



OPIOID RESPONSE **INITIATIVE**

MAY 10, 2024

OPIOID AND SUBSTANCE USE RESPONSE INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

Funding, milestones and upcoming
programming

FUNDING, MILESTONES & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Opioid settlement funds, grants and programming

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Ramsey County's share of the first round of Minnesota opioid overdose prevention settlement funds is \$14,676,308, payable in installments over the course of an 18-year period from Distributors and Johnson & Johnson settlements. The county's second round of Minnesota opioid overdose prevention settlement funds is estimated to be \$11,945,819 from the recent Teva, Allergan, Walgreens, Walmart and CVS settlements. To date, Ramsey County has received a total amount of \$4,598,708.24.



Current grant funding

In 2022, the Department of Human Services (DHS) Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council awarded \$412,627 through June 30, 2024 for the Expansion and Enhancement of a Continuum of Care for Opioid-related Substance Use Disorders Grant Program Funds.

In 2023, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration awarded \$499,975 per year from September 30, 2023 – September 30, 2028 to provide comprehensive, coordinated and evidence-based treatment and housing referrals for justice-involved and unsheltered community members with substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health conditions in Ramsey County.

PARTNER ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS

In December 2023, Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health (SPRCPH) engaged with partners during the following meetings:

- **December 4:** Association of Minnesota Counties annual conference presentation.
- **December 12:** Policy updates to the Board of Commissioners on priorities and actions.
- **December 13:** Policy updates to the Saint Paul City Council on priorities and actions.
- **December 14:** Annual Ramsey County jurisdictions meeting on priorities and actions.

SPRCPH also hosted a community engagement meeting on December 4 to collect feedback about the top priority area from the 2022 Opioid Response Engagement Survey, which was identified as pregnant and parenting women and babies. Based on the feedback gathered during multiple meetings, SPRCPH is developing a 2024 - 2025 action plan while continuing to move forward with Phase I commitments.

NALOXONE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR STAFF

Since 2022, the SPRCPH opioid peer specialist has trained 1,131 county staff how to use naloxone and other harm reduction resources. The 78 trainings included participation from senior and executive leadership. We estimate that over 1000 individuals were trained through this program in 2023. Additionally, nasal Narcan® is given to each employee who completes the training. Funding from the 2022 DHS Opioid Epidemic Response Advisory Council grant supports this program and funds internal trainings for county staff and leadership that will continue through June 2024.

CLINIC 555 CAREVAN



The Clinic 555 mobile CareVan offers the chance to bring health and wellness to communities that don't have easy access to health care services. The goal is to expand options for healthcare by bringing them directly to underserved communities. The mobile CareVan is currently working with a number of partners to serve clients, participants and community members at:

- Substance use and mental health treatment centers.
- Domestic violence shelters.
- Drop-in centers for youth and adults.

Community partners can request the CareVan to visit their community event. Submit a request at ramseycounty.us/CareVan.

SYRINGE SERVICE PROGRAM

The Syringe Service Program (SSP) is centrally-located in downtown Saint Paul. The location was chosen to ensure it is accessible to communities that are disproportionately impacted by substance use disorder and HIV, including people who are low-income, racially and ethnically diverse and/or experiencing homelessness. Many participants utilize this service as a safe place to dispose of used syringes and get new sterile ones.

The program offers a range of services including naloxone kit distribution; drug testing strips; access to [PrEP](#); overdose prevention education; HIV, Hepatitis C, STI testing and linkage to care; and referrals to substance use disorder treatment, medical care, mental health and social services. Staff prioritizes relationships with community partners so that they can meet the diverse needs of clients. In 2023, SSP saw 1,646 individuals at 4,994 visits. Program staff distributed 377,722 syringes to individuals and 157,181 syringes were returned.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Ultimately, our goal is to build strategies that are informed and co-designed in consultation with internal and external key partners, municipalities and people most impacted by the opioid and substance use crisis. It's important that we have a vision for addressing the opioid epidemic that is not just tied to the settlement or other available funding, but focuses on the needs of our community and making the greatest impact through education, awareness, treatment, prevention and recovery.

The following efforts are part of the county's 2023-2024 opioid response:

END OF YEAR 2023:

- Launched the NEW! Ramsey County Naloxone Distribution Pilot Program.
- Approved the NEW! One Door QR Code that can be shared with residents and clients to connect them with online Ramsey County substance use disorder and health resources.
- Launched the NEW! Ramsey County Community-Based Naloxone Training Program.
- Policy update at the AMC conference, and with the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners, Saint Paul City Council and Ramsey County cities and jurisdictions.

JANUARY 2024:

- Opened applications for the Opioid Response Community Grants program.

APRIL 2024:

- Notified Opioid Response Community Grants awardees.

MAY - OCTOBER 2024:

- **May:** Draft a settlement-focused action plan.
- **June:** Execute the Opioid Response Community Grants awardee contracts. Publish an Opioid Response Initiative Priority to Action Plan.
- **September 15:** First data report is due from the Opioid Response Community Grant program.
- **October 1:** Release an Opioid and Substance Use Response Initiative Overview with updated programming information.

Learn more at ramseycounty.us/Opioids.