



TALBOT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Joseph J. Gamble  
Sheriff

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Memorandum

TO: County Council  
Clay Stamp, County Manager

FROM: Sheriff Joe Gamble, Local Drug and Alcohol Coordinating Committee (LDACC)

DATE: August 22, 2024

RE: Approval of Use of Targeted Abatement Opioid Settlement Grant Funding

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As a result of the National Opioid Settlements, Talbot County, Maryland receives direct distributions from the Directing Administrator of the National Opioid Settlements. In addition, the State of Maryland has received distributions from the settlements and has created an Opioid Restitution Fund (ORF). Through this fund, the state is offering Targeted Abatement Grants to Qualifying Subdivisions for permitted uses under the settlement agreements. To access these Targeted Abatement Grants, each Qualifying Subdivision must complete a Local Abatement Plan.

In 2023 the Talbot County Council tasked the Local Drug and Alcohol Coordinating Committee (LDACC) with creating a plan for the best use of these funds. Over the past 10 months the LDACC has met and explored various options for use of these funds.

With this memo, we are presenting Council with a Local Abatement Plan that has been created by the LDACC. This plan will utilize the County's direct distributions in addition to the Targeted Abatement Grants from the State.

We are attaching the LDACC approved Local Abatement Plan for your review and consideration for use of the requested funding.

As you will read in the plan, the LDACC recommends to Council that a large portion of the funding should be used to continue the Talbot County Detention Centers efforts to reduce opioid misuse. We recommend a smaller portion be allotted for "micro grants" that the LDACC will review and forward to Council for their consideration. Again, the details are attached in the plan, attached.

Local Abatement Plan – Appendix I

Jurisdiction/subdivision: Talbot County Government

Point of Contact:

Martha Sparks

Financial Director

410-770-8021

[mspark@talbotcountymd.gov](mailto:mspark@talbotcountymd.gov)

11 N. Washington St., Easton, MD 21601

Total Allocated Funds \$205,633.76

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

(ii) Supporting peer support specialists and screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment services for hospitals, correctional facilities, and other high-risk populations;

(vi) Expanding and establishing safe stations, mobile crisis response systems, and crisis stabilization centers;

(viii) Organizing primary and secondary school education campaigns to prevent opioid use, including for administrative expenses;

(xi) Supporting and expanding other evidence-based interventions for overdose prevention and substance use treatment.

I. Plan Summary

Talbot County has had a long-standing history in providing support services to those affected by drug and opioid addiction. Some historic initiatives include the Talbot County Department of Health and the Department of Corrections' Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) program and Sheriff's Office opioid education and resource program initiatives. To address the needs presented in the Talbot County, we are proposing two plans for the use of the ORF local abatement funds: 1) Continue Department of Corrections' Medication for Opioid Use Disorder program and 2) Establish a sub-recipient micro grant funding program that will address the provisions identified in the State Finance and Procurement Article 7-331/Chapter 270 Legislative Provision Local Abatement Plan.

- 1) The Talbot County Health Department has held a two-year partnership with the Talbot County Department of Corrections (TCDOC) to enhance the (MOUD) program to address chronic opioid use disorder reported by detention center inmates as defined in HB116

(2019). The program will provide screened individuals' initiation or continuation on a medication assisted treatment protocol while providing supportive substance use counseling, clinical re-entry connection to additional counseling and medication management upon release. This project will assist in expanding existing operations including the issuance of Naloxone kits upon discharge.

Specifically, this program will focus on up to 20 incarcerated individuals a year. Providing access to medication, on-premises treatment, peer support and re-entry services will greatly assist incarcerated individuals. The intended outcome of this program in providing this multi-level of support is to help the individual maintain control of their disorder, reduce opioid dependence, reduce the likelihood of recidivism and ultimately, decrease the potential for death. This plan directly applies to the legislation (ii) Supporting peer support specialists and screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment services for hospitals, correctional facilities, and other high-risk populations.

- 2) The sub-recipient micro grant program plan is to address on going opioid crisis response initiatives in the community and provide an opportunity for those organizations to apply through a grant application process. The organizations will need to provide a plan demonstrating their ability to meet and address the requirements outlined in the State Finance and Procurement Article 7-331/Chapter 270 Legislative Provision Local Abatement Plan.

- I. Plan Problem Statement

- 1) Currently, the established Department of Corrections' Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) program has been operating as a grant funded program that ran out of grant funding on June 30, 2024. From May 2023-2024 the MOUD program served 97 individuals, prescribed medication to 30 individuals, with 82 individuals attending jail treatment groups, 14 individuals who maintained treatment upon re-entry, 30 individuals referred to treatment upon re-entry, and 41 individuals engaged by a Peer Recovery Specialist. Without the use of the ORF local abatement funds the program may cease to continue and the individuals within the Talbot County Department of Corrections will no longer receive the treatment, care and support needed to overcome their opioid addiction.
- 2) The Talbot County Sheriff's Office has a longstanding relationship with organizations within the community who have actively supported education, training and programs to address opioid use disorder. Just in this year, Talbot County has experienced 8 non-fatal overdoses, two fatal overdoses and 3 opioid related arrests. Some organizations include Talbot Goes Purple (education), Operation Save a Life which includes training persons in the use of and installation of naloxone boxes in the business sector (crisis intervention), Grace Street (crisis intervention and support), Heroin Coordinator and drug take back initiatives, as well as Mariah's Mission (assistance with re-entry into the community).

The current trend of funding of these small organizations are almost nonexistent. Most of the opioid resources are privately funded and with the economic downturn coupled with more competing programs, organizations working to mitigate opioid use disorder are negatively impacted as a result. Without funding to support these programs, there will no longer be educational programs offered by the sheriff's office in primary and secondary schools or the ability to provide clothing and resources for individuals in recovery and re-entering the workforce, or continued support or expansion of safe stations, mobile crisis response systems, or stabilization centers.

To address the problem, organizations such as those previously described would be eligible to apply to receive micro grant funding to help sustain and/or grow their opioid related programs.

## II. Plan Goals and Objectives

- 1) Talbot County Department of Health and the Department of Corrections' Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) program
  - a. Goal 1: Facilitate jail treatment groups
    - i. Objective 1: From July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026 determine the number of individuals attending jail treatment groups.
  - b. Goal 2: Retain a Substance Use Counselor
    - i. Objective 1: From July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026 provide screening, evaluations, treatment, referrals for medication assistance and referrals to community-based agencies for individuals re-entry into the community.
  - c. Goal 3: Retain a Peer Recovery Specialist
    - i. Objective 1: Establish relationships with program participants, provide support groups to the participants while incarcerated and in the community to bridge the gap of re-entry into the community.
  - d. Goal 4: Retain a part-time Registered Nurse (RN or LPN)
    - i. Objective 1: From July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026 assist with medication distribution, evaluations, referrals for continuity of care for re-entry and required reporting.
  - e. Goal 5: Cover travel expenses for transporting individuals
    - i. Objective 1: From July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026 cover travel expenses for transporting individuals to intake, evaluations, medications and treatment.
  - f. Goal 6: Provide access to monthly medication.
    - i. Objective 1: From July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026 provide methadone hydrochloride to participants each month.
  - g. Goal 7: Provide drug urinalysis testing.
    - i. Objective 1: From July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026 provide drug screening for up to 20 participants each month.

- 2) Sub-recipient micro grant to address the provisions identified in the State Finance and Procurement Article 7-331/Chapter 270 Legislative Provision Local Abatement Plan.
  - a. Goal 1: Develop a grant application process for community-based organizations who meet the standards set forth in the State Finance and Procurement Article 7-331/Chapter 270 Legislative Provision Local Abatement Plan.
    - i. Objective 1: September 1, 2024 to October 31, 2024 solicit requests for grant applications
    - ii. Objective 2: On or about November 1, 2024, award grant funding requests from \$1,000 to \$20,000 to each approved applicant.
  - b. Goal 2: Establish grant recipient report metrics.
    - i. Objective 1: From November 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026 sub-recipients provide reporting metrics on opioid use related programs.

III. Plan Program Measurement/Performance Indicators

Activity Type	Performance Measures
Information / Education Campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of information/education events and activities conducted</li> <li>• Number of participants attending events</li> <li>• Number of education events and activities conducted</li> </ul>
Referral to treatment or recovery services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of individuals referred to treatment and/or recovery services</li> <li>• Number of individuals evaluated</li> <li>• Number of individuals receiving medication</li> </ul>
Peer Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of individuals referred to treatment by a peer specialist</li> </ul>
Treatment/crisis/stabilization/recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of individuals who received services</li> </ul>
Re-entry into the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of individuals who received services</li> </ul>

IV. Plan Timeline

- 1) Talbot County Department of Health and the Department of Corrections' Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) program

Goal	Key tasks/care	Persons Responsible	Progress Measurement	Begin Date	End Date
Retain Department of Corrections' Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) program	Continue individual screening, assessment, medication, therapy and treatment	Department of Corrections	Success will be measured by the number of individuals receiving care.	Activity will begin as soon as funding is made available	June 30, 2026

2. Sub-recipient micro grant to address the provisions identified in the State Finance and Procurement Article 7-331/Chapter 270 Legislative Provision Local Abatement Plan.

Goal	Key tasks/care	Persons Responsible	Progress Measurement	Begin Date	End Date
Develop a sub-recipient micro grant program for community-based organization whose mission is to address opioid related uses and treatments	Provide education/information campaigns, assessment, medication, therapy and access to treatment.	Talbot County Sheriff's Office	Success will be measured by the number of individuals receiving education and services.	Activity will begin as soon as funding is made available	June 30, 2026

V. Spend Plan Description

1) Talbot County Department of Health and the Department of Corrections' Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) program

a. The total amount of funding requested for this program will be \$132,000 to be expended over the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026.

- b. Expenses covered by this budget will include: Salaries for full-time Substance Use Counselor, full-time peer recovery specialist, part-time registered nurse (RN) or (LPN), travel for services, medication (30 blister tablets 5mg and 10 mg) each month for up to 5 participants, urinalysis testing (16 panel with adulterants at 20 participants per month for 12 month).

2) Sub-recipient micro grant to address the provisions identified in the State Finance and Procurement Article 7-331/Chapter 270 Legislative Provision Local Abatement Plan.

- a. The total amount of funding requested for this program will be \$73,633 to be expended over the period of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026.
  - 1) Organizations will be able to expend their awarded grant amount up to June 30, 2026.

IX. Authorized Official Signature: Ch B. Stamp Date: 8/29/2024

X. Additional Signatures

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

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Printed Name: Sherrill Jay Gamble

Title: Talbot Co Sheriff / Local Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council Chair

Signature: Maria Maguire

Printed Name: Maria Maguire, MD, MPP

Title: Talbot County Health Officer

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_