



Summer 2022: Drug Overdose Prevention Program Mini-Grant Awardees

In summer 2022, the Rhode Island Department of Health Drug Overdose Prevention Program awarded mini-grant funding for six innovative projects that address the drug overdose epidemic in Rhode Island.

Amos House

Amos House offers more than 18 social services programs that help individuals in Providence meet basic needs, improve their well-being, and gain stability. The organization will use mini-grant funding to provide adults experiencing homelessness with up to four weeks of financial assistance to secure recovery housing. Funding will be prioritized for individuals who use opioids and who have either exhausted State recovery housing funds or are now required to pay a portion of their rent. Once clients are securely housed, Amos House staff will provide individualized support to help them secure an income and retain their housing. Through this grant, Amos House hopes to increase access to recovery housing, help individuals regain financial stability, and reduce overdose risk by addressing housing needs.

Community Care Alliance (CCA)

CCA is a combined behavioral health organization and community action program with a 125-year history of serving Northern Rhode Island. The organization will utilize mini-grant funding to offer a weekly, peer-led recovery support group for staff members who identify as being in recovery or who would like to be in recovery. This support is critical because many staff are working directly with individuals who are experiencing substance use and behavioral health concerns, which can often make it challenging for a peer to focus on their individual recovery. The goal of this mini-grant is to provide employees with recovery supports to enrich their lives, feel supported and safe by sharing their thoughts, feelings, and experiences, and help maintain recovery.

Parent Support Network (PSN)

PSN is a family and peer run non-profit organization committed to serving individuals, children, youth, and families across the lifespan who are at risk or who have behavioral health challenges. Mini-grant funding will allow the PSN team to expand existing efforts to engage with “non-traditional” partners, including the hospitality industry, retail, and public housing. Funding will also be used to support overdose prevention canvassing in residential areas, with a focus on overdose hot spot locations. The organization will develop tailored educational materials to engaging often-overlooked populations and assist with outreach. PSN will provide naloxone and

information on how to access it as well as harm reduction and overdose prevention education and resources.

Project Weber-Renew (PWR)

PWR provides peer-led harm reduction and recovery support services, builds relationships with the people they serve, and fights for systemic change in Rhode Island. Mini-grant funding will be used to create a training plan and curriculum for PWR peer staff to provide critical professional development opportunities. The proposed curriculum was created based on specific feedback from staff and includes topics such as trauma-informed money management and financial education training; suicide prevention for non-clinical workers; de-escalation and non-violent restraint; CPR and First Aid certification, and Transformative Justice. These trainings are designed to complement the trainings provided by the Peer Recovery Specialist and Community Health Worker certifications.

Tides Family Services (TFS)

TFS' mission is to strengthen vulnerable youth and families through the provision of high quality educational and community-based services. TFS programs include strength-based counseling, structured recreation, cognitive behavioral therapy, substance use treatment programs, after-school programming and two small, licensed schools. This mini-grant will establish a Latino Behavioral Health Clinic in Pawtucket to deliver outpatient mental health services to adults and children regardless of their status with health insurance and/or ability to pay. These services will eliminate barriers to care by offering culturally and linguistically competent services. The program will be staffed by a bilingual psychiatrist, bilingual clinicians, and *promotores de salud* (community health workers).

VICTA

VICTA has been providing opioid replacement therapies, substance use and mental health counseling, psychiatric services, and ambulatory medical care to individuals throughout Rhode Island and bordering states since 2019. VICTA will use mini-grant funding to expand complementary and holistic wellness recovery services to support and serve clients beyond the clinical treatment setting. All eligible team members will be trained in Auricular Acupuncture (5NP), which has been shown to reduce anxiety, decrease withdrawal symptoms, and reduce cravings. Once trained, VICTA staff will routinely offer and incorporate 5NP into their work with individuals and groups.