
**OPIOID OPERATIONAL COMMAND CENTER
ORF Targeted Abatement Grant Program
Local Abatement Plan**

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please review the instructions provided in the Call for Proposals document prior to completing this form.

The application package should be submitted via Smartsheet Form to the link below.
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/forms/7abd36feaa304e9dad2e776c198e857f>

Jurisdiction/Subdivision: Garrett County

Point of Contact:

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Position: Grant Coordinator

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Total Allocated Funds: \$108402.99 (FY23) \$39065.76 (FY24) = \$147,468.75 (Total)

Primary State Finance and Procurement Article 7-331/Chapter 270 Legislative Provision Local Abatement Plan will fulfill:

- Reporting peer support specialists and screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment services for hospitals, correctional facilities, and other high-risk populations
- Expanding access to crisis beds and residential treatment services for adults and minors
- Expanding and establishing safe stations, mobile crisis response systems, and crisis stabilization centers
- Supporting and expanding other evidence-based interventions for overdose prevention and substance use treatment

I. PLAN SUMMARY

The Garrett County Health Department is funding the re-establishment of a Peer Recovery Specialist position at Parole and Probation to serve clients with substance use disorders better. Previously filled by a Case Manager, this \$70,000 project aims to enhance peer recovery services by hiring a specialist who can provide relatable services and referrals, and ensure follow-up with necessary services. The tasks include creating a detailed job description and recruiting candidates, devising a hiring committee, and evaluating candidates through an interview process. Next would be to hire, train, and offer continuous support to the new Peer Recovery Specialist. The Specialist will also establish partnerships in the community, implement services, and monitor and evaluate program effectiveness.

Cas Della Fenice, Inc. is establishing Reflection House, the first addiction and recovery house in Garrett County, offering a 12-month residential program for women with substance use disorders. Located at 40 Dennett Road, the program will provide addiction and counseling services, with linkages to healthcare and behavioral health services. The projects being funded include \$43,200 for scholarships to support 9 women for 12 months which will involve creating and implementing a transparent selection

and admission process. Additionally, \$30,000 is allocated for furnishings to create a comfortable living environment including assessing needs, creating a shopping list, choosing a supplier, purchasing items, and organizing delivery and installation. To ensure safety, \$2,000 for a security system, with tasks to assess security needs, develop a plan, choose a supplier, schedule installation, and test the system. Lastly, \$5,000 for peer recovery wrap-around funds to cover miscellaneous expenses for at least 50 clients. This will involve creating a list of essential items, developing guidelines for fund usage, and implementing a tracking system for transparency and accountability.

I. PLAN PROBLEM STATEMENT

Garrett County, Maryland, is nestled in the westernmost part of the state, bordering Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Spanning approximately 656 square miles (1,700 kilometers), it boasts a picturesque landscape of rural and mountainous terrain. With a population of 28,579 residents, the county is home to eight incorporated towns, with 76% of the population residing outside town limits. The 44.4 per square mile population density, significantly lower than the state average of 636.1, solidifies Garrett County's status as the most rural county in Maryland (US Census Bureau).

Given its unique characteristics and sparse population, the Opioid Restitution Fund Targeted Abatement Grant will encompass the entirety of Garrett County. The target population of the project is women with substance use disorder who have been released from incarceration or those who have received 30 days of treatment services and any residents of the county with substance use disorder who need recovery support services either while incarcerated, receiving Parole and Probation services, or during Pretrial Release.

The population is not ethnically or racially diverse, with 97.1% White, 1.4% Hispanic, 1.1% Two or More Races, 1.0% Black or African American, 0.5% Asian, and 0.3% American Indian and Alaska Native (2018-2022, US Census Quick Facts). 4.7% of the population is under five, 17.6% is under 18, and 24.1% is 65 or older. Female residents account for 50.1% of the population. The median household income in Garrett County is \$64,447, which is well below the State average of \$98,461. 90.5% of the population is a high school graduate or higher, but only 24.6% has a Bachelor's degree or higher compared to 42.2% for the State (2018-2022, US Census Quick Facts). The Health Resources & Services Administration designated the entire county a Medically Underserved Area (MUA) with an Index of Medically Underserved (IMU) score of 42.4. The county also has a "low income" designation as a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) for primary care and an HPSA designation for dental and mental health. 15.1% of Garrett County's population lives in poverty, compared to 9.8% in Maryland. Among children under 18, 19.8% live in poverty, compared to 12.1% statewide, exacerbating poor health outcomes and emphasizing the need for both prevention and wellness initiatives in our rural community. The average number of opioid overdose deaths in Garrett County was 4.8 per year from 2017 to 2021 with nine overdose deaths in 2023. This represents an increase of 50.00 percent. In 2023, there were 22 substance-exposed newborns delivered at the local hospital.

Five years ago, Garrett County was awarded a three-year grant, the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program Implementation grant. Before receiving the grant, a countywide needs assessment was conducted to evaluate county prevention, treatment, and recovery services and resources and to identify gaps and unmet needs. Over many months, focus groups were assembled, quantitative data was collected, and meetings transpired to glean every piece of data possible. Data during the assessment revealed a huge increase in overdose and overdose deaths in Garrett County. Residents, health officials, and first responders' goal was then and now the desire to stem this rising tide. There was a consensus among all focus group participants, as well as the Stand Together Against Drug Abuse Coalition and Opioid Prevention Team, that there were specific needs to be addressed within the community. Some of

the common concerns included the need to improve job opportunities; decrease stigma; address generational misuse; increase education on prevention, co-occurring disorders, and early childhood trauma; provide additional resources including recovery housing and peer recovery specialists; access to inpatient treatment in the county; as well as improve collaboration amongst resource organizations. While strategies to address most of the county's needs were addressed during the era of the RCORP grant, recovery housing continued to be an unmet need. The cost of residential and recovery housing could not be met through the RCORP grant and other grants were sought to bring safe and stable treatment and recovery facilities into the county. To date, Cas Della Fenice, Inc. a nonprofit organization, has been working tirelessly to open the first-ever recovery house in Garrett County, Maryland, *The Reflection House*, a residential recovery house for women. A location has been identified and secured but funds are still needed for items such as furnishings for the home, a security system, scholarships for women to live at the house for one year, and miscellaneous items to support treatment and recovery. The local abatement plan will provide funding for each of these needs.

The peer recovery model would be ideal in rural areas such as Garrett County. A Peer Recovery Specialist would offer services at Probation and Parole, for Pretrial initiatives, and assisting individuals upon release from incarceration. Abatement funding would fund part-time positions, either new hires or sustainment funds for the current Peer Recovery Support workforce.

III. PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: Provide financial assistance for a women’s recovery house and create a comfortable and supportive living environment.

- Objective 1: By December 2025, Secure funding for scholarships to support 9 women for a 12-month stay at the *Reflection House*.
- Objective 2: By June 30, 2025, purchase furnishings, including furniture, appliances, and a security system for the *Reflection House*.
- Objective 3: By August 1, 2024, establish a budget plan for peer recovery ‘pocket funds’ reaching 50 clients in recovery to support their treatment and recovery journey.

Goal 2: Provide effective support through peer services in detention centers, correctional settings, and for pretrial initiatives.

- Objective 1: From July 1, 2024, to August 1, 2024, conduct and review needs assessment to determine the number of peers needed for Peer Recovery services.
- Objective 2: From August 15, 2024–October 31, 2024, recruit for peer positions through training partners and conduct the hiring process.
- Objective 3: From December 1, 2024, to June 30, 2024, conduct a six-month assessment of participants receiving peer recovery services.

IV. PLAN PROGRAM MEASUREMENT/PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Program Indicator	Performance Measurement
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Number of scholarships for recovery housing	Documentation of scholarship paperwork completed
Number of rooms furnished in the recovery house	Receipts are kept and an EXCEL sheet is created to record furniture and appliances
Number of security devices installed	Record the number of security devices installed
Number of clients receiving 'pocket funds'	EXCEL budget sheet created to record how the funds were spent
Needs assessment completed	Review the needs assessment to determine the number of peers needed
Number of Peer Recovery Specialists hired	Hiring paperwork completed
Number of satisfaction surveys collected	Satisfaction surveys are recorded and analyzed to determine program effectiveness

V. TIMELINE

Goal(s)	Key tasks/activities	Person(s) responsible	Progress Measurement	Begin date	End date
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<p>1. Provide financial assistance for residents</p>	<p>1. Create and implement a transparent selection and admission process.</p>	<p>Reflection House</p>	<p>1. Complete selection criteria.</p> <p>1. Choose a selection committee.</p> <p>1. Announce and prompt scholarship.</p> <p>1. Accept, review, and choose 9 applications.</p> <p>1. Follow and track the progression of 9 women who received scholarship funds</p>	<p>July 2024</p>	<p>May 2025</p>
<p>2. Create a comfortable and supportive living environment</p>	<p>2. Assess furnishing needs, create a shopping list, and choose a supplier. Purchase items and organize delivery and installation</p>	<p>Reflection House</p>	<p>2. Create a needs assessment after compiling staff and resident's input.</p> <p>2. Compile a detailed shopping list.</p> <p>2. Research 3 suppliers and gather quotes for furnishings.</p> <p>2. Purchase furniture and set up delivery</p>		

<p>3. Enhance security measures</p>	<p>3. Assess a security need and develop a plan. Choose a supplier, schedule installation, and test the system.</p>	<p>Reflection House</p>	<p>and installation.</p> <p>3. Conduct a security needs assessment by Identifying the specific security requirements and vulnerabilities</p> <p>3. Develop a security plan.</p> <p>3. Research 3 suppliers and gather quotes for the security system.</p> <p>3. Purchase system and set up delivery and installation.</p> <p>3. Complete initial security system tests</p>		
<p>4. To enhance the recovery experience and support sustained sobriety for individuals receiving treatment at the Garrett County Health</p>	<p>4. Create a list of essential items that need to be provided. Create guidelines for how funds can be used, procedures for requesting funds, and a</p>	<p>Reflection House</p>	<p>4. Complete a needs assessment to see what essential supplies are needed.</p> <p>4. Complete a finalized list of essential items</p>		

<p>Department Center for Behavioral Health</p>	<p>tracking system to ensure transparency and accountability.</p>		<p>4. Create usage guidelines for needed items and request forms to be used by patients.</p> <p>4. Develop a tracking system for supplies.</p>		
<p>5. Enhance the support and recovery outcomes for individuals involved in the criminal justice system by providing peer recovery services, with a focus on assisting pre-trial individuals and those transitioning from the Detention Center to the community.</p>	<p>5. Create a detailed job description and recruit candidates. Devise a hiring committee and evaluate candidates through an interview process. Hire, train and offer continuous support to the new Peer Recovery Specialist. Establish partnerships in the community, implement services, and monitor and evaluate program effectiveness.</p>	<p>Parole and Probation Supervisor</p>	<p>5. Complete a job description and advertise. Track how many media channels are used for advertising.</p> <p>5. Form a hiring committee and review applications.</p> <p>5. Conduct interviews and choose a candidate.</p> <p>5. Train peer recovery specialist and offer continuous support/supervision</p> <p>5. Establish</p>		

			Partnerships with Appalachian Crossroads and other relevant organizations 5. Implement Peer Recovery Services 5. Monitor and evaluate program effectiveness		
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VI. SPEND PLAN DESCRIPTION

The budget allocates \$43,200 for scholarships to support 9 women for 12 months, providing full coverage for their residential treatment expenses. This allocation is designed to ensure inclusivity and program effectiveness, guaranteeing that women with substance use disorders can access the program regardless of their financial status. By offering these scholarships, the program aims to support the recovery journey of these women, providing them with the opportunity to receive the necessary treatment and support for their rehabilitation.

Additionally, the budget allocates \$30,000 for furnishings, covering the costs of assessing needs, creating a shopping list, choosing a supplier, purchasing items, and organizing delivery and installation for bedrooms, common areas, and office space. This allocation is justified by the crucial role furnishings play in establishing a comfortable and therapeutic environment at the Reflection House. Well-chosen furnishings contribute to the overall well-being of residents, supporting their recovery journey by providing a conducive living space for healing and growth.

The budget sets aside \$2,000 for a security system, encompassing the costs of assessing security needs, developing a plan, choosing a supplier, scheduling installation, and testing the system. This allocation is justified by the critical importance of ensuring the safety and security of residents, staff, and property at Reflection House. A robust security system is essential for running a residential facility effectively, providing peace of mind to residents, and creating a secure environment conducive to recovery and well-being.

The budget allocates \$5,000 for Peer Recovery Wrap-around Funds, intended to cover miscellaneous expenses for at least 50 clients. These expenses may include transportation, personal hygiene items, and other essentials that support clients' recovery journey. This allocation is justified by

the role the funds play in addressing practical needs, which can significantly enhance the overall effectiveness of the program. By providing support for these expenses, the program can remove barriers to recovery and ensure that clients have access to the resources they need for successful rehabilitation.

The budget for the Peer Recovery Specialist position includes several main categories: paying the specialist, training them, covering operational costs, and evaluating the program. Personnel costs include their salary, benefits, and any extra pay they might get. Training and development costs cover things that help the specialist do their job well. Operational expenses pay for things like working with community partners, providing services, and keeping things running smoothly day-to-day. Program evaluation costs involve checking how well the specialist's work is helping people. The \$70,000 budget increase is needed to support more people and help the program grow sustainably. Hiring a new specialist may be unnecessary if this funding could help continue and expand successful Peer Recovery Services already in place.

To the best of my knowledge, I certify that all the information provided herein is true and correct.

IX. AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL SIGNATURE: Robert Stephens
Date: 5-31-24
Printed Name: Robert Stephens
Title: Garrett County Health Officer

X. ADDITIONAL SIGNATURES

The signatures below serve to convey coordination of other local entities or government partners involved in the local abatement plan. Additional signatures should be added as necessary.

Signature: Robert Stephens
Printed Name: Robert Stephens
Title: Garrett County Health Officer

Signature: Kevin G. Null
Printed Name: Kevin G. Null
Title: County Administrator

Signature: _____
Printed Name: _____
Title: _____

Signature: _____

Printed Name:

Title: