



# City of Bradenton Opioid Implementation Plan



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## **Background**

In 2018, the State of Florida filed a lawsuit against opioid manufacturers and distributors for their causal roles and wrongful conduct in the emergence of the opioid epidemic. The litigation sought to hold certain entities within the Pharmaceutical Supply Chain accountable for misfeasance, nonfeasance, and malfeasance. The State of Florida alleged a variety of violations against the entities, including misrepresentations and negligence regarding the benefits and risks of opioids and negligence in preventing the diversion of opioids. The Office of Drug Control and the Statewide Task Force on Opioid Abuse were established by Executive Order 19-97, purporting to develop guidelines as a model for combating the opioid crisis. The Task Force determined that the best approach was one of coordinated efforts encompassing the fields of treatment and recovery, healthcare, law enforcement, and education. On May 4, 2022, after four years of discovery, the State of Florida signed the final Settlement Agreement with the final defendant.

On November 11, 2021, the State of Florida entered the Florida Opioid Allocation and Statewide Response Agreement with certain Local Governments. The Agreement presented definitions, qualifications, distribution schemes, core strategies, and approved uses.

## **Problem Identification**

The opioid crisis has been a growing and evolving threat in the United States since the 1990s. Despite enhanced focus on the issue by the American public, news media, and policymakers over the past decade, the situation has only worsened. In 2021, the U.S. marked a milestone that no one hoped to see: drug overdose deaths exceeding 100,000 lives in a single year. That astronomical death toll wasn't an aberration, though. Instead, it represents a culmination of continual growth in drug overdose deaths, as well as the consequences of inadequate, ineffective, and sometimes counterproductive policy strategies to combat the threat.

The City of Bradenton has experienced an increase in overdoses that mirrors the epidemic across the rest of the country. In 2021, the City of Bradenton responded to 203 overdoses with 16 fatalities; in 2022, our agency responded to 141 overdoses with 23 deaths; in 2023, we responded to 161 overdoses and 17 fatalities; and in 2024 . While the number of overdoses has declined, we have not experienced a significant decline in deaths.

## **Core Strategies & Objectives**

Our community, like many others, is grappling with the widespread challenge of opioid addiction. To address this issue, the Bradenton Police Department will implement a comprehensive multilayered strategy to tackle opioid misuse, addiction, illegal sales, and overdoses within the community. Through the implementation of these strategies and the use of Opioid Settlement funds, we are confident in our ability to save lives, improve the quality of life for our residents, and disrupt the illegal sales and distribution of opioids and narcotics within the City of Bradenton.

Firstly, the police department will implement training programs, providing specialized education for officers on Opioid addiction, de-escalation techniques, the use of Naloxone, and effective interactions with individuals struggling with addiction. Secondly, we will enhance community outreach and education by attending workshops, community events, and seminars, and encourage partnerships with community centers and local organizations to broaden our reach. We can help connect struggling individuals with treatment programs and support by developing and strengthening our community partnerships locally. Thirdly, expanding access to treatment and recovery services is vital for the treatment and mitigation of opioid dependency. When appropriate, we will make referrals to addiction treatment centers and recovery programs. This initiative will connect individuals to appropriate treatment options, giving them the ability to recover their lives from dependency. Fourth, strengthening law enforcement and public safety is another key objective of this multilayered approach to combating opioid misuse. Resources will be increased for drug task forces, equipment such as AEDs will be deployed for life-saving efforts, medical equipment and supplies will be purchased, and funds will also be used to strengthen investigations into opioid trafficking and harm reduction through the purchase of necessary items to carry out those investigations.

Law enforcement and public safety strategies will be a multipronged approach combining traditional policing techniques and equipment with new technology to impact opioid sales and distribution within the community. Fifth, collaboration and data sharing will be promoted between law enforcement, public health agencies, and community organizations tracking opioid-related incidents. Lastly, supporting mental health services is essential. The department will partially fund one community health services coordinator to integrate mental health screenings during routine police interactions with individuals experiencing addiction.

Together, these strategies and objectives will enable the police department to effectively utilize opioid settlement funds to combat opioid addiction, improve community health, and enhance public safety.

## **Funding Allocation for FY 2025-2026**

### **Schedule A: Core Strategies**

The following areas will be funded in alignment with Schedule A:

#### **1. Prevention Programs**

- **Amount:** \$25,000 (estimated)
- **Description:** A previously hired part-time case worker offers services to those individuals experiencing opioid dependency and homelessness. This will continue.
- **Hiring:** N/A – existing part-time position will remain.
- **Capital Outlay:** N/A
- **Vehicle Purchases:** N/A

## **Schedule B: Approved Uses**

The following areas will be funded under Schedule B:

### **Law Enforcement and First Responders**

- **Amount:** FY 2025 \$74,111.59 (\*\$10,605.15 remain from FY 2024)
- **Description:** Equip law enforcement and fire personnel with equipment, supplies, technology, and training for overdose responses, investigations, and disruption of sales/use.
- **Hiring:** N/A
- **Capital Outlay:** Purchase supplies and equipment necessary to carry out comprehensive training, investigations, and treatment of opioid use.
- **Vehicle Purchases:** N/A

### **Total Funding and Distribution (estimated)**

- **Total Settlement Funds:** \$1,605,535.47
- **Schedule A Allocation:** \$450,000 (estimated)
- **Schedule B Allocation:** \$1,155,535 (estimated)

## **Implementation Timeline**

- **Q1 2025:** Continue outreach via a part-time social worker
- **Q2 2025:** Purchase equipment for fire personnel and expand training and resources to medical/fire employees.
- **Q3 2025:** Train and deploy medical/rescue equipment
- **Q4 2025:** Full implementation and evaluation of all equipment, training, programs and supplies.

## **Reporting and Records Requirements**

The state and local governments shall follow their existing reporting and records retention requirements and consider any additional recommendations from the Opioid Abatement Task Force or Council. Local Governments shall respond and provide documents to any reasonable requests from the State or Opioid Abatement Taskforce or Council for data or information about programs receiving Opioid Funds. The State and Local Governments shall ensure that any provider or sub-recipient of Opioid Funds, at a minimum, does the following:

(a) Any provider shall establish and maintain books, records, and documents (including electronic storage media) sufficient to reflect all income and expenditures of Opioid Funds. Upon demand, at no additional cost to the State or Local Government, any provider will facilitate the duplication and transfer of any records or documents during the term that it receives any Opioid Funds and the required retention period for the State or Local Government. These records shall be made available at all reasonable times for inspection, review, copying, or audit by Federal, State, or other personnel duly authorized by the State or Local Government.

(b) Any provider shall retain and maintain all client records, financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and any other documents (including electronic storage media) pertinent to the use of the Opioid Funds during the time of its receipt of Opioid Funds and retained for six (6) years after it ceases to receive Opioid Funds or longer when required by law. If the State or Local Governments require an audit, records shall be retained for a minimum period of six (6) years after the audit report is issued or until the resolution of any audit findings or litigation based on the terms of any award or contract.

(c) At all reasonable times for as long as records are maintained, persons duly authorized by State or Local Government auditors shall be allowed full access to and the right to examine any of the contracts and related records and documents, regardless of the form in which kept.

(d) A financial and compliance audit shall be performed annually and provided to the State. 9

(e) All providers shall comply and cooperate immediately with any inspections, reviews, investigations, or audits deemed necessary by the Office of the Inspector General (section 20.055, F.S.) or the State.

(f) No record may be withheld, nor may any provider attempt to limit the scope of any of the preceding inspections, reviews, copying, transfers, or audits based on any claim that any record is exempt from public inspection or is confidential, proprietary, or trade secret in nature; provided, however, that this provision does not limit any exemption to public inspection or copying to any such record

**Funding Timeline**

Year	Amount	Year	Amount	Year	Amount	Year	Amount
2022	\$81,086.20	2027	\$90,716.90	2032	\$83,948.69	2037	\$74,491.41
2023	\$182,284.08	2028	\$98,069.35	2033	\$77,742.00	2038	\$74,491.41
2024	\$95,600.24	2029	\$99,819.94	2034	\$84,471.14	2039	\$33,332.59
2025	\$99,111.59	2030	\$99,819.94	2035	\$84,471.14		
2026	\$69,614.13	2031	\$91,993.58	2036	\$84,471.14	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,605,535.47</b>

**Conclusion**

This implementation plan is a comprehensive and multilayered approach to combating opioid misuse. It involves the integration of education, community outreach, recovery, law enforcement, public safety initiatives, collaboration, and mental health in a way that impacts opioid misuse and addiction. We aim to foster the cooperation between treatment and prevention programs while strengthening law enforcement and public safety initiatives to reduce the availability of opioids and other illegal narcotics within the City of Bradenton.