



Public Safety
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2025-2026 Opioid Settlement Implementation Plan

Overview

This implementation plan outlines how Manatee County intends to allocate and utilize opioid settlement funds in accordance with the guidelines set forth in Schedules A and B of the Opioid Settlement Agreement. The plan outlines a detailed framework for the County's areas of focus, including specific funds allocations, necessary staffing requirements, and capital improvement projects necessary to support these initiatives.

Funding Allocation

Schedule A: Core Strategies

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

1. Treatment and Recovery Support; Medication-Assisted Treatment ("MAT")

Distribution and other opioid-related treatment

- **Amount:** \$499,932
- **Description:** Treatment and Recovery Support Services such as residential and inpatient treatment, counseling, and recovery housing that allow or integrate medication with other support services
- **Hiring/Agency:** Helping Up Mission
- **Agency Description:** Helping Up Mission provides comprehensive residential recovery services for men and women facing addiction through a holistic approach that addresses physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.
- **Capital Outlay:** N/A

2. Expansion of Warm Hand-off Programs and Recovery Services

- **Amount:** \$7,000,000
- **Description:** Expand warm hand-off services to transition to recovery services and provide comprehensive wrap-around services and support for individuals in recovery.
- **Agency:** Manatee County Government contracting with Helping Up Mission and Manatee County Sheriff's Office
- **Capital Outlay:** Renovations of future transitional recovery housing.

3. Prevention Programs

- **Amount:** \$5,000
- **Description:** Funding for media campaigns to prevent opioid use for Manatee County schools and families, The *Fentanyl Project*, a nationally praised film on the dangers of fentanyl poisoning and fake pills.
- **Hiring:** N/A
- **Capital Outlay:** Purchase of the Fentanyl Project video.

Schedule B: Approved Uses

The following area will be funded under Schedule B:

1. Leadership, Planning and Coordination

- **Amount:** \$103,313
- **Description: Opioid Response and Policy Coordinator**
This position leads, coordinates, and supports Manatee County in tackling the opioid crisis through prevention, treatment, recovery, response, and evaluation efforts. It oversees the strategic use of opioid settlement funds, builds partnerships with community stakeholders, monitors and evaluates program outcomes, and ensures compliance with applicable policies and funding guidelines.
- **Hiring:** Hired in 2023
- **Capital Outlay:** N/A

Additional Allocations:

The Manatee County Board of County Commissioners has authorized the use of \$1,000,000 in opioid settlement funds for prevention, response, recovery, and evaluation efforts, consistent with approved abatement strategies. Funding applications have been submitted to the County and are currently under formal review. Upon completion of the review process, funding recommendations will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners in July for consideration and potential award.

Total Funding and Distribution

- **Total Settlement Funds:** \$8,608,245
- **Schedule A Allocations:** \$7,504,932
- **Schedule B Allocations:** \$103,313
- **Additional Allocations:** \$1,000,000

Implementation Timeline

- **Q1 2025-2026:** Continue implementing treatment and recovery support services, including the distribution of medication-assisted treatment (MAT), and targeted prevention and public education campaigns related to opioid misuse. Disburse allocated funding to selected agencies in accordance with established recommendations and procurement protocols.
- **Q2 2025-2026:** Conduct ongoing monitoring and evaluation of long-term recovery services currently in operation to ensure alignment with program goals and compliance with applicable standards.
- **Q3 2025-2026:** Complete any necessary facility renovations for the transitional recovery housing unit. Newly established initiatives will be fully operational and subject to performance and compliance review.
- **Q4 2025-2026:** Continue oversight and evaluation of all funded programs.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Ongoing monitoring and evaluation will be carried out to assess the effectiveness of funded programs. The funded agency will submit comprehensive reports outlining progress, outcomes, and any required adjustments to the implementation plan to the designated oversight committee.

Conclusion

This implementation plan reflects Manatee County's continued commitment to addressing the opioid crisis through the strategic and compliant use of settlement funds in accordance with the provisions set forth in Schedules A and B of the opioid settlement agreement. All funded initiatives have been selected based on their alignment with approved abatement strategies and their demonstrated capacity to deliver measurable outcomes. Manatee County seeks to significantly mitigate the impact of the opioid crisis within our community.