



Spring 2021: Drug Overdose Prevention Program Mini-Grants Awardees

In spring 2021, the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) Drug Overdose Prevention Program (DOPP) awarded mini-grant funding for five projects that aligned with and responded to at least one of the recommendations from the December 2020 Governor's Overdose Prevention and Intervention Task Force [Addiction and Overdose Evidence Update](#).

East Bay Community Action Program (EBCAP)

[EBCAP](#) operates the [East Bay Recovery Center](#), which provides outreach, harm reduction, and recovery support services to individuals in Bristol, Rhode Island and surrounding communities. The East Bay Recovery Center will partner with the Bristol Police Department to train law enforcement officers on the Safe Station model and harm reduction principles, enabling them to effectively connect individuals in crisis to harm reduction and/or treatment and recovery support services via certified peer recovery support specialists. The grant will also be used to increase the East Bay Recovery Center's staff capacity, making a peer recovery support specialist accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts (RICARES) and Creating Outreach About Addiction Support Together (COAAST)

[RICARES](#) will partner with [COAAST](#) to offer a series of virtual workshops for certified peer recovery support specialists who are currently working in the fields of outreach and harm reduction services. Through evidence-based drama therapy techniques and education, the workshops aim to reduce substance use recurrence and secondary trauma among participants. Topics on COVID-19 pandemic-related stress, race, and structural racism will be integrated into workshop discussions.

Rhode Island Hospital Center for Primary Care

[Rhode Island Hospital Center for Primary Care](#) will create a Housing Assistance Collaborative (HAC) to help patients secure stable housing through the Housing First model, including assistance in obtaining the vital records needed to access housing. Patients who are unstably housed and living with a substance use condition will receive prioritization. The HAC will be staffed by medical students who are enrolled in the Social Medicine elective at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

Shri Service Corps

[Shri](#) will offer a series of newly developed yoga and mindfulness-based stress reduction programs for individuals who are in recovery. The organization will host 20 classes at a women's residential recovery center in RI and weekly classes at [Anchor Recovery Community](#)

[Center](#) for six months at no cost to eligible participants. The classes focus on decreasing anxiety and stress through meditation, breath work, and classic yoga postures. This mini-grant will also train 10 certified peer recovery specialists in mindfulness-based stress reduction.

The Providence Center

The [Providence Center's Anchor Mobile Outreach](#) team will provide outreach and naloxone training to individuals who have been recently released from the Rhode Island Department of Corrections (DOC). Anchor's certified peer recovery support specialists will conduct outreach sessions four hours per week for 22 weeks to provide critical support to individuals who are at an increased risk of overdose and connect individuals to recovery support services at an Anchor Recovery Community Center.