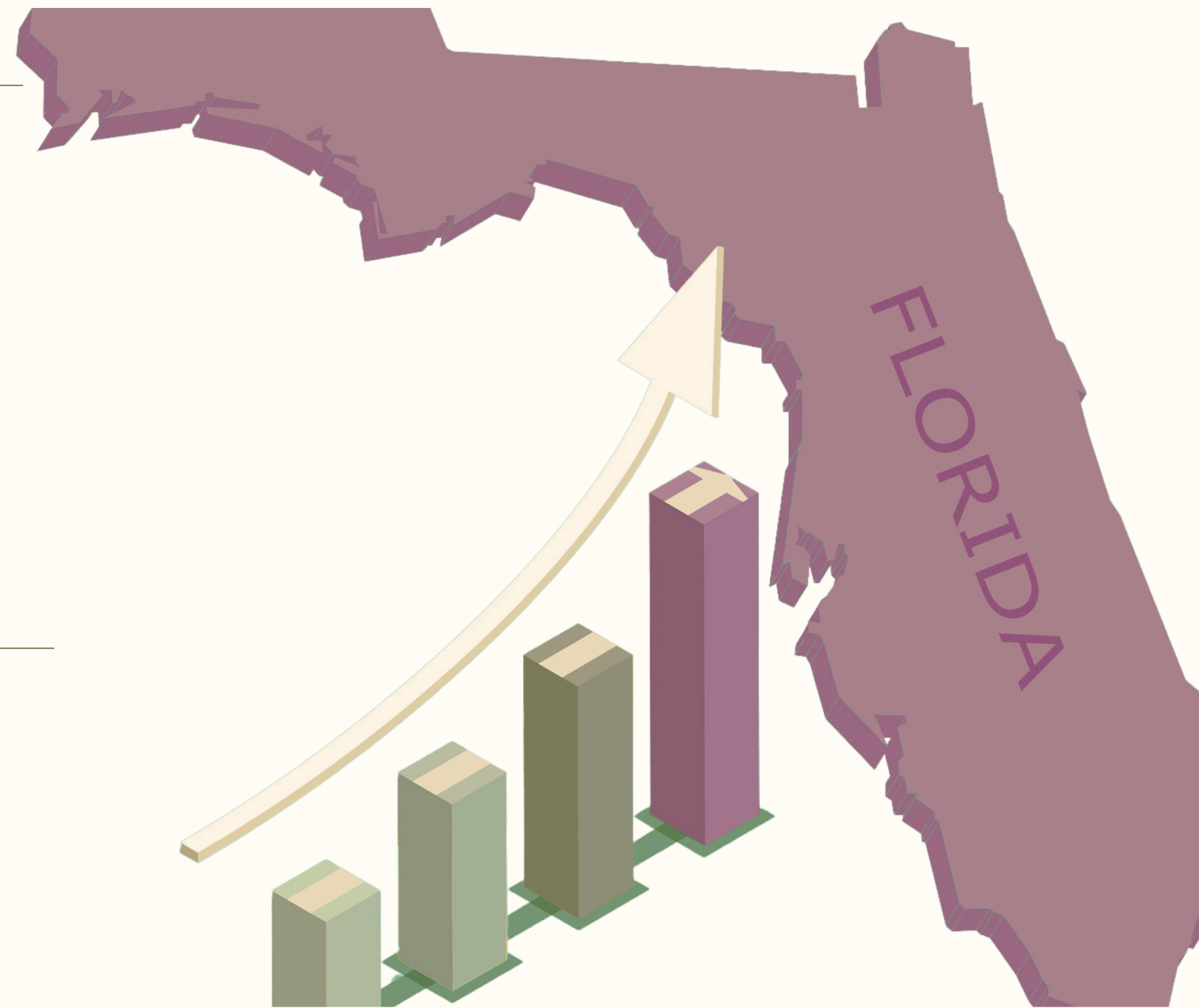
involved opioids

76%

fatal due to opioids

91%

fatal due to fentanyl



Training is necessary to ensure officers can respond safely and effectively.

• Data from Florida Health Charts and the 2023 Annual Report of the Florida Medical Examiners Commission.

THE GAP

The rise of fentanyl has dramatically increased overdose lethality and officer exposure risk.

Officers are responsible for:

- Immediate overdose response
- Scene safety
- Evidence preservation
- Coordination with EMS and healthcare providers



Statewide funding has focused on:

- Treatment & recovery
- Prevention
- Medication-Assisted Treatment
- Peer and recovery support
- Naloxone distribution

First responders require advanced preparation to operate safely and effectively in this environment.



Statewide Council on Opioid Abatement Recommendation for 2025–2026

Ongoing **EDUCATION** and **TRAINING** of law enforcement to identify substance use disorders and methods to refer individuals to appropriate services.

STATEWIDE IMPACT

Pending completion of advanced opioid-response training.

25,957 first responders across
the state **committed** and
waiting to take this course.



A NATIONAL TRAINING INITIATIVE

The National Public Safety and Opioid Readiness Initiative delivers a national training program built specifically for law enforcement.

25,957 first responders are **committed** and **waiting** to take this course.

KEY COMPONENTS

- Academic and curriculum oversight by the University of Miami Herbert Business School
- Guided by the National Advisory Board for Public Safety and Opioid Readiness
- Evidence-based curriculum focused on opioid response and community safety
- Designed specifically for deputies, corrections personnel, and other public safety professionals



POLICE
11,314



FIRE RESCUE
5,704



CORRECTIONS
8,939

KEY PARTNERS



UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
MIAMI HERBERT
BUSINESS SCHOOL

ABOUT THE TRAINING

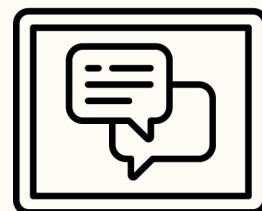
TRANSFORMING how public safety professionals **RESPOND** to one of the most **URGENT** crises of our time.

ACADEMIC AND CURRICULUM OVERSIGHT BY



UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
MIAMI HERBERT
BUSINESS SCHOOL

COURSE FORMAT



CORE TRAINING COMPONENTS



Empathy and De-escalation Strategies



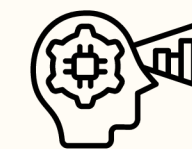
Naloxone Deployment and Instruction



Officer Safety and Wellness



Community-Centric Intervention Models



Scenario-Based Learning and Certification

WHAT'S TO GAIN

Training Provides Practical Tools for Safer and More Effective Response



IMPROVED RESPONSE

Law enforcement are better able to recognize and respond to opioid overdoses



COMPREHENSIVE UNDERSTANDING

Understand the intersection of addiction, mental health, and Crisis Intervention Training



ENHANCED SAFETY

Improve officer safety during opioid-related encounters



STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS

Strengthen community engagement and interagency crisis response

BETTER-PREPARED personnel and **IMPROVED** public safety outcomes.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Florida Has an Opportunity to Set the National Standard

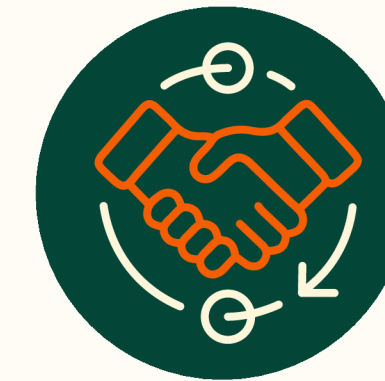


FLORIDA'S LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY IS UNIQUELY POSITIONED TO LEAD IN:

“ Florida’s law enforcement agencies have always been recognized for their innovation and leadership. Together, we can ensure every first responder in the state stands ready, equipped, and united in saving lives while protecting our own. Let’s lead this national charge starting here in Florida. ”



LEADERSHIP
Demonstrating innovative leadership in addressing the opioid crisis



COLLABORATION
Strengthening partnerships between public safety and community health resources



INNOVATION
Implementing modern opioid-response training

THE IMPACT

Advanced opioid-response training will significantly improve preparedness across Florida.



**Faster
overdose
response**



**Reduced
exposure
risk**



**Reduced
fatality
rates**



**Improved
community
outcomes**



**Stronger
public
safety
coordination**

CALL TO ACTION

Support The National Public Safety and Opioid Readiness Initiative to ensure Florida continues to lead in protecting and prioritizing public safety.

SUPPORT A UNIFIED STATE RESPONSE PLAN

Provide law enforcement access to comprehensive, evidence-based training to address today's public safety challenges

Standardized training statewide

Strengthen law enforcement response to opioid-related emergencies across Florida communities

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

PILOT PROGRAM

PROGRAM EVALUATION

PROGRAM EXPANSION

THANK YOU!
QUESTIONS?



FELLOWSHIP

RECOVERY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

BSO / Fellowship RCO Peer Jail Initiative

**A Recovery-Oriented Approach to
Engagement, Reentry, and Long-Term
Recovery**

Presented by: Fellowship Recovery Community Organization
In Partnership with: Broward Sheriff's Office and SAMHSA



Why Jail-Based Recovery Support Is Critical

Individuals leaving jail often return to the community facing overwhelming barriers, including unstable housing, untreated substance use, limited support systems, and elevated overdose risk. Without immediate connection to recovery resources, many individuals cycle back into crisis, incarceration, or relapse. The jail setting creates a critical opportunity to engage people early, before release, and begin building a pathway toward recovery, stability, and community reintegration.

The moment before release can determine what happens after release.

Why This Matters

Why Jail-Based Recovery Support Is Critical

Individuals leaving jail often return to the community facing overwhelming barriers, including unstable housing, untreated substance use, limited support systems, and elevated overdose risk. Without immediate connection to recovery resources, many individuals cycle back into crisis, incarceration, or relapse. The jail setting creates a critical opportunity to engage people early, before release, and begin building a pathway toward recovery, stability, and community reintegration.

The moment before release can determine what happens after release.

Program Overview

What Is the BSO / FRCO Jail Initiative?

The BSO / Fellowship RCO Jail Initiative is a peer-led recovery support program that engages incarcerated individuals with substance use challenges while they are still in custody and continues support through reentry. Certified Recovery Peer Specialists provide education, encouragement, individualized support, and direct connection to community-based recovery services.

Core Program Components

- In-jail peer engagement
- Recovery-focused presentations and education
- One-on-one peer support
- Reentry and recovery planning
- Warm handoffs to housing, treatment, and recovery supports
- Continued connection after release

Why It's Innovative

What Makes This Model Different

This initiative is innovative because it brings recovery support directly into the criminal justice system at a point where individuals are often most vulnerable and disconnected. Rather than waiting for someone to seek help after release, the program begins engagement **inside the jail**, where trust, motivation, and planning can begin earlier.

Why It Stands Out

- **Recovery support begins before release**
- **Peer-led engagement builds trust faster**
- **Creates a true bridge from incarceration to community recovery**
- **Blends public safety, public health, and lived experience**
- **Addresses substance use disorder as a recovery issue, not just a justice issue**

Recovery starts before release.

How Peer Support Changes Outcomes

The Power of Lived Experience

Certified Recovery Peer Specialists bring lived experience, credibility, and hope into an environment where trust can be difficult to build. Their role is not just to provide information, but to create meaningful connection, reduce stigma, and help individuals believe recovery is possible.

Peer Support Helps People

- **Feel seen, heard, and understood**
- **Increase motivation for change**
- **Build trust in the recovery process**
- **Reduce shame and isolation**
- **Connect to services they may not access otherwise**

People engage differently when support comes from someone who has lived it.

Recovery Starts Before Release

A True Reentry and Recovery Model

The initiative supports individuals at key transition points, including booking, incarceration, release planning, and reentry into the community. This approach helps prevent gaps in care and reduces the likelihood that someone leaves jail without support, direction, or connection.

Support Includes

- **Recovery-oriented conversations and presentations**
- **Individualized guidance and encouragement**
- **Linkage to housing, treatment, and recovery support**
- **Navigation of barriers to care**
- **Community-based follow-up and warm handoffs**

The goal is not just release. The goal is recovery stability after release.

Community Impact

Why This Matters Beyond the Individual

When individuals are connected to recovery support earlier, communities benefit. The BSO / FRCO Jail Initiative helps reduce strain on emergency systems, supports safer reentry, and strengthens long-term recovery outcomes.

Expected and Emerging Outcomes

- **Reduced overdose risk after release**
- **Reduced recidivism and justice system cycling**
- **Increased engagement in recovery supports**
- **Stronger recovery capital and community connection**
- **Improved continuity of care and recovery stability**

This is a systems-level response with person-centered impact.

Why FRCO + BSO Works

A Strong Cross-System Partnership

This initiative works because it combines the reach and structure of the Broward Sheriff's Office with the lived experience, recovery expertise, and community connection of Fellowship Recovery Community Organization. Together, this creates a practical and compassionate model that reaches people where they are and connects them to what they need next.

Why the Partnership Is Effective

- **Trusted access inside the jail system**
- **Experienced peer-led recovery support**
- **Strong community-based linkage network**
- **Shared commitment to safety, recovery, and reentry success**

Recovery Begins With Connection

The BSO / Fellowship RCO Jail Initiative represents a forward-thinking investment in people, recovery, and community well-being. By meeting individuals before release and connecting them to meaningful support, this model creates a stronger pathway from incarceration to recovery.

Recovery starts with connection, and connection can start inside the jail.

FRCO/BSO JAIL PEER INITIATIVE

The BSO–FRCO Peer Jail Initiative transforms the moment of booking from a point of crisis into a window of opportunity. By meeting individuals at their most vulnerable stage, our Certified Peer Specialists leverage lived experience to turn "legal processing" into recovery initiation.

Peer Support Outcomes (Jan–Feb 2026)

Jan 2026 to Feb 2026 Reporting Period



505

Individuals Served in Recovery Navigation & Follow-Up Support



Ongoing Support & Regular Check-Ins



2

connected to Medical Care



2

Individuals connected to Medical Care



Connecting to primary and specialty health providers

Jan 2026 to Feb 2026 Reporting Period



5

Individuals connected to Treatment or Crisis Stabilization Services



Immediate, critical intervention for those in need



7

Individuals connected to Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)



Structured, supervised medication support for substance use disorder



13

Individuals connected to Housing Support Services



Assistance in securing stable and safe living conditions



Our Core Impact:

- **Immediate Stabilization:** Building trust through shared experience when it's needed most.
- **The "Recovery Bridge":** Creating a seamless, pre-planned transition from incarceration to community support.
- **Risk Reduction:** Strengthening motivation early to improve long-term recidivism and recovery outcomes.



Thank You

Your support changes lives. Every gift helps provide recovery programs, essential resources, and housing scholarships that empower individuals to rebuild and thrive. Together, we can create lasting hope, resilience, and stronger communities.

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