OSAC OPC YR3 Budget Request

Nov. 16th, 2026



CEDO

VCJR Vermonters *for* Criminal Justice Reform

OSAC Budget Request



Consistent with expressed legislative intent to fund the 3-year pilot program in Burlington, we are requesting level funding of $1.1M for the YR3/FY28 OPC Operating Budget

- The OPC is intended as a means of engaging with the most vulnerable population in our community to reduce the number of overdose deaths and to provide robust wraparound services and life saving healthcare options leading to substance misuse treatment.
- Our intention is to keep community members who are in active use and or relapse alive while and until they are able to make more life affirming choices for themselves.

Filling the Gap in Care



- Not everyone misusing substances is ready to engage in treatment
    - Treatment options in VT have extremely high barriers and do not meet the needs of everyone in need
- Extremely high rates of homelessness contribute greatly to substance misuse and overdose deaths
- According to a 2025 SAMHSA report, **84% of Americans with a SUD did not receive treatment**
- In recent years, the VDH has stated that only about 1 in 2 Vermonters in need of substance use treatment received it.
- People who use harm reduction programs like OPC's are 5 times more likely to enter treatment
- **VT is in critical need of new options and new pathways to treatment** and other health services for a population of people who are very sick and dying. The OPC will provide an **open door** for those most at risk to access these services.

From Appropriation to Service Delivery



- The OPC is meant to preserve the lives of Vermonters until broader socioeconomic factors like housing can be properly addressed
- Our current YR2 Budget submitted to DSU includes use of the full $2.2M already appropriated
- We have met our grant obligations with the state of Vermont and we are hoping to have the building secured and to begin fit up of the OPC by January 31st, 2027
- Spend down of the current appropriation will go very quickly as the building is acquired, fit-up is undertaken and all legislative requirements are met to enable provision of services under this pilot program.

From Appropriation to Service Delivery: Continued



- Like many opioid settlement funded projects, we may have some carryover of our existing appropriation (dependent on timeline).
- Should this happen, we plan to use any carryover funding toward our YR3/FY28 OPC Operating Budget.
- The OPC will be underfunded for service provision without this appropriation
- This project has been highly supported by the legilsature and by OSAC votes in recent years and this funding will ensure that all the work we've done thus far gets Vermonters the end result intended
- https://www.vermontpublic.org/local-news/2024-03-01/vermonts-health-commissioner-says-he-supports-overdose-prevention-center-recommendation

High level overview of $1.1M YR3/FY28 Budget Request



Operational Expenses for OPC Service Provision:

- Full staffing for the OPC: Robust direct service staff is necessary to provide the high quality, health and treatment services people need
- Employee benefits
- Training of staff
- Consumables required for services
- Medical equipment and supplies
- Contracted care partners
- Building maintenance and repairs
- Technology, including the required program database
- The purchase of a 15 passenger van to be used as a shuttle for participants
- Required Insurance coverages