

OPIOID ABATEMENT PRIORITIES

DESCRIPTION

The Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) was established by the Virginia General Assembly in 2021 as an independent entity to abate and remediate the opioid epidemic in the Commonwealth through financial support from the Virginia Opioid Abatement Fund in the form of grants, donations, or other assistance, for efforts to treat, prevent, and reduce opioid use disorder and the misuse of opioids in the Commonwealth. The OAA maintains two portals a year in which the Authority accepts proposals. In line with these opportunities, the Addiction Task Force has created a committee to review proposals from county agencies to make recommendations on proposals to the OAA.

Financial assistance offered through the OAA consists of settlement funds paid to Virginia by prescription opioid manufacturers and companies in the prescription opioid distribution network. Per a December 7th, 2023, release from the OAA, “Virginia expects to receive a total of approximately \$1.1 billion from litigation against manufacturers, distributors, and pharmacies that were alleged to have contributed to the opioid crisis. Payments from these settlements and bankruptcies began in 2022 and are expected to conclude by 2041. The OAA was established by the General Assembly in 2021 to oversee the distribution of 55% of Virginia’s total settlement funds. Of the remainder, 30% is distributed directly to cities and counties, and the remaining 15% to the commonwealth. The use of funds is restricted by court orders and state statute, with the restrictions aiming for the funds to be used for opioid abatement efforts.”

There are still defendants whose cases have not resulted in final settlements. The U.S. Supreme Court has heard arguments concerning a settlement with Purdue Pharma, the highest profile of the defendants in these lawsuits.

OBJECTIVES

- To expand Crisis Intervention (CIT) programs.
- To maintain an updated inventory of organizations and resources for treatment and recovery.
- To develop comprehensive outpatient treatment programs.

FISCAL YEAR 2025 SUMMARY

Description	FY23 Actual	FY24 Original	FY25 Approved	Change 24 to 25
Personnel	\$ 0	\$ 295,498	\$ 76,009	(74.3%)
Operation	0	3,440	965	(71.9%)
Capital	0	0	2,785	0.0%
Total	\$ 0	\$ 298,938	\$ 79,759	(73.3%)

Personnel Complement 3* 1 (2)

* Positions reflected elsewhere within Sheriff and Mental Health narratives. FY25 proposed personnel funding is currently recognized under these department’s budgets.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The total FY25 budget for opioid abatement priorities is \$79,759. This supports a Peer Recovery Specialist to work in support of the Marcus Alert System, a program that enhances services for individuals suffering mental health, substance abuse, or developmental disability challenges in need of specialized care. The FY25 opioid abatement priorities budget supports \$76,009 in personnel funding, \$965 in operating funding, and \$2,785 in capital funding. Settlement funds are managed using a separate account code to better track revenues and uses.

FY24 personnel and operating funding has been reallocated to the Sheriff's Department and Mental Health and Development Services FY25 budgets. OAA funding supports one Assistant Division Director in the Mental Health Substance Use Division (SUD) and two peer recovery specialists working in the Sheriff's Department.

Peer recovery specialists provide additional support to the programs offered in the jail by giving recovering addicts support from an individual who has been in their shoes. The SUD Division Director oversees the many efforts countywide that are currently fragmented while coordinating overdose responses, providing supervision to peer recovery specialists, and maintaining the county's 'Bounce Back' website and other outreach efforts.

In addition to the positions approved in the FY24 budget, amendments totaling \$884,915 have been approved by the Board of Supervisors. The County appropriated \$800,311 in grant funding for the Pregnant and Parenting Women Recovery Program, an initiative that works to provide shelter and rehabilitation services for pregnant women and women with children in recovery. These services are extended to their children and can assist in providing health care and psychological evaluations and placement recommendations for children exhibiting signs of developmental disorders. This program is a cooperative agreement between Henrico County, Charles City, and New Kent County; residents from all cooperating counties are eligible for treatment services. In FY24, \$70,200 was appropriated to the Sheriff's Office for enhanced medical services and treatment within jails. The County has also partnered with First Tee of Greater Richmond to provide recreational programming for recovering residents interested in learning golf. This program provides a safe outlet for participants to learn and partake in structured athleticism.