



City of Providence Overdose Prevention Strategy

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City of Providence Overdose Prevention Strategy

Summary

The Opioid Overdose Epidemic continues to affect the City of Providence disproportionately. Unfortunately, each life lost to overdose is a loved one, family member, or friend and a preventable death. Additional risks and harms are associated with substance use disorder that impacts individuals, families, and the Providence community. The City of Providence is committed to implementing a comprehensive strategy to reduce overdose deaths and substance use-related harms over the next 3-5 years.

The City of Providence's Healthy Communities Office initiated the development of this strategy, funded and supported by the Rhode Island Department of Health Community Overdose Engagement initiative. The Mayor's Coalition on Behavioral Health Citywide Overdose Prevention Subcommittee drove the planning efforts. The Healthy Communities Office consulted with additional internal and external partners throughout the process.

This newly developed strategy aims to de-escalate substance-related harms, especially overdose, across the continuum of opioid risk through five strategic priorities that incorporate a set of guiding principles. The City of Providence has aligned its strategic priorities with critical federal, state, and city funding sources to best position itself for future opportunities.

Guiding Principles:

Guiding principles inform the City of Providence's efforts on overdose prevention by emphasizing the larger cross-cutting efforts and keeping them central to this work. Providence's Overdose Prevention Strategy will:

- Advance Health Equity
- Address Social Determinants of Health
- Build Community Capacity and Empowerment
- Increase Coordination & Collaboration
- Enhance Data-Driven Decision-Making

Strategic Priorities:

Strategic Priorities help to inform and organize the activities, interventions, and programs for overdose prevention. Providence's Overdose Prevention Strategy will focus on closing identified gaps by integrating new, existing, and enhanced programs and initiatives in each strategic priority. Recommended programs and initiatives include:

- **Promotion**
 - Leverage networks and relationships developed by Department for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging and the Mayor's Youth and Education Strategy to increase outreach to organizations and institutions that serve youth and their families to inform strategies that increase engagement and collaboration, specifically targeting schools, faith-based communities, youth leadership organizations, and task forces.

- Utilize strategies, such as town halls and the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) collaborative, to better engage parents and caregivers in conversations with HCO about developing protective factors for youth and deterring initiation of substance use with a focus on finding culturally relevant programming.
- Develop and implement a coordinated Youth strategy that removes existing programmatic siloes and utilizes the best available data, such as the YES, RISS, and YRBS surveys.
- **Prevention**
 - Engage with BIPOC, Latinx, and Senior Communities by connecting with existing community infrastructures and leaders to provide trusted, high-quality information and begin to break down barriers to discussing behavioral health, for example:
 - Barbershops are a central feature in many communities that provide a connection point for residents; therefore, barbers should receive education and training on available services and connecting those with their customers.
 - Faith-Based Communities are a trusted community leader, especially in communities of color and with older adults. Therefore, the City should connect faith-based communities with programs like the Imani Breakthrough Project and Recovery Ally training and reinstitute meetings between city leadership and faith-based leaders.
 - Community Centers offer senior programming and develop relationships with the older adults in their communities. Therefore, HCO should expand on existing connections with the community centers to over substance use and overdose education.
 - Create a coordinated, efficient city response to reports of homelessness.
 - Incorporate new technologies, such as GIS, to improve workflows and data collection under the guidance of HCO.
 - Hire a Housing Support Coordinator through HCO to liaise between the city, state, and service providers.
 - Cross-departmental coordination of homelessness and housing-related goals, specifically HCO and Housing & Development Division, which align with and engage state-level organizations and departments.
 - Identify best practices and implement programming and policy to address homelessness prevention.
 - Develop and implement a coordinated City behavioral health strategy that removes existing programmatic siloes within HCO, works toward improving all social determinants of health, and utilizes the best available data.
- **Rescue/Harm Reduction**
 - Create a comprehensive listing and publicly recognized signage or symbol identifying where Narcan and other harm-reduction supplies are available to the community to

- inform utilization, increase response times in an emergency, and identify areas where gaps may exist.
- Develop a mechanism within HCO, such as a Rhode Island Overdose Action Area Response (ROAAR) Response Team, to communicate increased rates of overdose and trends in the current drug supply to the broader community that is centralized, widely distributed, and easily accessible.
 - Strengthen Public Safety response to overdoses and public willingness to engage with public safety in the event of an overdose:
 - Continue progress on enacting improved policies and practices for public safety overdose response.
 - Improve overdose data collection that supports implementing continuous quality improvement processes for public safety overdose response incorporating mechanisms for accountability and transparency.
 - Organize and deliver Recovery Ally, Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), and related training for public safety personnel in telecommunications, PPD, and PFD
 - Support the development, implementation, and sustainability of a Harm Reduction Center in Providence that will minimize the risks of using alone and prevent overdose fatalities.
 - **Treatment**
 - Coordinate with CODAC to bring their Mobile Treatment Van to strategic locations and provide much-needed medical services and induction of Medication Assisted Treatment.
 - Embed social workers within the Providence Public Library and Community Libraries to serve patrons and make referrals for treatment.
 - Provide cell phones and plans to individuals with intermittent access to increase access and engagement with services.
 - Coordinate with city departments and partners offering access points to treatment, especially those who have multiple contracts with the City, to develop processes that streamline workflows and improve data collection.
 - Restart the Mobile Integrated Health & Community Paramedicine Program within the Providence Fire Department to connect people with the appropriate level of care.
 - Support the development, opening, and sustainability of a Respite Center that can serve as an intermediary to treatment, an alternative to hospital emergency rooms or criminal justice involvement, and a safe, transitional location for individuals after discharge from treatment facilities.
 - **Recovery**
 - Identify and promote Meeting spaces for 12-step and other recovery groups within Providence.

- Identify and establish a network of “champions” in recovery from diverse backgrounds to start conversations about culturally responsive recovery messaging and programming within their communities.
- Build a connection between the city and the broader community that supports those in recovery and encourages engagement by connecting bars, restaurants, and clubs with Recovery Ally training through contact with the Department of Arts, Culture, and Tourism.
- Developing a mechanism for HCO to hear the needs, barriers, and concerns facing the Recovery community and communicate those needs to relevant city departments (i.e., serving as an interdepartmental connector)
- Support multiple pathways of recovery by implementing HCO programming such as Service-Based Recovery programs, Whole health and wellness programs, and Social events for people in recovery.
- Establish a network of identified “champions” in recovery from diverse backgrounds to promote and implement recovery programming in their communities that coordinates with similar models across the Policy Department to minimize the potential for community fatigue.
- Strengthen connections between the city and the broader community that supports those in recovery and encourages engagement by establishing the City of Providence as a Recovery Friendly Workplace, implementing all recommendations, and supporting Recovery Ready Campus initiatives.
- Support all initiatives that move Providence toward becoming a Recovery Ready Community that promotes, supports, and engages residents in any stage of recovery and their allies.

Introduction

The Opioid Overdose Epidemic continues to affect the City of Providence disproportionately. In 2022, 96 individuals lost their lives to opioid overdoses in Providence. The rate of overdose fatalities in Providence has been the second highest in the State since 2017, except for 2018, when it was the highest in Rhode Island.ⁱ Unfortunately, each life lost is a loved one, family member, or friend and preventable death.

During that same period, 2017-2022, there were reports of over 3,000 non-fatal overdoses in the City of Providence. In 2022, 615 non-fatal overdoses occurred, accounting for 28% of statewide non-fatal overdoses;ⁱⁱ Providence is home to 17% of Rhode Island's total population.ⁱⁱⁱ Additional risks and harms are associated with substance use disorder that impacts individuals, families, and the Providence community.

The City of Providence is committed to implementing a comprehensive strategy to reduce overdose deaths and substance use-related harms over the next 3-5 years.

Development

The Providence Healthy Communities Office (HCO) is the City's lead agency for health policy, health promotion, and substance use disorder prevention. The HCO works to ensure that Providence residents have equitable access to the resources they need to lead healthy lives.

The City of Providence's Healthy Communities Office initiated the development of this strategy under the Community Overdose Engagement grant from the Rhode Island Department of Health. Because the City of Providence facilitates overdose prevention activities and programming through multiple funding streams, the Healthy Communities Office determined that a citywide overdose prevention strategy was better suited to address this multifaceted problem.

The Mayor's Coalition on Behavioral Health created a Citywide Overdose Prevention Subcommittee to drive this planning effort. The Mission of the Mayor's Coalition on Behavioral Health (MCBH) is to provide leadership, raise awareness and develop policy for the Mayor relating to health, wellness, and safety, including drug, alcohol, and tobacco prevention, across the lifespan. The Subcommittee included representation from:

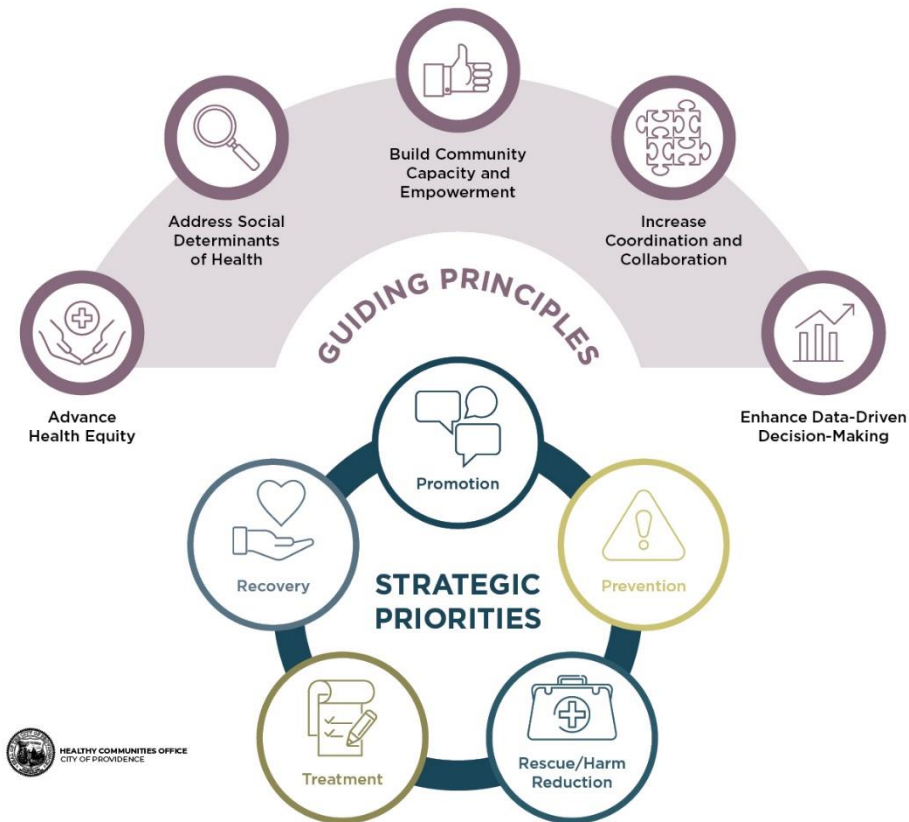
- Amos House
- CODAC
- Preventing Overdose and Naloxone Intervention (PONI)
- Project Weber/Renew
- Providence Fire Department
- Systems Change Strategies
- Rhode Island Department of Health

In the development of this plan, the Healthy Communities Office consulted with additional internal and external partners, including:

- City of Providence Department of Planning & Development’s Housing and Community Development Division
- City of Providence Policy Team
- State of Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Health, Development Disabilities, and Hospital’s Division of Behavioral Health Prevention and Recovery Services Unit
- The Providence Center’s Anchor Recovery Community Center
- Rhode Island Communities for Addiction Recovery Efforts (RICARES)

This newly developed strategy aims to de-escalate substance-related harms, especially overdose, across the continuum of opioid risk through five strategic priorities that incorporate a set of guiding principles. The City of Providence has chosen to align its strategic priorities with critical federal, state, and city funding sources, such as the Governor’s Overdose Taskforce, Opioid Settlements, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to best position itself for future opportunities.

Guiding Principles & Strategic Priorities



Guiding principles inform the City of Providence’s efforts on overdose prevention by emphasizing the more significant cross-cutting efforts and keeping them central to this work. Providence’s Overdose Prevention Strategy will:

Advance Health Equity

Any strategies implemented must seek to increase equitable access to resources needed for positive health outcomes and recognize disproportionately affected populations' unique experiences and needs to develop targeted interventions.

Address Social Determinants of Health

To address the overdose crisis, it is critical to see the larger context in which the crisis is occurring and seek to mitigate underlying risk factors. We must recognize the role of social determinants of health in prevention and intervention.

Build Community Capacity and Empowerment

Engaging communities in this work is critical to success. Helping community members to understand their role in the solutions that can improve conditions, not just for individuals at-risk of overdose, but the whole community.

Increase Coordination & Collaboration

Tackling complex issues requires a systemic approach. This necessitates developing infrastructure that builds on past success and supports meaningful collaboration within HCO programming, the City of Providence, and community partners with a focus on efficiency and cohesion.

Enhance Data-Driven Decision-Making

Make program, municipal, state, and national data available to drive program change and improvement. Increase the capacity of stakeholders to move from data collection to data analysis to data-guided action.

Strategic Priorities help to inform and organize the activities, interventions, and programs for overdose prevention. Providence's Overdose Prevention Strategy will focus on continuing and expanding existing City programs and initiatives while implementing recommendations to close identified gaps in each of the following priority areas:

Promotion

Support and advocate for policy, environmental, and system change that empower individuals, families, and communities. Build protective factors that prevent the onset of a substance use disorder, especially in youth, through education and opportunities for skill development. Enhance community engagement by creating and maintaining collaborative partnerships.

The City is committed to closing identified gaps in the promotion priority through increased integration of new, existing, and enhanced programs and initiatives.

Gaps:

- While multiple youth initiatives occur, implementation occurs through different funding streams without shared goals and activities.
- Many existing evidence-based programs do not appeal to diverse audiences; therefore, engaging parents and caregivers through relevant, culturally appropriate programming to discuss youth behavioral health issues is challenging.
- Difficulty developing solid and ongoing collaborations with organizations and institutions that serve youth.

Existing Programs and Initiatives:

- Convene the Mayor's Coalition on Behavioral Health (MCBH) to promote the health and wellness of individuals and communities in the Providence area, building awareness about behavioral health concerns, focusing on the prevention of substance misuse and mental health challenges, using evidence-based programs, as well as providing tools, resources, and education for community prevention, supporting comprehensive environmental strategies to address systemic challenges.
- Offer free, evidence-based programming to community members to help them support youth in developing protective factors to delay or stop the initiation of substance use, such as Family Matters.
- Provide opportunities for youth to learn about substance use disorder prevention and advocate for community-level change, including the MCBH United Youth Subcommittee and Mayor's Youth Prevention Club. In addition, these programs provide opportunities for skill development and social connection that build protective factors.
- Participate in National Prescription Drug Take Back and the Count It. Lock It. Drop It campaign to encourage proper disposal and storage of prescription medications.
- Develop and promote health literacy campaigns to promote self-care and the development of other healthy habits.

Recommended Programs and Initiatives:

Within one year, HCO will partner with relevant City Departments and community organizations to:

- Leverage networks and relationships developed by Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belong and Mayor's Youth and Education Strategy to increase outreach to organizations and institutions serving youth and their families to inform strategies that increase engagement and collaboration, specifically targeting schools, faith-based communities, youth leadership organizations, and task forces.
- Utilize strategies, such as town halls and the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) collaborative, to better engage parents and caregivers in conversations with HCO about developing protective factors for youth and deterring initiation of substance use with a focus on finding culturally relevant programming.
- Initiate the development of a coordinated City Youth Prevention strategy under HCO that removes existing programmatic siloes and utilizes the best available data, such as the Youth Engagement Survey (YES) and Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS).

Within two years:

- Implement a City Youth Prevention strategy that removes programmatic siloes and utilizes the best available data, such as the Youth Engagement Survey (YES) and Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS).

Prevention

Distribute consistent messaging utilizing new platforms that prioritize language accessibility and cultural relevance. Incorporate evidence-based early prevention strategies, focusing on BIPOC, Latinx, and senior communities. Develop coordinated, targeted responses to populations and individuals at high risk of overdose.

The City of Providence acknowledges the complexity of identified gaps in the prevention priority. It will work to minimize gaps within its locus of control and influence through increased integration of new, existing, and enhanced programs and initiatives.

Gaps:

- Stakeholders continually identify homelessness as a significant barrier for individuals across several strategic priorities, but most frequently, prevention. While community partners continue to engage with the City's unhoused residents, there is a lack of available shelter beds, transitional and permanent housing options for these individuals.
- Providers cite problems connecting individuals with services to meet their basic needs and address social determinants of health. Issues include an ever-changing landscape of providers and services, long wait times, and inconsistent procedures.
- While the City carries out multiple behavioral health initiatives, implementation occurs through different funding streams without shared goals and activities.

Existing Programs and Initiatives:

- Offer free, evidence-based programming to equip community members with skills to recognize and respond to a behavioral health crisis. Current programming includes Mental Health First Aid Training and Youth Mental Health First Aid Training.
- Develop and implement population-specific opioid education strategies with the target audience. Current examples include partnerships with senior centers to establish an Opioid Misuse and Overdose Prevention Educational Program for older adults and a collaboration with Preventing Overdose and Naloxone Intervention (PONI) to implement opioid educational strategies among BIPOC and Latinx Communities in Providence.
- Include opioid and substance use education into professional training and certificate program curricula, especially in fields with high rates of substance use disorder. A current example is the Building Futures' Construction Skills Training.
- Provide universal messaging to Providence residents that facilitates service navigation and connection, such as the City's "Who to Call" cards.
- Outreach and engage populations and individuals at high risk for overdose and other substance-related harms in services. Current programming includes:
 - Interagency High Utilizers Meeting model serves individuals who frequently use Emergency Medical Services by engaging them with needed services and treatment.
 - SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) serves individuals unhoused or at risk of being unhoused to rapidly connect them with social security benefits that can provide increased financial security.

- Targeted Mobile Outreach to overdose “hot spots.”
- Supportive services for persons with HIV/AIDS

Recommended Programs and Initiatives:

Within one year, HCO will partner with relevant City Departments and community organizations to:

- Engage with BIPOC, Latinx, and Senior Communities by connecting with existing community infrastructures and leaders to provide trusted, high-quality information and begin to break down barriers to discussing behavioral health, for example:
 - Barbershops are a central feature in many communities that provide a connection point for residents; therefore, barbers should receive education and training on available services and connecting those with their customers.
 - Faith-Based Communities are a trusted community leader, especially in communities of color and with older adults. Therefore, the City should connect faith-based communities with programs like the Imani Breakthrough Project and Recovery Ally training and reinstitute meetings between city leadership and faith-based leaders.
 - Community Centers offer senior programming and develop relationships with the older adults in their communities. Therefore, HCO should expand on existing connections with the community centers to over substance use and overdose education.
- Develop infrastructure for a coordinated, efficient city response to reports of homelessness.
 - Incorporate new technologies, such as GIS, to improve workflows and data collection under the guidance of HCO.
 - Hire a Housing Support Coordinator through HCO to liaise between the city, state, and service providers.
 - Cross-departmental coordination of homelessness and housing-related goals, specifically HCO and Housing & Development Division, which align with and engage state-level organizations and departments.
 - Identify best practice and implement programming and policy to address homelessness prevention.

Within two years:

- Initiate the development of a coordinated City behavioral health strategy that removes existing programmatic siloes within HCO, works toward improving all social determinants of health, and utilizes the best available data.

Within 3-5 years:

- Implement a coordinated City behavioral health strategy that removes existing programmatic siloes within HCO, works toward improving all social determinants of health, and utilizes the best available data.

Rescue/Harm Reduction

Sustain and expand existing harm reduction efforts in Providence, especially in areas experiencing high overdose rates and populations at high risk for negative consequences of drug use. Improve public safety response to overdoses through increased education, stigma reduction, transparency, and acceptance of best practices.

To continue building on the success of the City's harm reduction services, HCO and its partners identified gaps to address by integrating new, existing, and enhanced programs and initiatives.

Gaps:

- Stigma associated with substance use disorder, overdose, and harm reduction practices often deter individuals from engaging with services that can reduce substance use-related harm.
- Many people who use drugs and individuals working in this field have had adverse experiences with public safety personnel responding to overdoses, deterring future use of 9-1-1 in the event of an overdose. This increases the risk of fatal overdose.
- A drug supply increasingly contaminated with synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl, and other substances, such as xylazine, puts individuals with substance use disorder and recreational drug users at high risk for overdose.

Existing Programs and Initiatives:

- Make Harm Reduction supplies accessible across the city through multiple sources. Current programming includes Kennedy Plaza Outreach, mobile outreach, service providers Naloxboxes, and Harm Reduction vending machines. Harm Reduction supplies include Naloxone, Fentanyl Test Strips, Safe Smoking Kits, Condoms, Syringes, and Sharps Containers.
- Organize Naloxone training for City staff, businesses, and community members to ensure they are prepared to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose.
- Provide needle clean-ups and a Syringe Clean up Hotline to ensure the safety of residents and communities.
- Offer free, mobile HIV/HEP-C testing at strategic locations, such as Kennedy Plaza, to encourage prevention and early intervention.

Recommended Programs and Initiatives:

Within one year, HCO will partner with relevant City Departments and community organizations to:

- Create a comprehensive listing and publicly recognized signage or symbol identifying where Narcan, other harm-reduction supplies, and sharps disposal containers are available to the community to inform utilization, increase response times in an emergency, and identify areas where gaps may exist.
- Develop a mechanism within HCO, such as a Rhode Island Overdose Action Area Response (ROAAR) Response Team, to communicate increased rates of overdose and

trends in the current drug supply to the broader community that is centralized, widely distributed, and easily accessible.

- Support interested community partners in developing a Harm Reduction Center in Providence to minimize the risks of using alone and prevent overdose fatalities.
- Strengthen Public Safety response to overdoses and public willingness to engage with public safety in the event of an overdose:
 - Continue progress on enacting improved policies and practices for public safety overdose response.
 - Improve overdose data collection that supports ongoing overdose response and policy implementation monitoring within public safety.
 - Begin researching processes and funding streams for Recovery Ally, Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), and related training for public safety.

Within two years:

- Support the opening of a Harm Reduction Center in Providence that will minimize the risks of using alone and prevent overdose fatalities.
- Strengthen Public Safety response to overdoses and public willingness to engage with public safety in the event of an overdose:
 - Implement continuous quality improvement processes for public safety overdose response incorporating mechanisms for accountability and transparency.
 - Organize and deliver Recovery Ally, Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), and related training for public safety personnel in telecommunications, PPD, and PFD

Within 3-5 years:

- Ensure sustainability of a Harm Reduction Center in Providence that will minimize the risks of using alone and prevent overdose fatalities.

Treatment

Create and maintain access points to the appropriate level of care for diverse populations that move toward a “No wrong door” approach. Support efforts to minimize structural barriers that limit admission to and successful completion of treatment.

The City of Providence acknowledges the complexity of identified gaps in the treatment priority. It will work to minimize gaps within its locus of control and influence through increased integration of new, existing, and enhanced programs and initiatives.

Gaps:

- Connecting people with treatment is becoming increasingly difficult due to a lack of open spaces at treatment facilities. Factors contributing to this problem include staffing shortages, reimbursement rates, and limited treatment options for substances such as stimulants.
- Facilities discharge Unhoused Individuals from treatment without anywhere to go, increasing their risk for a reoccurrence due to lack of support and overdose due to lowered tolerance.
- Community partners have identified issues with the referral processes, including inconsistent procedures, long wait times, language barriers, and the inability to follow up with individuals and providers.

Existing Programs and Initiatives:

- Provide access points to the continuum of substance use treatment that meets people where they are and are readily available when they are, including:
 - Safe Stations is a 24/7 service that connects individuals who arrive at any Providence Fire Station interested in treatment with Peer Recovery Specialist.
 - Providence Alternative Integrated Response & Emergency Diversion (PAIRED) responds to individuals experiencing behavioral health crises.
 - Police Co-response programs respond to individuals experiencing behavioral health crises.
 - Mobile Outreach workers serve individuals in the community to engage them with services.
 - Community Health Workers at Providence Public Housing Authority developments
 - Treatment and recovery referral programs at free clinics.
 - Reentry programming that includes treatment and recovery referral with Recovery coaching services available at Open Doors.
- Award Mini-Grants to individuals facing financial barriers to entering or completing substance use treatment. Currently available through the HCO’s Neighbors in Recovery Mini-Grant program in partnership with Victa.

Recommended Programs and Initiatives:

Within one year, HCO will partner with relevant City Departments and community organizations to:

- Coordinate with CODAC to bring their Mobile Treatment Van to strategic locations and provide much-needed medical services and induction of Medication Assisted Treatment.
- Embed social workers within the Providence Public Library and Community Libraries to serve patrons and make referrals for treatment.
- Support interested community partners in the development of a Respite Center based on facilitators and barriers from previous projects and current national models, which can serve as an intermediary to treatment, an alternative to hospital emergency rooms or criminal justice involvement, and a safe, transitional location for individuals after discharge from treatment facilities.

Within two years:

- Provide cell phones and plans to individuals with intermittent access to increase access and engagement with services.
- Coordinate with city departments and partners offering access points to treatment, especially those who have multiple contracts with the City, to develop processes that streamline workflows and improve data collection.
- Support opening a Respite Center that can serve as an intermediary to treatment, an alternative to hospital emergency rooms or criminal justice involvement, and a safe, transitional location for individuals after discharge from treatment facilities.
- Restart the Mobile Integrated Health & Community Paramedicine Program within the Providence Fire Department to connect people with the appropriate level of care.

Within 3-5 years:

- Ensure sustainability of a Respite Center that can serve as an intermediary to treatment, an alternative to hospital emergency rooms or criminal justice involvement, and a safe, transitional location for individuals after discharge from treatment facilities.

Recovery

Increase recovery programming by implementing activities across multiple pathways of recovery; prioritize whole health and wellness. Collaborate with people with lived experience to build community and social connectedness for individuals at every stage of recovery.

The City will expand recovery programming and supports through the integration of new, existing, and enhanced programs and initiatives to close identified gaps:

Gaps:

- Recovery has long been an underfunded field on the continuum of substance use treatment which has created challenges with staffing Certified Peer Recovery Specialist positions and providing programming that supports multiple pathways of recovery.
- The stigma associated with substance use disorder and being in recovery differs across cultures and communities; therefore, substance use disorder and related harms disproportionately affect marginalized populations.
- The City has had limited involvement with the recovery community, especially compared to other strategic priorities in this plan.

Existing Programs and Initiatives:

- Participate in and support the Annual Rally4Recovery.
- Create safe, judgment-free spaces for individuals to participate in recovery groups, individual services, and social events, such as the Project/Weber Renew Drop-In Center.
- Create employment opportunities for people in recovery through programming that utilizes Certified Peer Recovery Specialist such Anchor Recovery Community Center's Safe Stations and Project/Weber Renew

Recommended Programs and Initiatives:

Within one year, HCO will partner with relevant City Departments and community organizations to:

- Identify and promote Meeting spaces for 12-step and other recovery groups within Providence.
- Identifying funding streams and partners for multiple pathways of recovery services not traditionally funded, such as Service-Based Recovery programs, Whole health and wellness programs, and Social events for people in recovery.
- Work to identify “champions” in recovery from diverse backgrounds to start conversations about culturally responsive recovery messaging and programming within their communities.
- Build a connection between the city and the broader community that supports those in recovery and encourages engagement by connecting bars, restaurants, and clubs with Recovery Ally training through contact with the Department of Arts, Culture, and Tourism, establishing the City of Providence as a Recovery Friendly Workplace, implementing all recommendations, and supporting Recovery Ready Campus initiatives.

- Develop a mechanism for HCO to hear the needs, barriers, and concerns facing the Recovery community and communicate those needs to relevant city departments (i.e., serving as an interdepartmental connector)

Within two years:

- Support multiple pathways of recovery by implementing HCO programming such as Service-Based Recovery programs, Whole health and wellness programs, and Social events for people in recovery.
- Establish a formal network of identified “champions” in recovery from diverse backgrounds and associated strategies to promote and implement recovery programming in their communities that coordinates with similar models across the City to minimize the potential for community fatigue.

Within 3-5 years:

- Support all initiatives that move Providence toward becoming a Recovery Ready Community that promotes, supports, and engages residents in any stage of recovery and their allies.

ⁱ Prevent Overdose Rhode Island

ⁱⁱ Rhode Island Department of Health

ⁱⁱⁱ US Census (2020)