



Opioid Settlement Funded Project Overview as of October 20, 2023:

Settlement Background:

In accordance with [Title 42-7.2-10. Appropriations and disbursements](#),” there is hereby created within the general fund of the state and housed within the budget of the office of health and human services a restricted receipt account entitled "Rhode Island Statewide Opioid Abatement Account" for the purpose of receiving and expending monies from settlement agreements with opioid manufacturers, pharmaceutical distributors, pharmacies, or their affiliates, as well as monies resulting from bankruptcy proceedings of the same entities. The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) shall deposit any revenues from such sources that are designated for opioid abatement purposes into the restricted receipt account. Funds from this account shall only to be used for forward-looking opioid abatement efforts as defined and limited any settlement agreements, state-city and town agreements, or court orders pertaining to the use of such funds.”

Rhode Island’s Efforts to Address our Overdose Crisis with Settlement Dollars:

In January 2022, Rhode Island joined the national opioid settlement with three major opioid distributors, providing over \$90 million in funding for state and local efforts to address Rhode Island’s opioid crisis. Together with settlements secured by Attorney General Peter Neronha against opioid manufacturer Johnson & Johnson for \$21 million and consulting firm McKinsey & Co. for \$2.5 million, Rhode Island’s opioid litigation recoveries total more than \$114 million over the next 18 years.

Recommendations for opioid settlement funding are made to EOHHS Secretary Richard Charest, from the state’s [Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee](#). The Advisory Committee, as required by the national settlement agreement, is comprised of an equal number of state and municipal representatives, as well as expert and community representatives. The Advisory Committee receives public input on how to spend opioid settlement dollars from a wide array of professional and community participants in [Governor Dan McKee’s Overdose Task Force](#).

Then, EOHHS works closely with the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals (BHDDH) and the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), along with the Department of Corrections, the Department of Housing, and other state agencies to carry out planning and implementation of opioid abatement activities.

Rhode Island was recently recognized as a winner, with North Carolina, of the [Award for Excellence in the Application of the Opioid Litigation Principles for Quarter 2](#). The Opioid Litigation Principles were developed by Johns Hopkins University. These awards are designated by a coalition, led by faculty at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, that developed a set of evidence-based guidelines, known as the Principles, to help policymakers use opioid settlement funds effectively and equitably.

Budget and Funding Areas

Here is the total Opioid Settlement budget for opioid abatement activities for FY23 and FY24, by Pillars/Funding Area.

Settlement Funds		
Row Labels	Sum of Settlement (SFY23 & SFY24)	% of Grand Total
Racial Equity	\$300,000	1%
SDOH	\$7,200,000	17%
Harm Reduction & Rescue	\$7,243,608	26%
Treatment	\$3,950,000	21%
Recovery	\$2,250,000	8%
Prevention	\$5,950,000	16%
Governance	\$2,756,392	7%
Data	\$620,000	4%
Grand Total	\$30,270,000	100%

As of October 20, 2023, EOHHS, BHDDH, and RIDOH have encumbered approximately \$18 million by creating more than 60 contracts, grants, or MOUs within the pillars or funding areas laid out in the budget table above. These organization have spent a total of approximately \$4.6 million as of October 15, 2023.

Program/Contract Details:

Here are the specific contracts that EOHHS, BHDDH, and RIDOH have encumbered with Rhode Island’s Opioid Settlement dollars, plus additional information on other upcoming projects.

RACIAL EQUITY

UPCOMING PROCUREMENTS: EOHHS is seeking community input and will work with RIDOH and BHDDH to allocate \$300,000 in FY24 for planning and implementation of recently completed racial equity recommendations to address health disparities associated with Rhode Island’s overdose crisis. Our data show significant racial and ethnic disparities in fatal overdoses, treatment access, and other services, which Rhode Island is committed to eliminating. The investment of these dollars is in addition to the ways that we are focused on addressing equity throughout the other procurements listed throughout the rest of this document.

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

1) Basic Needs Contracts - A total of \$700,000, with \$50,000 contracts to the following 14 programs. These organizations are distributing basic needs items, such as clothing, food vouchers, transportation vouchers, and equipment (tents, etc.).

6 recovery community centers:

1. Anchor Recovery Community Center - Providence
2. Anchor Recovery community Center - Warwick
3. Hope Recovery Center/Parent Support Network (Westerly)
4. Hope Recovery Center/Parent Support Network (Middletown/Newport)

5. East Bay Recovery Center
6. Serenity Center/Community Care Alliance

5 harm reduction mobile outreach projects:

1. Project Weber/RENEW mobile outreach (Providence, Pawtucket, Central Falls)
2. Project Weber/RENEW drop-in center in Pawtucket
3. AIDS Care Ocean State (Statewide)
4. Parent Support Network (Statewide)
5. Community Care Alliance (Safe Haven) mobile outreach (Woonsocket)

Other Support Organizations:

1. BH Link
2. Horizon Health Partners, for the Rhode Island Outreach Program
3. RICARES

2) Homelessness Prevention - \$526,492 to Westbay Community Action for Housing Support Services:

1. Hallworth House Medical Respite: to sustain the Medical Respite program to provide care to individuals that have substance use disorder.
2. Mobile Medical Respite (Wound Care): to pilot a trauma-informed wound care and care coordination project, to address the dangerous impact of xylazine on people who use drugs.

UPCOMING PROCUREMENTS: EOHHS has a significant plan for approximately \$3.3 million in additional housing supports to be procured in FY24. The projects to be procured and funded include expanding supportive services partnership, equity supports, landlord incentives for priority populations, subsidies for people with a substance use disorder, and an overall focus on developing a bridge through Housing First policy, stigma reduction, care packages (basic needs), subsidies, and incentives for landlords.

3) Non-Profit Capacity Building Program - The following 8 organizations are sharing \$750,000 in nonprofit capacity building grants, through an EOHHS partnership with the Rhode Island Foundation.

1. Access To Recovery
2. Bridgemark Addiction Recovery Services
3. Justice Assistance
4. MAP Behavioral Health Services
5. Project Weber/RENEW
6. Strategic Prevention Partnerships
7. VICTA Life
8. 2nd Act Org

UPCOMING PROCUREMENTS: In addition, EOHHS will be investing \$250,000 in a Training and Technical Assistance Program for the organizations funded by settlement dollars, allowing them to attend nonprofit capacity building trainings and participate in peer-based capacity building activities.

4) Behavioral Health Supports and other social service supports for Warming Centers and winter shelters through an MOU with the Department of Housing for an investment of \$200,000.

UPCOMING PROCUREMENTS: In addition, EOHHS is seeking to expand our partnership with The Rhode Island Foundation (described below) to create a new grant program with \$1,000,000 for Trauma Supports for Peer Specialists and First Responders. Peer Specialists and First Responders experience a great amount of trauma carrying out their jobs – and this support program would seek to reduce burn-out, keep them healthy, and support their continued employment in the healthcare field.

HARM REDUCTION

5) Supports for Existing Harm Reduction Agencies – \$1,500,000 in allocations to the following 4 organizations in FY23 and FY24. The organizations carry out mobile outreach, meeting people where they are and providing naloxone, clean needles, fentanyl test strips and other harm reduction materials, as well as connection to treatment and recovery supports when requested.

1. Project Weber/RENEW
2. Parent Support Network
3. AIDS Care Ocean State
4. Community Care Alliance

6) Overdose Prevention Center - \$3,250,000 in FY23 & FY24 dollars for the first state-approved overdose prevention center in the country to Project Weber/RENEW (PWR). PWR is in the process of creating the center under the RIDOH regulations.

7) Harm Reduction Technology - \$383,000 to Brave Technology Co-Op. Brave is entering a partnership with a Rhode Island community-based organization to develop a Harm Reduction Technology Hub. The Hub will coordinate the placement of buttons and sensors with community organizations and harm reduction groups in Rhode Island. This technological response will help ensure that people who use drugs, especially in semi-private and private locations, can get help if they need it during a potential overdose.

8) Alternative Post-Overdose Engagement – Projects to provide supports following an overdose and/or local level responses in high-burden communities, including the following:

1. \$400,000 for the following Community Overdose Engagement (CODE) Project investments in local overdose response plans:
 - a. Woonsocket – Backbone agency Thundermist Health Center
 - b. Pawtucket/Central Falls – Backbone agency Local Initiatives Support Center (LISC)
 - c. Providence – Backbone agency City of Providence Health Communities Office
2. \$350,000 to support the Safe Landings program created by the Victa Addiction Treatment Center. Safe Landings is the first National Association of Recovery Residence level IV recovery house in RI. Safe Landings provides short term, non-medical (not in withdrawal) stabilization for individuals in crisis related to opioid or stimulant use, with the goal of reducing the number of Rhode Island deaths related to opioid overdoses.

UPCOMING PROCUREMENT: New Mobile Outreach Focused on the BIPOC Community – RIDOH is completing a procurement that will provide \$1,250,000 to multiple agencies to carry out new mobile outreach activities with a focus on our BIPOC communities, which are at higher risk for fatal overdoses. According to the recently

released racial equity recommendations, *Racial Equity Practices and Recommendations for Governor Dan McKee's Overdose Task Force*, "the rates of fatal overdose for Black and Hispanic populations have increased while rates for white Rhode Islanders have remained steady. Of particular concern, from 2021 to 2022, Hispanic communities saw a 49.6% rise in overdose deaths, a leap that mirrors an almost identical jump for Black communities from 2018-2019."

TREATMENT

9) Chronic Pain/ Treatment/Recovery in the Construction Industry - \$525,000 to Building Futures. This project is developing a recovery community within Building & Construction Trades Council members, with a focus on BIPOC industry workers. The program is encouraging treatment and developing and implementing a communications and intervention strategy with unions and employers in Rhode Island's construction industries.

10) Bricks and Mortar Investments for Residential Treatment Facilities - The following three organizations are sharing \$1,057,827 for residential treatment expansions, for a total of 44 additional treatment beds.

1. Zinnia Health
2. Galilee Mission
3. Bridgemark Addiction Recovery Services

UPCOMING PROCUREMENTS: BHDDH will solicit and carry out \$218,000 in additional bricks and mortar procurements for SUD providers, and another upcoming procurement of \$300,000 to support the provision of additional residential treatment capacity in Rhode Island.

11) Contingency Management – This project is providing \$300,000 in support for this evidence-based treatment for people who are using stimulants to DynamiCare Health. Contingency management provides motivational incentives to help people stay in recovery. Affording to the White House National Drug Control Policy, these are tangible rewards to reinforce positive behaviors such as abstinence from opioids and to motivate and sustain treatment adherence. In the 14 weeks that the program has been active, DynamiCare has trained 29 clinicians to ensure fidelity to the model, and 139 patients have been referred to participate.

UPCOMING PROCUREMENTS: With community input, BHDDH, RIDOH, and EOHHS are collaborating on planning for additional treatment supports with an investment of up to \$800,000, with a focus on the critical need for treatment services for people who use stimulants. This is particularly important to address disparities in care for Rhode Island's BIPOC community, which as noted above is particularly challenged both by stimulant use and a rise in fatal overdoses.

12) CPR Class for Behavioral Health Providers - \$66,392 to the Substance Use and Mental Health Leadership Council for CPR classes, to address the effects of xylazine on people who use drugs.

UPCOMING PROCUREMENTS: BHDDH and EOHHS will procure additional supports for the opioid treatment workforce with an investment of \$300,000. Projects may include training or other supports.

RECOVERY

13) Recovery Capital and Supports - The following four recovery community centers are sharing \$450,000 to provide clients with activities and resources to increase their recovery capital, such as dollars for transportation, gym memberships, spiritual/holistic pathways to recovery, etc. with the goal of supporting their ongoing recovery.

1. Hope Recovery Center/Parent Support Network (Westerly)
2. Hope Recovery Center/Parent Support Network (Middletown/Newport)
3. East Bay Recovery Center
4. Serenity Center/Community Care Alliance

UPCOMING PROCUREMENTS: In addition, EOHHS is seeking to expand our partnership with The Rhode Island Foundation to create two new Recovery grant programs:

- a. An additional \$250,000 for Recovery Capital for people in recovery, with a particular focus on people who are experiencing homelessness.
- b. An allocation of \$450,000 for Family Supports, to support family members of people in recovery, people who use drugs, and/or people who have died from an overdose.

PREVENTION

14) School-Based Prevention Services – BHDDH has a \$2.3 million contract through FY24 with Coastline EAP for their Rhode Island Student Assistance Services. Project SUCCESS (Schools Using Coordinated Community Efforts to Strengthen Students) is an effective evidence-based program to prevent and reduce substance use among youth ages 12 to 18. RISAS is a statewide school and community-based alcohol, tobacco and other drug misuse prevention/early intervention program operating since 1987. A division of Coastline EAP, RISAS is implementing the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) model program Project SUCCESS in 78 schools in 32 districts in Rhode Island.

15) Community-Based Youth Prevention - The following 8 organizations are sharing \$2,500,000 in community-based youth prevention program grants, through an EOHHS partnership with the Rhode Island Foundation.

1. Coastline EAP
2. Parent Support Network
3. Providence Children and Youth Cabinet
4. Rhode Island Sports Union
5. Substance Use and Mental Health Leadership Council of RI
6. The Providence Center
7. The Rhode Island Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs
8. Woonsocket Prevention Coalition

16) Supporting RIDOH's Substance Exposed Newborns program with \$600,000. Funds are being used for the following:

1. Parent Support Network of RI team of Certified Peer Recovery Specialists for pregnant and parenting folks with Opioid Use Disorder.
2. Enhancements to existing data systems to improve data collection for substance exposed newborns.
3. Basic needs/supplies for families affected by prenatal substance use.

COMMUNICATIONS

17) Supporting the maintenance of www.PreventOverdoseRI.org, Rhode Island's main channel and landing page for communications on our overdose crisis, with \$300,000. This website includes up to date information on the Governor's Overdose Task Force and its Work Groups, public health announcements and messaging, public access and trainings for free naloxone and other harm reduction tools as well as a public data dashboard on the overdose crisis.

18) Ensuring translation of communications on the overdose crisis, with \$80,000.

DATA/SURVEILLANCE

19) Supporting RIDOH's Data Surveillance and Analysis program with \$620,000. Funds are being used for the following:

1. Heat map dashboard to allow harm reduction workers to see custom maps that they can create to track non-fatal and fatal overdoses in Rhode Island.
2. Creating an updated automated integrated overdose surveillance system with daily tracking. This will go live by October 2023.