

Opioid Abatement Authority Finalizes Awards totaling \$23 million in Grants to 76 Cities and Counties

June 26, 2023 – On Friday June 23, 2023, the Board of Directors for the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) voted to award more than \$23 million in grants to 76 Virginia cities and counties for opioid abatement and remediation efforts. The vote confirmed the full Board’s approval of recommendations made by the OAA’s grants committee, which earlier this month recommended the slate of awards.

Senator Todd Pillion, Chairman of the OAA, called the vote “historic,” noting that all regions of the state will receive portions of the grant awards. “We were pleased to see that communities across the Commonwealth have committed to use opioid settlement funds to truly fight the opioid epidemic, both with new programs and in expansion of existing programs that have proven records of success,” he said. “Virginia is using its opioid settlement funds to turn the tide against this epidemic, and the projects we funded in this award package will save lives.”

Dr. Sarah Thomason, a clinical pharmacist who chairs the OAA’s Grants Committee, said the OAA sought to provide a balance in the types of awards made. “The programs we funded in this round address gaps across the board, ranging from prevention and education, to treatment, to long-term recovery,” she said.

The proposed awards include grants to 13 individual cities or counties and 26 grants to partnerships in which multiple cities and/or counties committed to a regional approach. Projects vary based on the identified needs of each community, and range from expansion of medication for opioid use disorder treatment programs, to recovery housing, to in-patient services. A summary of the proposed projects is attached.

The decision by the Board marks the first major allocation of OAA grants within Virginia since the Commonwealth received its first set of national settlement payments from manufacturers and distributors of prescription opioids in 2022. The payments from the various settling companies are expected to continue for at least 16 more years and will exceed \$1 billion in total funding.

In 2022 Attorney General Jason Miyares announced the first round of finalized settlements worth more than \$500 million for the Commonwealth spread over the course of eighteen years, and predicted the total will increase to more than \$1 billion as additional settlements are finalized.

The OAA was established by the General Assembly in 2021 to oversee the distribution of 55% of Virginia’s total settlement funds. Of the remainder, 30% is distributed directly to cities and counties, and the remaining 15% to the commonwealth. The use of funds is restricted by court orders and state statute, with the restrictions aiming for the funds to be used for opioid abatement efforts.

For more information contact info@voaa.us

Approved Grants for Individual Cities/Counties

Accomack County **\$15,862**

Accomack is partnering with the local community services board to provide outpatient behavioral health services including case management, care coordination, and access to medication for opioid use disorder. Will be available for all Accomack County residents including Tangier Island where the County will provide an air transportation option.

Appomattox County **\$18,091**

Will initiate a medication lock box program including purchasing the boxes and educational materials and providing the boxes free to those in need in the community.

Arlington County **\$172,885**

Expanding Office Based Opioid Treatment (OBOT) treatment to double the number of people served including adding adolescent patients.

Galax City **\$18,908**

Launch of the "Too Good for Drugs" prevention education program; enhance recovery court; naloxone training & distribution through the community services board; assisting non-profits with their peer-led recovery programs.

Hampton City **\$60,226**

Peer-led recovery drop-in center; jail-based medication for opioid use disorders services.

Henrico County **\$70,200**

Expansion of office-based opioid treatment program, to increase the number of people served.

Louisa County **\$61,075**

Dedicated substance use disorder clinician to allow additional patient services.

Roanoke City **\$252,867**

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) training; peer recovery specialist for Sheriff's Office & Adult Detention Center; xylazine test strips and spectrometer for prevention and harm reduction efforts; marketing campaign for the "warm line;" naloxone and training for Fire & EMS

Stafford County **\$124,755**

First Watch Data analytics program to enable countywide strategic response to overdoses.

Approved Planning Grants for Individual Cities/Counties

Chesterfield County **\$82,755**

Planning effort to identify options and evaluate models for a 24-hour behavioral health facility.

Norfolk City **\$452,040**

Planning for citywide opioid response, grants management oversight, and initial opioid prevention, intervention, and support programs.

Powhatan County **\$45,000**

Community-wide opioid abatement needs analysis, survey of resources, report, and plan.

Suffolk City **\$180,304**

Needs assessment and management system for providing grants to community organizations.

Approved Grants to Cooperative Partnerships¹

DBHDS Region 1

Albemarle County - Fiscal Agent / Grant #1 **\$834,894**

Partnership includes Albemarle County, Nelson County, Louisa County, Greene County, Fluvanna County, and Charlottesville City to expand the Crisis Intervention Team Assessment Center (CITAC) and expand crisis response (23-hour bed program)

Albemarle County - Fiscal Agent / Grant #2 **\$448,500**

Partnership includes Albemarle County, Nelson County, Louisa County, Greene County, Fluvanna County, and Charlottesville City to expand the Blue Ridge Center Community Response and add community drop-in services.

Buena Vista City - Fiscal Agent **\$230,142**

Partnership includes Buena Vista City, Rockbridge County, and Lexington City. Funding to support the first recovery residence in the area - HOPE House Recovery Home.

¹ The Code of Virginia requires OAA grants to cooperative partnerships be equitably distributed among the five Department of Behavioral Health and Disability Services (DBHDS) regions.

Culpeper County - Fiscal Agent

\$253,382

Partnership includes Culpeper County, Fauquier County, Madison County, Orange County, and Rappahannock County. Grant will fund a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist overdose response unit.

Lynchburg City - Fiscal Agent

\$1,946,372

Partnership includes Lynchburg City and Campbell County to fund a Crisis Receiving Center.

Rockingham County - Fiscal Agent / Grant #1

\$189,264

Partnership includes Rockingham County and Harrisonburg City to expand the local Crisis Response Unit (CRU) including training for first responders, treatment/recovery supports, comprehensive wrap-around services, support mobile services, and harm reduction.

Rockingham County - Fiscal Agent / Grant #2

\$104,632

Partnership includes Rockingham County and Harrisonburg City to expand the local Crisis Intervention Team Assessment Center (CITAC) to 24-hour operations.

Stafford County - Fiscal Agent

\$942,704

Partnership includes Stafford County, Caroline County, King George County, Spotsylvania County, and Fredericksburg City. The partnership will implement mobile delivery of medication for opioid use disorders and expand detox services for women at the Sunshine Lady House.

DBHDS Region 2

Fairfax County – Fiscal Agent

\$3,613,048

Partnership includes Fairfax County, Arlington County, Prince William County, Loudoun County, and Alexandria City. The grant will help to create a new residential treatment program for adolescents.

Prince William County – Fiscal Agent

\$800,000

Partnership includes Prince William County, Manassas City, and Manassas Park City. The grant will expand an existing Office Based Opioid Treatment (OBOT) program to double the number of participants.

DBHDS Region 3

Grayson County – Fiscal Agent

\$260,199

Partnership includes Grayson County, Carroll County, and Galax City to enhance the existing recovery court.

Montgomery County – Fiscal Agent **\$3,391,750**

Partnership includes Montgomery County, Giles County, Floyd County, Pulaski County, and Radford City. The grant provides funding for the “New River Valley Ecosystem of Recovery,” with expansion of in-patient treatment, medication for opioid use disorders, enhancement of transportation, the addition of recovery court clinicians, expansion of the recovery court program, expansion of law enforcement critical engagement integrating education, mobile treatment and harm reduction, trauma-informed care, ACEs prevention programming, and other prevention/education engagement/outreach, and assessment of supportive housing and adolescent in-patient treatment models to support families.

Roanoke City – Fiscal Agent **\$500,000**

Partnership with Roanoke City and Roanoke County to support and expand the “Roanoke Valley Collective Response (RVCR) Recovery Ecosystem.”

Smyth County – Fiscal Agent **\$1,000,000**

Partnership includes Smyth County, Bland County, Carroll County, Grayson County, Wythe County, and Galax City. Expands Office Based Opioid Treatment (OBOT) services and medication for opioid use disorders, and assists in providing region-wide transitional recovery housing.

Washington County – Fiscal Agent **\$745,000**

Partnership includes Washington County and Bristol City to purchase the “Mended Women” residential treatment center for women.

Wise County – Fiscal Agent **\$346,222**

Partnership includes Wise County, Lee County, Scott County, and Norton City to fund an intensive outpatient treatment facility for youth.

DBHDS Region 4

Chesterfield County – Fiscal Agent **\$1,666,411**

Partnership includes Chesterfield County, Powhatan County, Colonial Heights City, and Petersburg City to expand mobile outreach services for harm reduction, treatment, and support.

Hanover County – Fiscal Agent **\$214,257**

Partnership includes Hanover County, Chesterfield County, and Richmond City to expand “Project Recover” to add Hanover and to add capacity in Chesterfield and Richmond. “Project Recover” embeds certified peers with first responders to connect people who overdose to resources. It is a partnership between the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the “Imagine the Freedom” Foundation, and several localities in Central Virginia.

Henrico County - Fiscal Agent

\$700,311

Partnership includes Henrico County, Charles City County, and New Kent County to implement a new treatment and housing program for pregnant and parenting women with opioid use disorders.

DBHDS Region 5

Chesapeake City – Fiscal Agent

\$3,000,000

Partnership includes Chesapeake City and Virginia Beach City to construct a new 20 bed in-patient psychiatric unit in partnership with Chesapeake Regional Healthcare.

Approved Planning Grants for Cooperative Partnerships

DBHDS Region 1

Rockingham County – Fiscal Agent

\$34,000

Partnership includes Rockingham County and Harrisonburg City to undergo a planning study that uses Cross Systems Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) to bring together stakeholders to identify resources and gaps in services at each intercept (every entry point in the criminal justice system) and develop action plans to divert the target population.

Waynesboro City – Fiscal Agent

\$100,000

Partnership includes Waynesboro City, Augusta County, and Staunton City to engage a plan that includes data collection, assessment, and community visioning for opioid abatement strategies.

DBHDS Region 3

Martinsville City – Fiscal Agent

\$20,000

Partnership includes Martinsville City and Henry County to study and identify community-based options for most effective long-term use of funds for abatement.

Brunswick County – Fiscal Agent

\$57,670

Partnership with Brunswick County, Halifax County, and Mecklenburg County to conduct a needs assessment and develop an abatement plan.

DBHDS Region 4

Henrico County – Fiscal Agent

\$100,000

Partnership includes Henrico County, Chesterfield County, Hanover County, and Richmond City to identify needs, gaps, and resources to support pregnant and nursing mothers across the Richmond metro area.

DBHDS Region 5

Virginia Beach City – Fiscal Agent

\$50,000

Partnership includes Virginia Beach City, Chesapeake City, Norfolk City, Suffolk City, and Portsmouth City to develop a plan to enhance the full continuum of care available to South Hampton Roads in treatment and support for recovery from OUD.