



Opioid Abatement Funding Program
Volusia County Direct Settlement Funds
Implementation Plan Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Volusia County Corrections

Schedule A: Core Strategies

Expand treatment for people with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions, including appropriate counseling and behavioral therapies; Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) distribution and associated services; Support treatment of incarcerated persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions

Schedule B: Approved Uses

Treat OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions; Provide connections to care for people who are incarcerated and who have OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions; Address the needs of criminal-justice-involved persons, including specialized dockets and evidence-based alternatives to incarceration, treatment and recovery support services, and connection to social services

Total Funding Amount: Unknown

Project Summary

In State Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Volusia County plans to utilize Direct Settlement funds to bolster the Corrections detoxification program. The use of funds aligns with multiple Approved Uses in Schedule B, including treating opioid use disorder, connections to care and addressing the needs of criminal-justice-involved persons.

Volusia County Corrections contracts with the medical provider, VitalCore, and provides substance abuse and mental health screenings for individuals incarcerated in its facilities. Volusia County Corrections utilizes self-reporting and clinical withdrawal monitoring to determine the necessity for mental health and substance use related care and inmates in need of additional services are referred for appropriate treatment options.

Volusia County Corrections operates a detoxification program for opioid and other substance withdrawal. Inmates suffering withdrawal symptoms are monitored and provided with necessary medications to treat withdrawal symptoms. The detoxification program provides several medications for withdrawal management including loperamide, promethazine and buprenorphine. Volusia County Corrections also employs clinical opiate withdrawal scale monitoring for inmates reporting the use of opiates.

In addition to utilization of Direct Settlement Funds, Volusia County Division of Corrections received a recommendation of award from the Volusia County Opioid Abatement Advisory Board on 6/21/2024 and an award of funding from the Volusia County Council in the amount of \$500,000.00, for a one-year term of funding on 10/1/2024. The Corrections Division's detoxification and Sublocade Medication-Assisted Treatment programs allows for an integrated, sequential pathway for inmates with opioid use disorder.

The detoxification program serves as the critical entry point for inmates with opioid use disorder, beginning the moment individuals arrive at the facility. During intake, all inmates undergo comprehensive substance abuse screening to identify those requiring immediate intervention for opioid withdrawal. Clinical staff utilize the Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale (COWS) monitoring system to assess withdrawal severity and determine appropriate medication protocols. Inmates experiencing withdrawal symptoms receive evidence-based treatment including buprenorphine for opioid replacement therapy, along with supportive medications like loperamide and promethazine to manage physical discomfort. Those presenting with co-occurring mental health conditions triggered by substance abuse are referred to specialized mental health services, ensuring comprehensive care that addresses both addiction and underlying psychological needs. This phase establishes the foundation for ongoing treatment engagement and creates the initial therapeutic relationship necessary for long-term recovery success.

Building upon the stabilization achieved in detoxification, eligible inmates progress to the advanced Sublocade MAT program, which represents a significant enhancement in treatment delivery and continuity of care. Inmates who have successfully completed withdrawal management and demonstrated stability on buprenorphine therapy transition to daily Suboxone administration as part of ongoing medication-assisted treatment. The 20-30 inmates currently receiving daily Suboxone, having been identified and stabilized through the detoxification process, become the primary candidates for advancement to monthly Sublocade injections. This transition eliminates the daily medication administration burden while providing superior therapeutic coverage, particularly during the critical post-release period when overdose risk is highest. The program's pre-release coordination protocols ensure that inmates maintain medication benefits for up to 30 days after release, creating a vital bridge to community-based treatment providers and significantly improving the likelihood of successful long-term recovery outcomes.

Implementation and Timeline

Volusia County Corrections received recommendation and award of funding from the Volusia County Opioid Abatement Advisory Board for enhancement of the existing detoxification program serving inmates with opioid use disorders and co-occurring conditions. The program builds upon established protocols with medical contractor VitalCore and expands capacity for comprehensive screening, withdrawal management, medication-assisted treatment, and discharge planning services. Implementation will focus on enhanced monitoring, expanded medication options, and improved connections to community-based care upon release.

Timeline:

Months 1-12- Ongoing

- Enhanced staff training on evidence-based withdrawal management protocols
- Coordination with community treatment providers for discharge planning
- Expanded medication-assisted treatment options
- Ongoing service delivery and monitoring
- Continuous quality improvement and program refinement

Expected Outcomes

- **Immediate Impact:** Enhanced capacity for safe and effective opioid withdrawal management within the correctional facility
- **Short-term Goals:** Improved identification and treatment of inmates with OUD and co-occurring conditions, reduced withdrawal-related medical complications, increased engagement in medication-assisted treatment
- **Long-term Objectives:** Reduced recidivism through improved connections to community-based treatment, decreased overdose risk upon release, improved long-term recovery outcomes for criminal-justice-involved individuals
- **Community Benefit:** Enhanced public safety through evidence-based treatment of incarcerated individuals with substance use disorders, reduced burden on emergency services, and improved community health outcomes through successful reentry support

Data Collection and Monitoring

The program will track and report client demographics along with the following key performance indicators:

- Number of screenings for OUD - Comprehensive substance abuse assessments conducted
- Number of inmates referred for opioid detox monitoring - Individuals identified as requiring withdrawal management services
- Mental health referrals based on abuse/misuse of opiates - Inmates referred for co-occurring mental health treatment
- Number of inmates on COWS monitoring prescribed medication for withdrawal symptom management - Individuals receiving evidence-based withdrawal treatment

- Number of inmates prescribed Buprenorphine - Medication-assisted treatment provision
- Number of discharge planning encounters to external programs for OUD - Connections to community-based care
- Number of Sublocade patients - Long-acting medication-assisted treatment recipients

Volusia County Direct Settlement Planning

Volusia County is in the preliminary conceptualization phase of a transformative community-based naloxone distribution strategy. With overdose fatality rates substantially exceeding state averages and 4,444 emergency medical responses to suspected opioid overdoses in 2023 alone, the urgency for evidence-based harm reduction interventions has never been more apparent. The initiative represents a strategic pivot toward community-wide naloxone accessibility, moving beyond traditional clinical distribution models to embrace a public health approach that recognizes overdose prevention as a shared community responsibility.

Current research strongly supports community-based naloxone distribution as a critical component of comprehensive overdose prevention strategies. Studies consistently demonstrate that layperson-administered naloxone significantly reduces overdose fatalities, with community distribution programs showing effectiveness rates comparable to emergency medical services administration. The strategic placement of naloxone in high-traffic public venues—libraries, government buildings, and community centers—aligns with evidence-based recommendations that emphasize accessibility, visibility, and destigmatization of overdose response resources.

The partnership framework is being explored with community-based organizations to leverage the proven effectiveness of peer recovery support specialists in harm reduction programming. Recovery community organizations bring essential lived experience and cultural competency to naloxone distribution efforts, often achieving higher engagement rates among individuals who use drugs compared to traditional medical or law enforcement approaches. This collaborative model reflects emerging best practices that position recovery communities as central partners rather than passive recipients of intervention services.

Geographic targeting of the highest-impact zip codes demonstrates a data-driven approach to resource allocation, maximizing intervention impact where overdose concentrations are highest. This strategy mirrors successful harm reduction models implemented in urban centers like Baltimore and Philadelphia, where concentrated naloxone distribution in high-prevalence areas yielded measurable reductions in overdose fatalities.

Volusia County Naloxone Distribution Initiative

Schedule A: Core Strategies

Expand training for first responders, schools, community support groups and families , Increase distribution to individuals who are uninsured or whose insurance does not cover the needed service

Schedule B: Approved Uses

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, Public health entities provide free naloxone to anyone in the community, 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, enable school nurses and other school staff to respond to opioid overdoses, and provide them with naloxone, training, and support, public education relating to emergency responses to overdoses, public education relating to immunity and Good Samaritan laws, educate first responders regarding the existence and operation of immunity and Good Samaritan laws, expand, improve, or develop data tracking software and applications for overdoses/naloxone revivals

Total Funding Amount: Unknown

Project Summary

In the current planning phase, Volusia County is considering funding for multiple forms of naloxone distribution through static availability. In the following year, Volusia County expects to solicit services for placement and operation of ONEbox devices and naloxone vending machines within or on the property of County-operated facilities, community provider facilities and private businesses.

Volusia County will also seek proposals from qualified vendors to procure, implement, monitor and maintain, automated naloxone vending machines throughout Volusia County facilities and properties. This initiative aims to reduce opioid overdose fatalities by increasing accessibility of naloxone as part of the County's comprehensive response to the opioid crisis.

Core Objectives: The RFP seeks a qualified vendor to handle complete program implementation including machine procurement, installation, maintenance, inventory management, and ongoing monitoring. The initiative targets naloxone saturation using a diminishing returns model, where additional distribution correlates with measurable reductions in overdose incidents and mortality rates.

Key Requirements:

- Automated dispensing machines designed specifically for naloxone with temperature control, ADA compliance, and anti-tampering features
- Installation at designated locations including the Branch Jail and public transportation transit facilities

- Comprehensive data collection and reporting on usage analytics, operational metrics, and program impact
- Naloxone saturation plan incorporating geographic analysis, population density mapping, and coverage goals (minimum one machine per 25,000 residents)

Evaluation Framework: Proposals will be assessed across five weighted criteria: Capacity and Experience, Technical Solution, Implementation Plan, Data Collection and Evaluation, Engagement and Education, and Project Cost, with optional innovation bonuses.

Strategic Considerations: Early planning will focus on stakeholder engagement, site assessment protocols, budget allocation for both initial implementation and ongoing operational costs, and coordination with existing naloxone distribution efforts to avoid service duplication while maximizing coverage effectiveness.

Community Impact: This initiative represents a significant advancement in community-based harm reduction, requiring careful vendor selection to ensure sustainable, effective implementation that aligns with evidence-based public health practices.

This initiative's integration with existing opioid abatement funding streams positions it within a broader continuum of evidence-based interventions, from prevention and treatment to harm reduction and recovery support.