

St. Lucie County Regional Settlement Funds Implementation Plan FY 2025-26

Overview

In May 2024, the St. Lucie County Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board recommended a plan for distribution and management of the regional opioid settlement funds to the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). On June 4, 2024, the BOCC approved Interlocal Agreement C24-06-563, with the Florida Department of Health in St. Lucie County (DOH-St. Lucie) for allocating and managing St. Lucie County Regional Opioid Settlement Funds. The agreement outlines a two-fold approach for utilizing the opioid settlement funds in alignment with the requirements of Schedules A & B of the Florida Opioid Allocation and Statewide Response Agreement (“Florida Plan”).

A portion of the funds will support community grants for projects aligned with Schedules A & B of the Florida Plan. The remaining funds will be allocated to DOH-St. Lucie to implement prevention-focused initiatives.

The following summarizes funding priorities and allocations for fiscal year (FY) 2025–26.

Projected Funding and Distribution, FY 25-26

- Calculating budgeted expenses for Quarter 4 of FY 24-25, carryover from prior FYs, and anticipated disbursement of FY 25-26 abatement funding (revenue), the expected amount available for expenditures is \$6,416,891.
- Schedule A allocation:
 - DOH-St. Lucie projects: \$187,369
 - Community grant projects: TBD (see Funding Allocation, section 2)
- Schedule B allocation:
 - DOH- St. Lucie projects: \$219,974
 - Community grant projects: TBD (see Funding Allocation, section 2)

Funding Allocations

1. DOH-St. Lucie funded projects, up to 6.3% of total (projected balance) funding: \$407,343
 - a. Project Coordination
 - i. Amount: \$193,155
 - ii. Description: Coordination, prevention of duplication, and communication of efforts, programs, and projects managed by DOH-St. Lucie, St. Lucie County Government, the Treasure Coast Opioid Task Force, the Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network (managing entity), and community partners; provide overall supervision and management of the DOH-St. Lucie projects ensuring all financial and planning reports are completed as required by the Department of Children and Families, work with St. Lucie County to provide community grant funding opportunity, monitor grant awardees and deliverables, direct the Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Committee processes. Oversee the completion of a Community Needs Assessment and Provider Gap Analysis regarding opioid and overdose programs in St. Lucie County.

- iii. Personnel: 1.0 FTE Program Coordinator, 0.25 FTE Public Health Manager: \$186,000
- iv. Authorized program expenses (e.g., equipment, supplies): \$7,155
- v. Capital Outlay: N/A
- vi. Vehicle Purchases: N/A
- vii. Schedule A, Core Strategies
 - 1. A. Naloxone
 - 2. B. MAT services
 - 3. C. Pregnant and post-partum women
 - 4. D. Expanding treatment for NAS babies
 - 5. E. Expansion of warm hand-off programs and recovery services
 - 6. F. Treatment for incarcerated population
 - 7. G. Prevention programs
 - 8. I. Evidence-based data collection and research
- viii. Schedule B, Approved Uses (multiple sections within each part):
 - 1. Part One: Treatment
 - 2. Part Two: Prevention
 - 3. Part Three: Other Strategies
- b. Overdose Fatality Review
 - i. Amount: \$116,375
 - ii. Description: Complete comprehensive case investigations of overdose deaths including next-of-kin interviews and referrals to service; review deaths with a multi-disciplinary, multi-agency, community-based team; develop programmatic recommendations based on OFR findings. Note: recommendations based on findings could align with multiple Core Strategies and/or Approved Uses and will be detailed in future FY plans.
 - iii. Personnel: 1.0 FTE OFR Case Investigator/Next-of-Kin Interviewer: \$111,375
 - iv. Authorized program expenses (e.g., supplies, printing): \$5,000.00
 - v. Capital Outlay: N/A
 - vi. Vehicle Purchases: N/A
 - vii. Schedule A, Core Strategies
 - 1. I. Evidence based data collection and research.
 - viii. Schedule B, Approved Uses
 - 1. G. Prevent misuse of opioids (section 6)
 - 2. J. Leadership, planning, and coordination (sections 1, 3, 4)
 - 3. K. Training (sections 1, 2)
 - 4. L. Research (section 1)
- c. Community Training
 - i. Amount: \$97,813
 - ii. Description: Using evidence-based programs, offer trainings in community and professional settings regarding how to recognize an overdose, stigma, naloxone use, and other topics listed in Core Strategies and Approved Uses. Network with community organizations, professionals, government, first responders, non-profit organizations, hospitals, and medical providers on abatement strategies and activities.

- iii. Personnel: 1.0 FTE Community Training Specialist: \$92,813
 - iv. Authorized program expenses (e.g., supplies, printing) \$5,000.00
 - v. Capital Outlay: N/A
 - vi. Vehicle Purchases: N/A
 - vii. Schedule A, Core Strategies
 - 1. A. Naloxone (section 1)
 - viii. Schedule B, Approved Uses
 - 1. C. Connections to care (sections 2, 3, 4)
 - 2. G. Prevent misuse of opioids (section 6)
 - 3. H. Harm reduction (sections 3, 6, 7, 12)
 - 4. K. Training (sections 1, 2)
2. Community grants, up to 93.6% of total (projected balance) funding:
- a. Amount: \$6,009,548
 - b. Description: Countywide competitive solicitation for grant proposals (Notice of Funding Availability & Request for Applications; Regional Opioid Abatement Funding Programs and Services [RFA]) to organizations seeking financial support to institute or expand relevant projects. Requests for funding must align with Schedules A & B of Florida Plan and be authorized by law. Specific allocations and funding priorities are being reviewed by the St. Lucie County Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board (OAFAB) and will be added to this plan once finalized. Current priority areas are inclusive of Schedules A & B of the Florida Plan.
 - c. Hiring: TBD
 - d. Capital Outlay: TBD
 - e. Vehicle Purchases: TBD
 - f. Schedule A, Core Strategies:
 - i. Naloxone
 - ii. Medication assisted treatment
 - iii. Pregnant and postpartum women
 - iv. Expanding treatment for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)
 - v. Expansion of warm hand-off programs and recovery services
 - vi. Treatment for incarcerated population
 - vii. Prevention programs
 - viii. Evidence-based data collection and research
 - g. Schedule B, Approved Uses:
 - i. Part One: Treatment
 - 1. Treat opioid use disorder (OUD)
 - 2. Support people in treatment and recovery
 - 3. Connect people who need help to the help they need (Connections to Care)
 - 4. Address the needs of criminal-justice-involved persons
 - 5. Address the needs of pregnant or parenting women and their families, including babies with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)
 - ii. Part Two: Prevention
 - 1. Prevent over-prescribing
 - 2. Prevent misuse of opioids
 - 3. Prevent overdose deaths and other harms (harm reduction)

- iii. Part Three: Other Strategies
 1. First responders
 2. Leadership, planning, and coordination
 3. Training
 4. Research

Implementation Timeline

- July 2025-June 2026: Ongoing DOH-St. Lucie funded project operation and coordination.
- July 1, 2025: First meeting of Overdose Fatality Review Committee.
- July 2025-June 2026: Record, share, and track community involvement in implementing recommendations derived from the OFR Committee meetings.
- July 2025-June 2026: Training Specialist continues to offer and give trainings. Distribute naloxone (not purchased with abatement funding) to community. Research and develop other evidence-based trainings to make available to the community.
- July-December 2025: Complete St. Lucie County Opioid Needs Assessment and Service Gap Analysis and provide final report to the St. Lucie County Opioid Abatement Funding Advisory Board, St. Lucie County Administration, the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners, and the public.
- July 2025: Advertise RFA (open for application for 60 days).
- September-November 2025: Determine community grant awardees.
- January 2026: Begin contracting with grant awardees.
- January-June 2025: Upon contract execution, monitor and ensure required reporting for all community grant funded programs as required by St. Lucie County and Florida DCF (FOIFRS).
- July 2025-June 2026: Ongoing evaluation of all funded programs.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The program is designed to adapt as the Opioid Fatality Review (OFR) team develops recommendations and new evidence-based strategies emerge. Ongoing evaluation will be a core component. The DOH-St. Lucie Program Coordinator and Public Health Manager will regularly report to the Department of Children and Families, the Opioid Abatement Advisory Board, St. Lucie County Administration and BOCC, and DOH-St. Lucie leadership. Reports will include opioid use and overdose data, program updates, evaluation results, and grant deliverables. Based on these findings, activities may be adjusted, expanded, or reprioritized.

Conclusion

In line with the Florida Opioid Allocation and Statewide Response Agreement (Schedules A & B) and the Interlocal Agreement for managing St. Lucie County's opioid settlement funds, this implementation plan outlines a comprehensive strategy to address the opioid crisis. Through targeted investments in prevention, treatment, and recovery, the County seeks to significantly reduce the crisis's impact on the community.

Attachment: Interlocal Agreement Allocating and Managing St. Lucie County Regional Opioid Settlement Funds, C24-06-563, June 4, 2024.