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NH DHHS Proposed Urgent Need Funding Recommendation

NH DHHS requests Opioid Abatement funds be infused into an upcoming contract amendment to provide \$5.299MM in support of Peer Recovery Support Services (PRSS) for individuals and families with substance misuse and/or substance use disorders through New Hampshire’s Recovery Community Organizations (RCO). Current contract is scheduled to be amended in summer of 2023 with anticipated approvals needed by 09/29/2023.

This recommendation allows for a contract term that benefits New Hampshire by providing uninterrupted support to the community through the services of the PRSS. PRSS are designed and delivered by peers who are in recovery themselves, and who are trained to help others remain engaged and achieve success in their recovery from substance use disorder (SUD). Across New Hampshire, these services are provided through a network of Recovery Community Organizations (RCOs) led by a single facilitating organization. Additional funds would benefit the Facilitating Organization (FO), Recovery Community Organizations (ROCs), and NH DHHS by eliminating the need for 9 month renewals based on limited funding availability.

The recommendation also includes a set aside for the FO and RCO leadership to focus time on planning for sustainability. This is critical to preparing the infrastructure for the upcoming reduction in State Opioid Response funding. This recommendation allows for time, attention and energy to build sustainability plans that are robust and aligned throughout the state. The intent is for State funds to be leveraged to supplement budgets in the future instead of providing the majority of funding to the RCOs in perpetuity.

Additional details for consideration:

Contract term	Number of months	Monthly budget	Contracted amount	12 month budget	Gap to fill
January-September 2023	9	\$510,000	\$4.595M	\$6.127M	■
October 2023-June 2025	21	\$582,100	\$7.675M*	\$6.985M	\$4.549M
Sustainability planning	■	■	■	■	\$350,000
	■	■	■	Total gap	\$5.299M

* projected to be available based on current federal funding forecasts, including \$2.3M allocated from SOR3b (still awaiting NOA) and \$0 in 4a

Current Contract: January-September 2023

Term: 9 months

Total Budget: \$4.595 million

Monthly Budget: \$510,600

12 Month Budget: \$6.127 million

FY24-25 Amendment: October 2023-June 2025

Term: 21 months

Total Budget available: \$7.675 million

Monthly budget: \$365,500

12 month Budget: \$4.386 million

More information on RCOs:

In September 2022, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) released a comprehensive evaluation of PRSS in New Hampshire, and several data points demonstrated the value of PRSS in the recovery process of people with SUD. According to the report, increased participation in a variety of PRSS activities appears to be the most important factor associated with increasing what is known as “recovery capital,” leading to better outcomes.

Recovery capital is conceptually linked to protective factors and wellness, such as physical health, basic needs, social relationships, attitudes, policies and other resources (White & Cloud, 2008). Since the summer of 2020, more than a quarter-million Granite Staters have participated in more than 21,000 activities offered by RCOs statewide. In addition, approximately 28,000 people benefitted from one-on-one services with a recovery coach.

An interactive dashboard is available on the [DHHS Data Portal](#) and provides an overview of where RCOs are located, the demographics of who participates in PRSS, and the total number of activities, referrals, and attendees. The Dashboard contains four tabs including an Overview section, Demographics, Engagement Sessions, Activities and Referrals and Attendees and Distribution of Supplies. The aggregate data is for all of the state-funded RCOs. Updated on a quarterly basis, data timeframes can be filtered by quarter, calendar year, or total data (2020 to present).

Dashboard link:

<https://wisdom.dhhs.nh.gov/wisdom/topics.html?category=substance-misuse&topic=recovery-services>