



# Governor McKee's Overdose Prevention and Intervention Task Force

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## Community Engagement Meeting

December 8, 2021

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# Agenda: Governor's Task Force Community Meeting

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- Welcome and Introductions
- Meeting Goals
- Brief Review: Overdose Funding and Task Force Activities
- Open Facilitated Discussion:
  - Questions and Community Comment on Funding and Program Priorities
  - Small Group Discussions and Report Backs (see the following slide for Breakout Groups)
  - Next Steps
- Public Comment



# Moving Forward in Partnership to Save Lives

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# Funding Timeline

Funding Source	State Agency Awarded	Funding Title	2022	2023	2024	2025
BJA	RIDOH	Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-based Program (PDMP)	█			
CDC	RIDOH	Overdose Data to Action	█	█		
BJA	RIDOH	ODMAP Statewide Expansion and Response	█			
CMS	Medicaid	Provider Capacity Building Initiative (PCBI)	█			
DOJ	RISP	Comprehensive Opioid Addiction Program (COAP)	█			
SAMHSA	RIDOH	CARA First Responders Project to Combat RI Overdoses	█			
SAMHSA	BHDDH	State Opioid Response 2020	█			
SAMHSA	BHDDH	State Opioid Response 2020 Supplement	█			
SAMHSA	BHDDH	SUD Block Grant Standard	█			
SAMHSA	BHDDH	SUD Block Grant COVID	█	█		
SAMHSA	BHDDH	SUD Block Grant ARPA	█	█	█	█
RI State	RIAG	McKinsey Settlement	█	█	█	
RI State	Multiple	Opioid Stewardship Act FY22	█			
RI State	Multiple	Opioid Stewardship Act FY23		█		

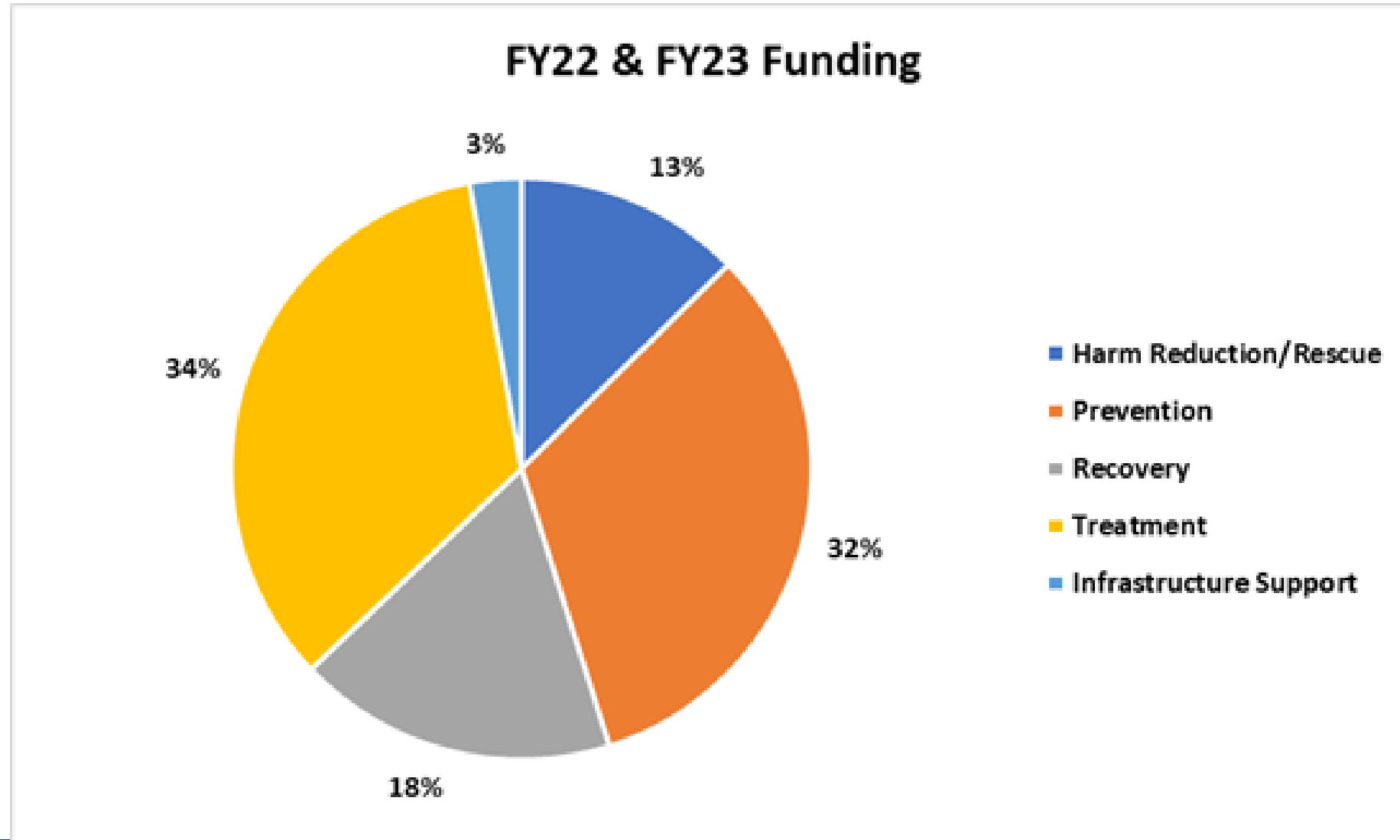
**BJA:** Bureau of Justice Assistance  
**CARES ACT:** Coronavirus, Relief, and Economic Security Act

**CDC:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
**CMS:** Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

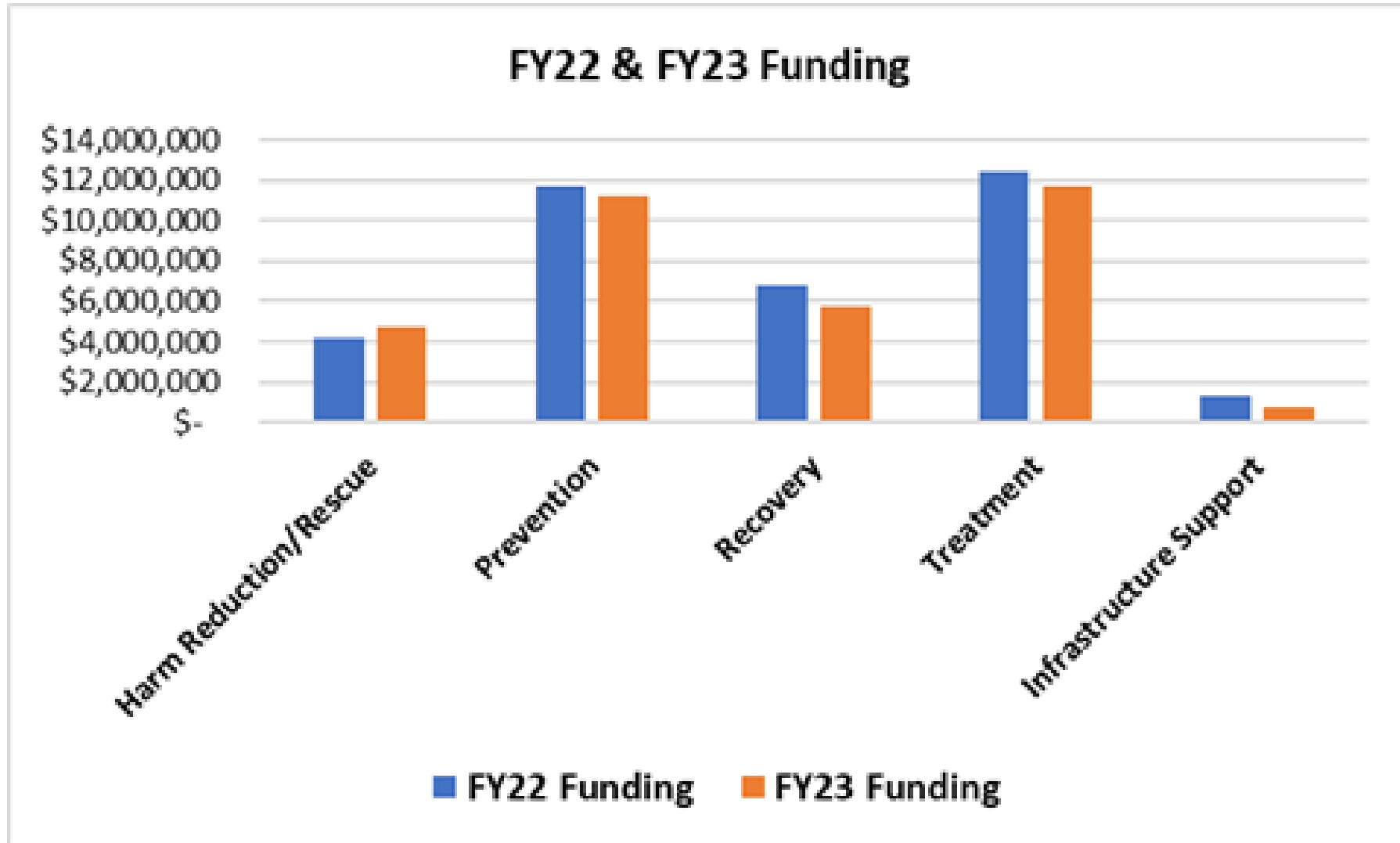
**DOJ:** Department of Justice  
**SAMHSA:** Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration



# High-Level Summary Funding Plans 2022–2023 (estimated)



# Planned Funding Allocation FY22 & FY23 (12 months/estimated)



# What We've Heard: Immediate Needs Shared at the November Task Force Meeting and Other Recent Discussions

TOPIC	Description
Staffing Shortages at all Community Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agencies understaffed, overwhelmed, and without enough resources to meet needs.</li> </ul>
Gaps in Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficulty connecting people to appropriate level of care</li> <li>• Treatment needs to be equitable and culturally appropriate</li> <li>• Disconnect between organizations and services</li> <li>• Need more providers</li> <li>• Need higher Medicaid reimbursement rates</li> </ul>
Affordable Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Huge increase in unhoused individuals</li> <li>• No shelter beds</li> <li>• Individuals who qualify for rental assistance can't find available rooms/apartment</li> <li>• Need to adopt housing first policies</li> </ul>
Transportation <small>Outside Providence, Pawtucket</small>	Racial Equity Work Group to hold focus groups to help identify bias and discrimination and barriers to treatment.
Race Equity Strategic Planning	Needing to ensure that the entire Task Force takes on race equity – not just the Racial Equity Work Group.
Access to Legal Documents	Individuals struggle to obtain licenses, birth certificates, social security due to fees/application process.
Overdoses in Private Settings	
Structural/Systemic Problems	Racism, poverty, discrimination/stigma– from community providers.



# Highlights: Work Group Efforts to Address Evidence Update Recommendations

Work Group Project	PROJECT
Prevention Work Group	Stigma and “Over the Counter Doesn't Mean On the Counter” Media Campaign Promotion Community Partner Expansion – Focused on Race Equity, ACEs, and Injury/Violence.
Treatment Work Group	Harm reduction surveys to be distributed to increase HR materials and availability in the treatment setting.
Harm Reduction/Rescue	Established Centralized Community Naloxone Distribution system, identifying sustainable, long-term funding for naloxone, Created sub-group focused on Good Samaritan law evaluation, and is helping implement the Harm Reduction Center law.
Harm Reduction/Rescue with Statewide Conversation Group	<i>Small Amount</i> , a statewide fentanyl public awareness campaign.
Recovery Work Group	Working with communities of color and faith-based communities to address overdose, leading to a working session with the Imani Breakthrough Project.
Race Equity Work Group	Racial Equity Work Group to hold focus groups to help identify bias and discrimination & barriers to treatment. Also, working to fund a Race Equity Strategy Planning Process and a Law Enforcement/Community Conversation, and secure consultants and facilitators to help lead.
First Responders	Work Group started meeting again in October with new leadership.
Family Task Force	Reaching out to families impacted by fatal overdose to distribute family toolkits & condolence cards. Translating the condolence cards into Spanish, Working on next year’s Family Toolkits, and promoting the Work Group's two pagers for families to post a remembrance.
Substance-Exposed Newborn with Statewide Conversation Group	Planned and implemented Rhode Island's first-ever campaign to bring awareness to the supports available for pregnant people who use substances.



# Key Updates: Agency Efforts to Address Evidence Update Recommendations

Key Activity/Initiative	DESCRIPTION	LEAD AGENCY
Housing	Recovery Housing and Other Related Projects, including with HUD	BHDDH
Housing	RIDOH Housing Workgroup is in early stages of exploring a Housing First model for local communities	RIDOH
Harm Reduction Infrastructure	Tripled investment in harm reduction (HR), including mobile HR outreach and HR walk-in centers in OD hotspots	RIDOH
Harm Reduction Centers	Implementing the legislatively approved Harm Reduction Center	RIDOH/with other agency involvement
Overdose Prevention	Implementation of Overdose Prevention Vending Machines in community settings, and at the ACI	RIDOH, BHDDH, Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC)
Overdose Prevention	Established Centralized Community Naloxone Distribution system, identifying sustainable, long-term funding for naloxone,	RIDOH, URI, PONI
Overdose Prevention	Increased investment in Community Overdose Engagement (CODE); five funded communities in overdose hot spots	RIDOH
Criminal Justice	Behavioral Health Criminal Justice Diversion Project	BHDDH
Client Choice for MAT	Work with Medicaid for all three medications to be able to be offered at OTP's client choice	BHDDH MEDICAID
Behavioral Health Transformation	Creation of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics	Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), BHDDH, Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF)
Workforce Transformation	Working to secure federal funding for Workforce Recruitment and Retention	EOHHS
Task Force Governance	Ensuring stronger Task Force leadership and accountability. Reviewing membership and meeting strategies	EOHHS, BHDDH, and RIDOH

# Q & A and Small Group Discussions

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# Planned Breakout Groups for Today's Discussion

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During the meeting, we will divide into the breakout groups listed below. Each group has a specific focus on an identified issue; however, participants can feel free to comment on other topics as well. Please join the group in which you are most interested.

- 1 - Addressing Workforce Concerns
- 2 - Gaps in Treatment
- 3 - Housing/Addressing Needs for People Experiencing Homelessness
- 4 - Recovery Housing
- 5 - Addressing Overdoses in Private Settings
- 6 - Harm Reduction
- 7 - Prevention
- 8 - Open Discussion

# Small Group Questions

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1) Using a racial equity lens, what strategies or interventions do we need to expand/redirect/implement immediately and in the long term?

- As we discuss these, please also think about:
  - Strategies that you feel might not be working now and should be stopped.
  - Strategies that are "almost working" and need to be fixed or adjusted.

2) For issues that we have talking about in generalities, (e.g., "Lack of housing is a problem."), can we go deeper? Continuing to use the racial equity lens, what very specific things would you recommend? You can feel free to consider funding, policy, or collaborations/communications.

3) And is there anything else you want to share?

**Thank you for your  
participation.**

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