



Governor Dan McKee's Overdose Task Force

September 9, 2026

Richard Leclerc; Director, Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals

Jerome Larkin, MD; Director, Rhode Island Department of Health

Alex Gautieri, MSW, LCSW; Task Force Community Co-Chair

Ana Novais, MA; Assistant Secretary, Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Cathy Schultz, MPH; Task Force Director, Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services

RHODE
ISLAND

Welcome and Announcements

**RHODE
ISLAND**

Pastore Complex Participates in International Overdose Awareness Day

449 naloxone kits were distributed across all participating Pastore Complex State agencies.



Save the Date! RI-PREVCON



WHEN?

Tuesday, September 29, 2026. 9:00 - 3:45 PM EST

WHERE?

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Warwick, RI

QUESTIONS:

riprc@jsi.org



Recovery Month in Rhode Island



[Washington County Rally4Recovery](#)

Saturday, September 12; Noon to 3 p.m.

University of Rhode Island Quad

10 Ranger Rd., Kingston

[Main Rally4Recovery](#)

Saturday, September 19; Noon to 4 p.m.

195 District Park, Providence

[East Bay Rally4Recovery](#)

Saturday, September 26; Noon to 3 p.m.

Burr's Hill Park, Warren

New Interactive Naloxone Map on Prevent OverdoseRI.org/Get-Naloxone

Where can I get naloxone?

1. From a Rhode Island organization

In Rhode Island, you can get naloxone for free. See the map to find a location nearest you. Select a location and click on the website link to learn more about that resource.

Select City/Town:
(All)

Select Type of Location:
(All)

Types of locations
Fire stations - Walk into any fire station to get free naloxone and connection to services. Open 24/7.
Mobile Locations - These are places where mobile services come to give naloxone and other supplies. Hours differ at each location.
Public drop in - Organizations that provide naloxone for free. Come in during open hours to get free naloxone.
Supply altars - Open 24/7 and offer naloxone and other harm reduction supplies.
Vending machines - Machines that dispense naloxone and other supplies. You may need to register with the organization to get an access code.

Hover over a location to learn more.
Type of Location
● Drop-In
● Fire Station
● Mobile Location
● Supply Altar
● Vending Machine



**PREVENT
OVERDOSE RI** 

Save the Date!

2026 Community Conversations and Community Overdose Engagement (CODE) Summit

**November 5, 2026 | 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Warwick**

Learn and interact with fellow Rhode Islanders invested in ending the overdose crisis and share local resources.

Breakfast and registration will start at 8:30 a.m., and CODE programming will begin at 9:30 a.m.

CODE registration information will be available soon!

Please note that the Summit will occur in place of the November 2026 Overdose Task Force meeting.



**International Overdose
Awareness Day**

2026

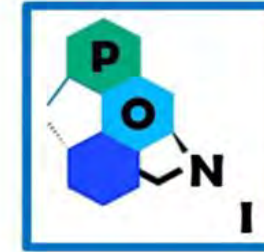
TIME TO
REMEMBER.

TIME TO ACT.





THANK YOU TO OUR 2026 IOAD SPONSORS



MAYOR BRETT P. SMILEY
CITY OF PROVIDENCE





IOAD 2026 Commitment to Saving Lives Award

**Kevin Simon &
Harrison Tuttle**

Operation No One Dies



IOAD 2026 Legacy In Leadership Award

**Colleen Daley
Ndoeye**



IOAD 2026 Champion For Change Award

**Overdose Task
Force Director,
Cathy Schultz**



**Together WE
Distributed
3,449
Kits of Narcan!**



**#TogetherWeCanEndOverdose
#EndOverdoseRI**







Happy Recovery
Month!



“Help Stop Overdoses” Naloxone Campaign: Insights into What’s Working in Rural Communities

September 9, 2026

Governor’s Overdose Task Force Meeting



Are We Distributing Naloxone Equitably and Optimally?



We Measured Rhode Island's Naloxone “Saturation” in Three Ways

1

Mathematical Modeling

(PROFOUND Model)

What is the optimal number of kits by geographical region, and how close are we to those numbers?



2

Burden

How many naloxone kits are regions getting per fatal and non-fatal overdose?



3

Population

How many naloxone kits are regions getting based on how many people live there?



Regions 1, 3, and 9 Consistently Showed Lower Saturation

ROAAR Region and Corresponding Municipalities (Rural municipalities are shown in green)		Mathematical Modeling		Burden		Population
		<50% of Jan-June 2025 PROFOUND Projection - Distribution	<50% of Jan-June 2025 PROFOUND Projection - Residence	<50% of statewide naloxone to fatal overdose ratio 2022-2024	<50% of statewide naloxone to non-fatal overdose ratio 2022-2024	<50% statewide naloxone kits per 100,000 residents 2022-2024
➡ 1	Burrillville, Foster, Glocester, Scituate	✗	✗		✗	✗
2	Woonsocket					
➡ 3	Cumberland, Lincoln, North Smithfield, Smithfield	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
4	Johnston, North Providence	✗				
5*	Central Falls, East Providence, Pawtucket					
6	Providence					
7*	Coventry, Cranston, Warwick, West Warwick	✗	✗			
8*	Barrington, Bristol, Jamestown, Little Compton, Middletown, Newport, Portsmouth, Tiverton, Warren					
➡ 9*	East Greenwich, Exeter, Hopkinton, Richmond, West Greenwich	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
10*	Charlestown, Narragansett, New Shoreham, North Kingstown, South Kingstown, Westerly		✗			

* The PROFOUND regions do not match Overdose Spike Alert System (OSAS) regions.
Data Source: [PROFOUND \(profoundmodel.org\)](https://profoundmodel.org), Office of State Medical Examiners (OSME), Rhode Island Emergency Medical Services Information System (RI-EMSIS) and Community Naloxone Distribution Database, Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH).
Data updated as of September 16, 2025. Prepared by Kristen St. John and Jaejoon Shin.

Our Collaborative, Systems-Level Approach

Goal: Make the most impact with limited resources to address gaps in naloxone distribution.

Steps



- Convened a cross-division team, including community partners.
- Used several data sources to inform decisions.
- Hosted 3 to 4 meetings to review data, brainstorm, and identify priorities.
- Came to a team consensus.
- Created a “parking lot” for ideas.

Decisions

- *Focus on rural populations.*
- *Invest in a paid media campaign.*
- *Hire an additional outreach coordinator at the University of Rhode Island (URI) Community First Responder Program to support and supplement campaign messaging.*

Help Stop Overdoses: 12-Week Paid Media Campaign

HELP STOP OVERDOSES

Get Free Naloxone By Mail

PreventOverdoseRI.org

PREVENT
OVERDOSE RI 



UPGRADE YOUR FIRST AID KIT Get Naloxone!



When you carry naloxone,
you can save a life.

Visit PreventOverdoseRI.org to get
a naloxone kit mailed to your
home at no cost.

Scan Me



PREVENT
OVERDOSE RI 

Actualice Su Botiquín de Primeros Auxilios ¡Obtenga Naloxona!



Cuando usted lleva naloxona, puede salvar una vida.
Visite PrevengaSobredosisRI.org obtenga naloxona gratis
por correo sin costo para usted. Escanee el Código QR

Escanéame



PREVENGA
SOBREDOSIS RI 

PreventOverdoseRI.org Naloxone Request Form

Campaign Landing Page



Naloxone (Narcan) by Mail Request Form

Request a Free Naloxone Kit Mailed to Your Home

Thank you for your interest in upgrading your first aid kit with naloxone!

Naloxone is a safe and easy-to-use medicine that can reverse an opioid overdose.

Please fill out this form to get a naloxone kit mailed to your home at no cost.

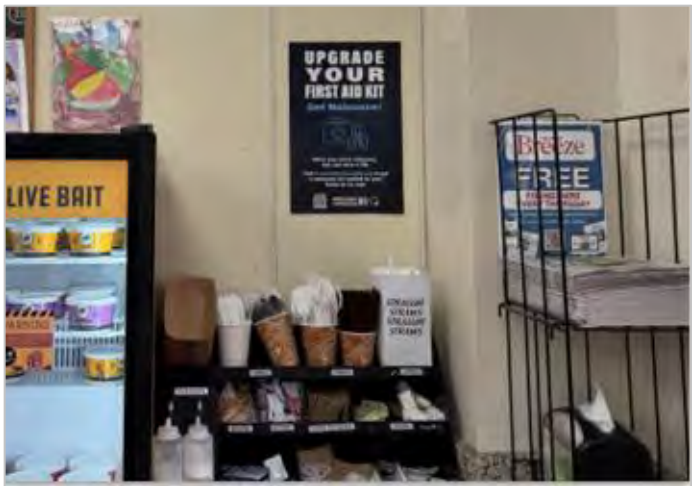
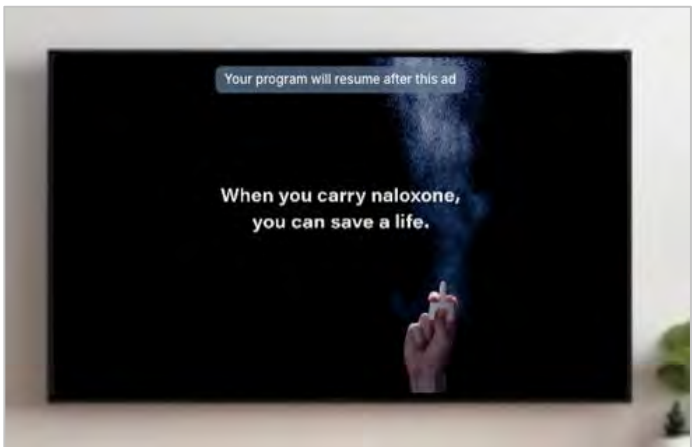
Your information will be kept private and will not be shared. This information is being collected by the University of Rhode Island Community First Responder Program in collaboration with PreventOverdoseRI.org.

[Click here to Continue →](#)

Naloxone Kit Received in About One Week



Combining Media Strategies to Increase Success



Paid Media Metrics Highlights

3,816,154
Impressions

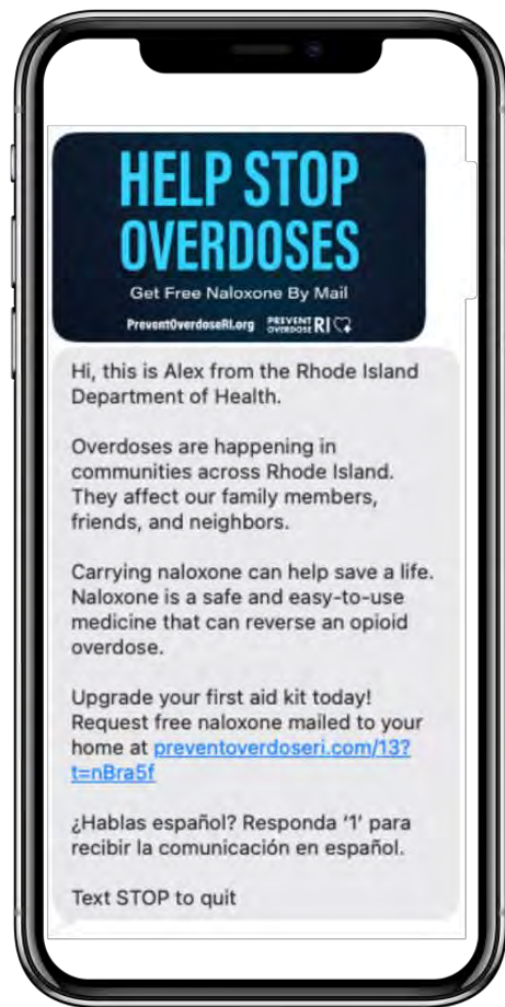
33,436
Clicks

2.3%*
CTR

799 naloxone kits were ordered within the first month of the campaign.

That's twice as many naloxone kits as during the best-performing month of our previous naloxone campaign.

June 3, 2026 Targeted Text Message to Rural Communities



- On June 3, 2026, **79,769 texts** were sent to phones in **13 rural Rhode Island communities**.
- The link in the text message was **clicked 4,316 times** for a **CTR of 5.41%.***
- It was the most engaging overdose prevention text RIDOH has ever sent. (*The average CTR for all RIDOH overdose prevention texts is 2.47%.*)
- **962 naloxone kits were ordered** the week the text was sent, more orders than any other week during the entire 12-week campaign.
- The text received **354 replies** (0.44% reply rate).

Text Message Replies from Community Members

"Thanks Alex"

"This is a fantastic program, I hope a lot of people take advantage of this."

"This is definitely a good idea."

"Thank you, I am a certified responder through my previous employer and my kit expired. "

"Thanks Alex.

I carry it everywhere, I'm a Recovery specialist and lost a child to overdose, so thanks for all you do. "

"Is this for real?"

"Is there a charge or is it free"

"All set I have one thanks!"

"Thank you for caring & sharing the concern."

"Good news"

*"Hi Alex, I am definitely interested in that.
I will take a look later."*

Mail Order Requests April – June 2026 Overview

Prepared by the URI Community First Responder Program





MAIL ORDER REQUEST OVERVIEW

NALOXONE KITS: 2,821

FENTANYL TEST STRIP KITS: 932

8x

Requests compared to Q1 2026 and Q2 2025

90

ZIP codes

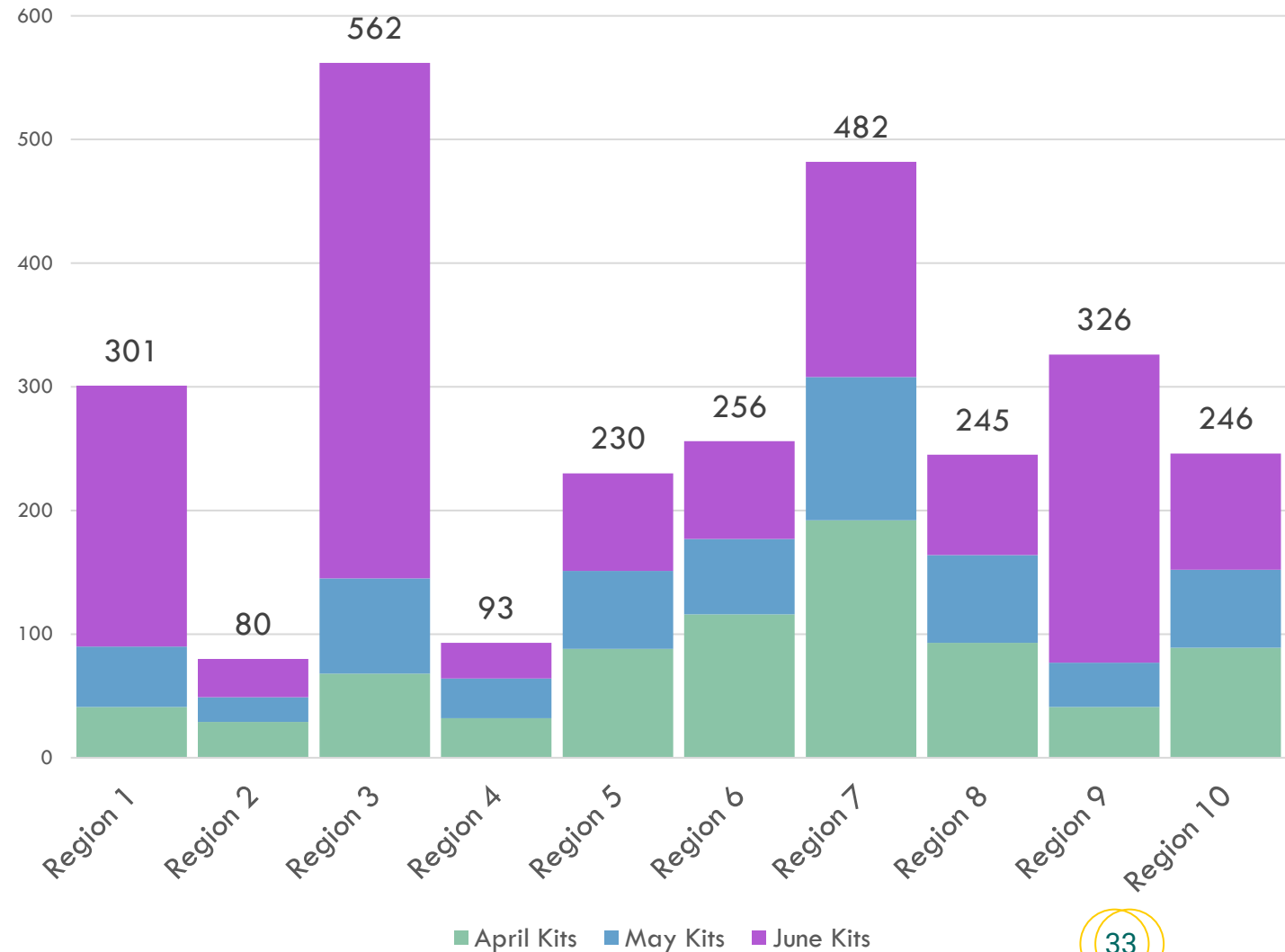
39

Municipalities



REQUESTS BY REGION

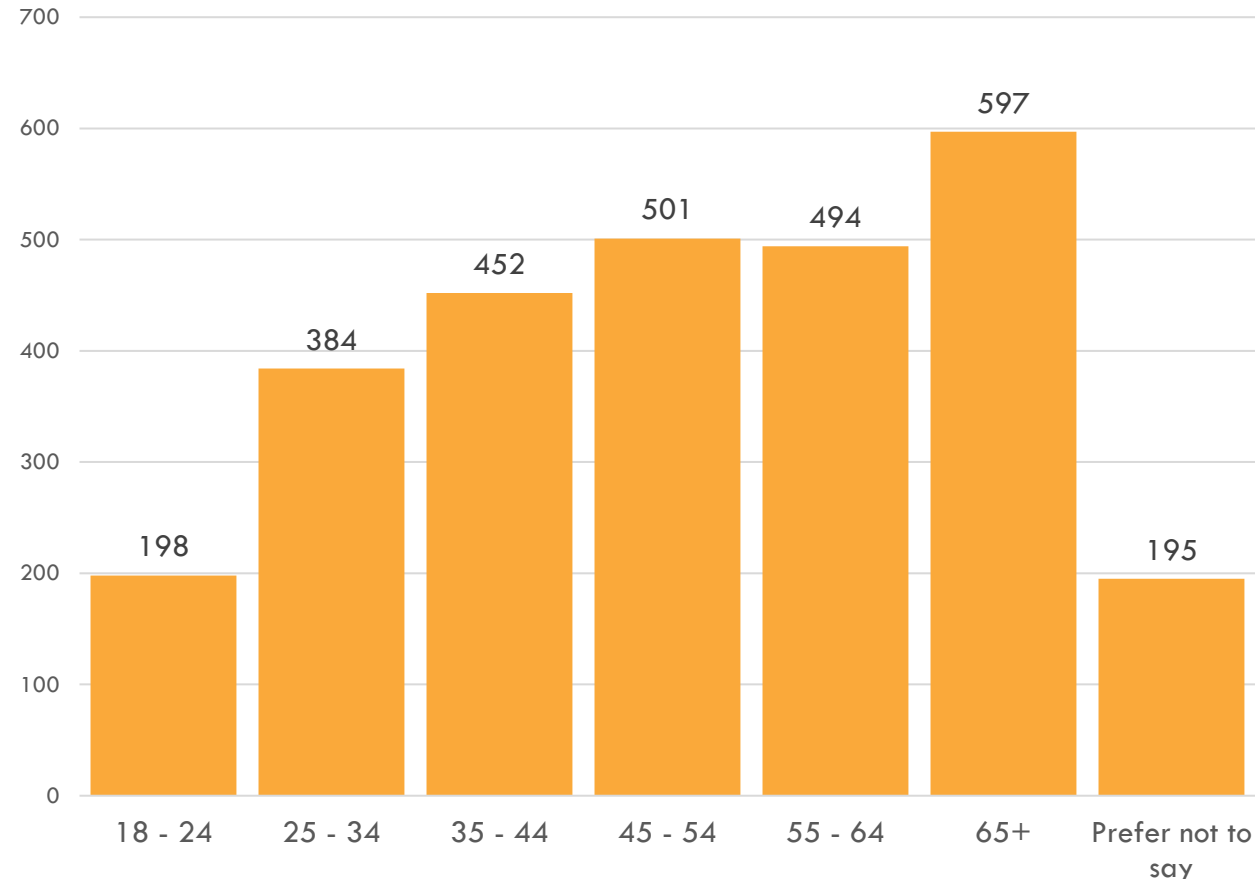
- Region 1:** Burrillville, Foster, Glocester, Scituate
- Region 2: Woonsocket
- Region 3:** Cumberland, Lincoln, North Smithfield, Smithfield
- Region 4: Johnston, North Providence
- Region 5: Central Falls, East Providence, Pawtucket
- Region 6: Providence
- Region 7: Coventry, Cranston, Warwick, West Warwick
- Region 8: Barrington, Bristol, Jamestown, Little Compton, Middletown, Newport, Portsmouth, Tiverton, Warren
- Region 9:** East Greenwich, Exeter, Hopkinton, Richmond, West Greenwich
- Region 10: Charlestown, Narragansett, New Shoreham, North Kingstown, South Kingstown, Westerly



= prioritized comms region = any rural municipality



DEMOGRAPHICS OF NALOXONE REQUESTS



68%

Received their first ever naloxone kit

59

Utilized Spanish-language form

15%

Personal use

48%

Non-binary & queer requestors wanted test strip kits

78%

Identifying as white

RICARES & RIPRPA

Peer Leadership. Community Impact.





About RICARES

RICARES — Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts — is a grassroots, nonprofit Recovery Community Organization (RCO) dedicated to building a well-resourced, socially just community for Rhode Islanders affected by substance use.



What We Do

Workforce Development

Peer Recovery workforce professional development, stipend-based internships, Group Soup, Certified Peer Recovery Specialist (CPRS) exam supplemental study guide and study sessions, and Peer Recovery Professional Association (RIPRPA)

Recovery Housing

Inspect and certify recovery residences to the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) standards, provide quality assurance to improve resident experience, training and technical assistance to owner/operators, house managers and leaders, Dimensions Program developed to help residents build recovery capital

Advocacy

Policy advocacy, voter engagement, Recovery Day at the Capitol, Peer Recovery Specialist (PRS)/CPRS needs assessment, Recovery Advocacy Workgroup

Community Engagement

Rally4Recovery, Rooted in Recovery Peer Workforce conference, recovery month event planning, volunteer program management

What Sets RICARES Apart

RICARES is structured differently from most recovery community organizations — and that difference is intentional. It's what makes RICARES a trusted, neutral voice for the recovery community statewide.



Truly Independent

- Only grassroots RCO in Rhode Island
- Not owned by a hospital or behavioral health provider
- Led by an independent Board of Directors made up of people in recovery and allies

No Direct Peer-Based Services

RICARES is the only recovery provider in the state that does not deliver direct peer-based recovery support services — ensuring neutrality and broad representation.

RI NARR Affiliate

As Rhode Island's NARR affiliate, RICARES certifies recovery housing statewide — upholding standards that keep residents safe and supported.

Introducing RIPRPA

The RIPRPA is a growing statewide movement of PRS who provide recovery support in nearly every setting imaginable — treatment centers, recovery community centers, crisis response teams, street outreach, emergency departments, the justice system, and organizations serving veterans.

Founded by PRS in the summer of 2025, RIPRPA gives our field a dedicated structure to promote high standards of practice, offer training and growth, advocate for fair pay and working conditions, and make sure our voices are heard.



RIPRPA Member Benefits

Connect	Grow	Advocate
Networking Bi-monthly, all-member networking to connect PRS across the state, in person at RICARES.	Training Professional development opportunities, plus CPRS certification and recertification assistance.	Voice Advocacy for fair pay, safe working conditions, and profession-wide recognition for PRS.

Programs

Peer Chats

CPRS Exam Prep

Networking

Group Soup



Advisory Council



Jenn Karboski
Anchor



Kyra Heron
Gateway



Aimee Haupt
Marigold Health



Sharon McGuinness
Wood River
Health



Obdulio Rosas
Rosado
Amos House



Marquis Lopez
Amos House

Rooted in Recovery

Rooted in Recovery is a half day professional development experience designed for PRS and CPRS across Rhode Island.



Participation

- More than 100 attendees
- Recovery professionals from across Rhode Island
- Peers, clinicians, supervisors, and community members

Sessions

Attendees could earn 4 continuing education units across 5 sessions focused on topics including peer advocacy, harm reduction, wellness, and more.

Response

4.7 rating overall for the inaugural event

How to Get Involved

There are many ways to plug into the RICARES and RIPRPA community — whichever path fits where you are in your journey.



Join RIPRPA

- Apply for cost-free membership
- Attend bi-monthly, all-member meetings
- Connect with the Advisory Council

Apply for the Internship

If you've completed CPRS training and have two years of sustained recovery, apply for hands-on experience at a partner site.

Show Up & Give Back

Join us at Rally4Recovery each September, volunteer with RICARES, or attend Rooted in Recovery, Rhode Island's peer workforce conference.

PRS Internship Program

Designed for individuals who are looking to enter the recovery workforce and are committed to supporting others in their journey. Interns gain hands-on experience in peer recovery support services at partner organizations and are guided every step of the way with weekly supervision from RICARES Peer Recovery Intern Program Manager, Mel Costa.

Minimum Requirements

- Completion of the 46-hour CPRS training
- Direct lived experience with SUD recovery
- Ability to work 20 hours weekly

What Interns Gain

- Paid hands-on experience
- Individual supervision
- Professional development
- Certification support





Intern Stipend

Interns are paid \$5,000 over the course of their 500 hours.

Certification Exam Fees and Support

Built into the program are the \$175 certification fee and study sessions.

Intern Financial Support

As people enter or re-enter the workforce, expenses can occur that would likely hinder someone from being successful - this money will help with that.

Recovery Supports

PRS and CPRS can request financial assistance for people they see.

Internship Partner Organizations



Recovery Housing

Recovery housing is an affordable, sustainable resource for people entering recovery. RICARES is working with owner/operators to certify houses in Washington and Newport counties, ensuring there are options for people in their own communities. RICARES recovery housing staff works to resolve resident complaints and improve the resident experience.



NARR Affiliate

As Rhode Island's affiliate of the NARR, RICARES certifies recovery residences.

Training and Technical Assistance

RICARES recovery housing staff created a robust training program to build skill among house managers, leaders and owner/operators, which reduced complaints involving staff misconduct.

Dimensions

Developed by our recovery housing staff, Dimensions is a foundational life skills program aimed at building recovery capital and teaching foundational skills like grocery shopping and cooking, how to use technology, and job search etiquette.

Advocacy Powered By Lived Experience



Recovery Advocacy Workgroup

Statewide coalition uniting recovery community members, the recovery workforce, and supporters to advance policy that protects and expands recovery housing and services.



Recovery Day at the Capitol

An advocacy focused speaking event bringing people in recovery, families, and allies to the State House to engage directly with legislators — putting lived experience at the center of policymaking.

Legislative Season

Foster community-based recovery capital by supporting legislation that impacts recovery, treatment, mental health, housing, and criminal justice reform.

Rally4Recovery

When: **Saturday September 19, 2026**
12-4 PM

Where: **195 District Park in Providence**



10
days
away



Who We Are



Nic Caramante

Peer Recovery
Program Coordinator



Jessica Jean-Charles

Chief of Staff



Mel Costa

Peer Recovery Intern
Program Manager



Sarah Edwards

Assistant Director of
Recovery Housing



Alex Gautieri

Assistant Director of
Advocacy



Tricia Kehl

Assistant Director of
Workforce Development



Sarah Liew

Assistant Director of
Community
Development



Maya Lima

Recovery Housing
Program Assistant



Chris Lloyd

Recovery Housing
Inspector



Molly Smith

Communications
Manager



Stacey Levin

Deputy Director



Lindsay Garcia

Executive Director

Thank You

Whether you're a PRS, a partner organization, or someone just beginning to explore recovery — there's a place for you in this community. Reach out, join RIPRPA, or apply for the internship.



401-475-2960



ricares.org/riprpa



[riprpa](https://www.instagram.com/riprpa)

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Public Comment

**RHODE
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