

Opioid Settlement Funding – FY25-26 Implementation Plan

City of St. Petersburg, Florida

Overview

This implementation plan outlines how the City of St. Petersburg, Florida (“City”) intends to allocate and utilize the opioid settlement funds for FY25-26 in alignment with the requirements of Schedules A and B of the Opioid Settlement. This plan details the specific areas of focus, the amount of funds dedicated to each area, and any associated hiring, fixed capital outlay projects, and vehicle purchases.

As indicated in the submitted report from June 2024, the City administered a grant application cycle (Opioid Support Grants) during FY24-25 to fund local organizations’ work that aligns with the State’s approved uses outlined in the Statewide Response Agreement. The three main categories of funding under this grant program are Treatment and Recovery Support Services, Overdose Prevention and Harm Reduction, and Substance Use Prevention and Education. At the time of the Opioid Support Grants application launch, the City had approximately \$1.089 million available in Opioid Settlement Funds based on disbursements to date. As such, up to \$1,000,000 in funding was available for grant awards under this program, in tiers of \$25,000 and \$100,000, depending on numbers of applications received and quality and alignment of applications with the State’s Approved Uses.

Seven (7) awards, a total of \$532,211.55 in funding, were approved by the grant review committee for five (5) 501c3 non-profit organizations to receive funding – details of each are listed below in the Funding Allocation section. These awards were approved by City Council on February 20, 2025, with the performance period of this 1-year grant cycle running from March 1, 2025 through February 28, 2026.

Also included below is an additional contract the City will continue to fund this upcoming fiscal year, which provides substance use treatment and support services to residents enrolled in a local transitional housing program.

Since awarding the grants and contracts listed below, the City received approximately \$600,000 in additional Opioid Settlement funding through the disbursement process in early 2025. The City will continue to plan for impactful usage of funds as dollars are received on a rolling basis each year.

Funding Allocation

Schedule A: Core Strategies

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

1. **Opioid Support Grants Award – ‘(H) Expand Syringe Service Programs’***
 - o **Awardee:** People Empowering & Restoring Communities (PERC)/IDEA Pinellas expansion
 - o **Amount:** \$99,612.80
 - o **Description:** Increased wraparound services available at the County's approved Syringe Service Program (IDEA Pinellas). This includes the addition of a Peer Support Specialist, an increase in Case Manager to a full-time position, and expansion of operations to 5 days per week. Services include targeted peer outreach, peer support, Narcan

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distribution, infectious disease testing, linkage to treatment, wraparound case management.

1. *Per FL statute, Opioid Settlement dollars are not being used to fund any activities related to the syringe exchange function of the organization's programming. Settlement funds solely cover wraparound support services/staff time for those services.
- **Hiring:** 1.0 FTE Peer Specialist; add 0.5 FTE to Case Manager role to make position full-time
 - **Capital Outlay:** N/A
 - **Vehicle Purchases:** N/A
 - **Specific Approved Uses Subcategories, as listed in the statewide agreement:**
 - "H. Expanding Syringe Service Programs
 - 1. Provide comprehensive syringe services programs with more wrap-around services including linkage to OUD treatment, access to sterile syringes, and linkage to care and treatment of infectious diseases."
 - **Other Approved Uses, as listed in the statewide agreement:**
 - Schedule B
 - "(D) Address the Needs of Criminal-Justice-Involved Persons
 - 5. Provide evidence-informed treatment, including MAT, recovery support, harm reduction, or other appropriate services to individuals with OUD and any co-occurring SUDIMH conditions who are leaving jail or prison have recently left jail or prison, are on probation or parole, are under community corrections supervision, or are in re-entry programs or facilities."
 - "(H) Prevent Overdose Deaths and Other Harms (Harm Reduction)
 - 9. Syringe service programs and other evidence-informed programs to reduce harms associated with intravenous drug use, including supplies, staffing, space, peer support services, referrals to treatment, fentanyl checking, connections to care, and the full range of harm reduction and treatment services provided by these programs.
 - 10. Expand access to testing and treatment for infectious diseases such as HIV and Hepatitis C resulting from intravenous opioid use.
 - 11. Support mobile units that offer or provide referrals to harm reduction services, treatment, recovery supports, health care, or other appropriate services to persons that use opioids or persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions.
 - 12. Provide training in harm reduction strategies to health care providers, students, peer recovery coaches, recovery outreach

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- specialists, or other professionals that provide care to persons who use opioids or persons with OUD and any cooccurring SUD/MH conditions.
 - 13. Support screening for fentanyl in routine clinical toxicology testing.”
2. **Opioid Support Grants Award – ‘(E) Expansion of Warm Hand-off Programs and Recovery Services;’ ‘(A) Naloxone or other FDA-approved drug to reverse opioid overdoses;’ ‘(G) Prevention Programs;’ ‘(I) Evidence-based data collection and research analyzing the effectiveness of the abatement strategies within the State.’**
- **Awardee:** Live Tampa Bay
 - **Amount:** \$99,940.00
 - **Description:** Provides funding for residents to access 24/7 respite recovery housing with transportation; covers part-time street outreach, including Narcan distribution and linkage to treatment and services; funds an anti-stigma campaign within the city.
 - **Hiring:** 0.5 FTE Street Outreach position
 - **Capital Outlay:** N/A
 - **Vehicle Purchases:** N/A
 - **Specific Approved Uses Subcategories, as listed in the statewide agreement:**
 - “A. Naloxone or other FDA-approved drug to reverse opioid overdoses
 - 1. Expand training for first responders, schools, community support groups and families.
 - 2. Increase distribution to individuals who are uninsured or whose insurance does not cover the needed service.”
 - “E. Expansion of Warm Hand-off Programs and Recovery Services
 - 2. Expand warm hand-off services to transition to recovery services.
 - 4. Provide comprehensive wrap-around services to individuals in recovery including housing, [and] transportation.”
 - “G. Prevention Programs
 - 5. Funding and training for first responders to participate in pre-arrest diversion programs, post-overdose response teams, or similar strategies that connect at-risk individuals to behavioral health services and support.”
 - “I. Evidence-based data collection and research analyzing the effectiveness of the abatement strategies within the State.”
 - **Other Approved Uses, as listed in the statewide agreement:**
 - 1. Schedule B
 - 1. “D. Address the Needs of Criminal-Justice-Involved Persons
 - 1. Support pre-arrest or pre-arraignment diversion and deflection strategies for persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions.

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- 7. Provide training on best practices for addressing the needs of criminal-justice-involved persons with OUD and any cooccurring SUD/MH conditions to law enforcement, correctional, or judicial personnel or to providers of treatment, recovery, harm reduction, case management, or other services offered in connection with any of the strategies described in this section.”
3. **Opioid Support Grants Award – ‘(B) Medication-Assisted Treatment ("MAT") Distribution and other opioid-related treatment;’ ‘(C) Pregnant & Post-Partum Women’**
- **Awardee:** Operation PAR
 - **Amount:** \$100,000.00
 - **Description:** Provides funding for MAT to residents who are uninsured or underinsured and cannot afford to start or continue recommended treatment.
 - **Hiring:** N/A
 - **Capital Outlay:** N/A
 - **Vehicle Purchases:** N/A
 - **Specific Approved Uses Subcategories, as listed in the statewide agreement:**
 - “B. Medication-Assisted Treatment ("MAT") Distribution and other opioid-related treatment
 - 1. Increase distribution of MAT to non-Medicaid eligible or uninsured individuals.”
 - “C. Pregnant & Postpartum Women
 - 2. Expand comprehensive evidence-based treatment and recovery services, including MAT, for women with co-occurring Opioid Use Disorder ("OUD") and other Substance Use Disorder ("SUD")/Mental Health disorders for uninsured individuals for up to 12 months postpartum.”
 - **Other Approved Uses, as listed in the statewide agreement:**
 - 1. Schedule B
 - “A. Treat Opioid Use Disorder
 - 1. Expand availability of treatment for OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions, including all forms of Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
 - 4. Improve oversight of Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs) to assure evidence-based or evidence- informed practices such as adequate methadone dosing and low threshold approaches to treatment.”
 - “E. Address the Needs of Pregnant or Parenting Women and their Families, Including Babies with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

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- 1. Support evidence-based or evidence-informed treatment, including MAT, recovery services and supports, and prevention services for pregnant women - or women who could become pregnant – who have OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions, and other measures to educate and provide support to families affected by Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome.
- 2. Expand comprehensive evidence-based treatment and recovery services, including MAT, for uninsured women with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions for up to 12 months postpartum.”

Schedule B: Approved Uses

The following areas will be funded under Schedule B:

1. Opioid Support Grants Award – ‘(H) Prevent Overdose Deaths and Other Harms (Harm Reduction)’

- **Awardee:** People Empowering & Restoring Communities (PERC)
- **Amount:** \$24,828.00
- **Description:** Providing harm reduction trainings to community organizations and businesses. This includes public education regarding Narcan and other overdose reversal medications, public education relating to emergency responses to overdoses, public education relating to Good Samaritan laws, training on how to administer Narcan, and distribution of Narcan.
- **Hiring:** 0.21 FTE allocated for staff operations of program
- **Capital Outlay:** N/A
- **Vehicle Purchases:** N/A
- **Specific Approved Uses Subcategories, as listed in the statewide agreement:**
 - “H. Prevent Overdose Deaths and Other Harms (Harm Reduction)
 - 1. Increase availability and distribution of naloxone and other drugs that treat overdoses for first responders, overdose patients, individuals with OUD and their friends and family members, individuals at high risk of overdose, schools, community navigators and outreach workers, persons being released from jail or prison, or other members of the general public.
 - 3. 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 general public.
 - 6. Public education relating to emergency responses to overdoses.
 - 7. Public education relating to immunity and Good Samaritan laws.”

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2. Opioid Support Grants Award – ‘(B) Support People in Treatment and Recovery’

- **Awardee:** Live Tampa Bay
- **Amount:** \$24,990.75
- **Description:** Provides funding for certification courses, training costs, and job support for 25 Peer Support Specialist candidates; Conducts an evaluation of the process for peer support specialist candidates, which will provide a road map for better integrating the peer training pipeline into this space.
- **Hiring:** 0.035 FTE allocated for staff operations of program
- **Capital Outlay:** N/A
- **Vehicle Purchases:** N/A
- **Specific Approved Uses Subcategories, as listed in the statewide agreement:**
 - “B. Support People in Treatment and Recovery
 - 8. Provide empowerment training or educational services for persons in treatment for or recovery from OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions.
 - 9. Identify successful recovery programs such as physician, pilot, and college recovery programs, and provide support and technical assistance to increase the number and capacity of high-quality programs to help those in recovery.
 - 11. Training and development of procedures for government staff to appropriately interact and provide social and other services to individuals with or in recovery from OUD, including reducing stigma.
 - 15. Hire or train behavioral health workers to provide or expand any of the services or supports listed above.”

3. Opioid Support Grants Award – ‘(B) Support People in Treatment and Recovery’

- **Awardee:** Drug Free America Foundation
- **Amount:** \$82,840.00
- **Description:** Provides funding for PhotoVoice participatory research storytelling, public exhibits of the campaign with panel discussions and educational workshops, and associated anti-stigma campaign
- **Hiring:** 0.35 FTE allocated for staff operations of program
- **Capital Outlay:** N/A
- **Vehicle Purchases:** N/A
- **Specific Approved Uses Subcategories, as listed in the statewide agreement:**
 - “B. Support People in Treatment and Recovery
 - 12. Support stigma reduction efforts regarding treatment and support for persons with OUD, including reducing the stigma on effective treatment.”

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4. Opioid Support Grants Award – ‘(B) Support People in Treatment and Recovery’

- **Awardee:** WestCare GulfCoast
- **Amount:** \$100,000.00
- **Description:** Covers personnel costs for 2 new Peer Support Specialists at a residential treatment center, which has not yet incorporated peers into their services at that site until now. Also covers cost of training and certification for peers.
- **Hiring:** 2.0 FTE added - 2 Peer Support Specialists
- **Capital Outlay:** N/A
- **Vehicle Purchases:** N/A
- **Specific Approved Uses Subcategories, as listed in the statewide agreement:**
 - “B. Support People in Treatment and Recovery
 - 2. Provide the full continuum of care of treatment and recovery services for OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions, including supportive housing, peer support services and counseling, community navigators, case management, and connections to community-based services.
 - 3. Provide counseling, peer-support, recovery case management and residential treatment with access to medications for those who need it to persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions.
 - 6. Support or expand peer-recovery centers, which may include support groups, social events, computer access, or other services for persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions.
 - 15. Hire or train behavioral health workers to provide or expand any of the services or supports listed above.”

5. WestCare GulfCoast - Opioid Bed Nights

- **Amount:** 100,000.00
- **Description:** Provides funding for substance use treatment and wraparound support for residents enrolled in a local transitional housing program.
- **Hiring:** N/A
- **Capital Outlay:** N/A
- **Vehicle Purchases:** N/A
- **Specific Approved Uses Subcategories, as listed in the statewide agreement:**
 - “A. Treat Opioid Use Disorder
 - 1. Expand availability of treatment for OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions, including all forms of Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
 - 2. Support and reimburse evidence-based services that adhere to the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) continuum of care for OUD and any co-occurring SUDIMH conditions”
 - “B. Support People in Treatment and Recovery

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- 1. Provide comprehensive wrap-around services to individuals with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions, including housing, transportation, education, job placement, job training, or childcare.”

Total Funding and Distribution

- **Total Settlement Funds:** \$1,705,152.78
- **Schedule A Allocation:** \$299,552.80
- **Schedule B Allocation:** \$332,658.75

Implementation Timeline

- **Q1 FY25-26 (Jul-Sept 2025):** Continue to fund existing Opioid Support Grants awardees monthly.
- **Q2 FY25-26 (Oct-Dec 2025):** Continue to fund existing Opioid Support Grants awardees monthly; Fund treatment and support services in transitional housing program; Begin to identify strategies for next round of grant or subrecipient funding.
- **Q3 FY25-26 (Jan-Mar 2026):** Conclude first round of Opioid Support Grants awards and conduct evaluations; Continue to fund treatment and support services in transitional housing program.
- **Q4 FY25-26 (Apr-Jun 2026):** Continue to fund treatment and support services in transitional housing program; Begin implementation of next round of grant or subrecipient funding.

Monitoring and Evaluation

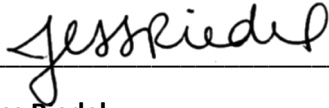
Grantees are subject to reporting requirements, including collecting and reporting data that aligns with the Statewide Response Agreement’s requirements (service utilization data, demographic information, and national outcome measures). Grantees report outputs from their funded programs monthly and will submit data on overall outcomes quarterly. Grantees must comply with monitoring and evaluation procedures as a condition of the award and must submit all provider-required reporting to the State of Florida.

Most grantees funded in this first grant cycle do not pull 837 files and are pending further instruction from DCF on how to submit non-837 files as of the writing of this report. Confirmation of monthly data submissions to DCF will be built into the organizations’ required monthly reporting to the City to ensure all are in compliance.

Conclusion

This implementation plan provides a comprehensive approach to utilizing the Opioid Settlement Funds in a manner that aligns with the stipulations of Schedules A and B. Through strategic investment in prevention, treatment, recovery, and public awareness, the City of St. Petersburg aims to significantly reduce the impact of the opioid crisis in our community. The City continues to keep an eye on emerging trends in this space and stay informed about what gaps providers and residents experience – seeking to deploy settlement funds in a way that is most impactful to our community’s needs.

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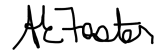


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