

# Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority Application for Awards for Cooperative Projects Involving Cities and Counties

**1. Contact Information**

This application is for cooperative projects consisting of a cooperative partnership between at least two cities and/or counties within the same Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) region.

Complete this table for all cities and/or counties involved in the cooperative partnership.

Name of City/County	Contact Person	Mailing Address	Phone #	Email
Hanover County	Jim Taylor	PO Box 470, Hanover VA 23069	804-365-68 48	jptaylor@hanovercounty.gov
Chesterfield County	James Worsley	PO Box 40 Chesterfield, VA 23832	804-748-12 12	WorsleyJ@chesterfield.gov
City of Richmond	Reggie Gordon	900 E. Broad St Richmond, VA 23219	804-646-1872	Reginald.Gordon@rva.gov

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**2. Fiscal Agent**

- a. One of the participating cities or counties must serve as the fiscal agent for the cooperative project. The fiscal agent will be responsible to ensuring compliance with both financial and programmatic reporting requirements on behalf of the cooperative partnership.
- b. City/County Serving as Fiscal Agent Hanover County  city  county
- c. Physical address: 7516 County Complex Road, Hanover VA 23069
- d. Mailing address: PO Box 470, Hanover, VA 23069  
(if different than physical address)
- e. Contact Person for this application
- i. Name: Jim Taylor
- ii. Job Title: Deputy County Administrator
- iii. Office Phone: 804-365-6848 Cell Phone: 804-239-4144
- iv. Email: jptaylor@hanovercounty.gov


**3. Agreements**

- a. Attach a copy of the cooperative partnership agreement between the participating cities and/or counties for the project. The agreement should also designate the city or county selected as fiscal agent for the cooperative project. A SAMPLE agreement is available [here](#).
- i. If any participating city and/or county elects to allocate a portion of its Individual Distribution from the OAA to this regional project, the Cooperative Partnership Agreement should clearly document the commitment and amount.

**4. Signature**

Signature section must be completed by a person designated with signatory authority in the MOU/MOA noted in Part 3.a of this application.

*"I swear or affirm that all information contained in and attached to this application is true to the best of my knowledge."*

Signature 

Print Name James P. Taylor

Title Deputy County Administrator

Date 5/4/23

5. Project Proposal

Complete the information below for the project the cooperative partnership is requesting to be funded.

a. Is this project:

A new effort for the participating cities/counties.

A proposed supplement or enhancement to a project or effort that is already in place.

How long has the project existed? Since 2021

A combination of enhancing an existing project/effort with new components.

How long has the project existed? \_\_\_\_\_

b. Provide a brief narrative description of the proposed project including the requested term (1-5 years).

PROJECT RECOVER currently provides five Certified Peer Recovery Specialists (PRS) to support individuals in the counties of Chesterfield and Hanover, and in the City of Richmond, suffering with substance use disorders that result in treatment by Emergency Medical Services (EMS) or contact with law enforcement. All too often, once EMS and law enforcement have address the immediate trauma of an overdose incident and have left the scene to respond to the next call from the community, the victim is left without sustainable treatment and recovery options. PROJECT RECOVER's goal is to help fill this gap by providing individuals in need with immediate support from a peer who has overcome similar challenges and has gained real-world knowledge of the ongoing process of treatment and recovery. The Peer Recovery Specialists provide a handbook with resources and help guide the individual through the process of obtaining those resources. They also provide a continuum of long-term support for the individual as they navigate through treatment and recovery. The Peer Recovery Specialists also provide education and training to Central Virginia community members, including law enforcement, about how to provide proper support for those suffering with substance use disorders.

PROJECT RECOVER's partners in this community-based initiative include its sub-grantee, Imagine the Freedom Recovery Foundation, Chesterfield County Fire & EMS, Hanover County Sheriff's Office, Richmond Ambulance Authority, the Richmond Police Department, and Bon Secours. The Certified Peer Recovery Specialists are embedded within these partner organizations and will respond to overdoses with their partner agencies.

PROJECT RECOVER was developed to address the gap in services described above, as identified by the Central Virginia Overdose Working Group (CVOWG). It was created to eliminate the siloed structure of the substance use arena by bringing experts from multiple fields together to discuss issues, identify gaps, and develop solutions to the overdose epidemic in Central Virginia.

This grant application proposes to add three additional positions: a working Supervisor (50% admin./50% response) and two Certified Peer Recovery Specialists to the current organization, thus providing additional support and capacity to respond to calls and also to begin to serve local hospitals (9 additional hospitals planned), including hospitals in Henrico County.

The requested term of this project is 5 years.

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### c. Describe the objectives of this project

The purpose of PROJECT RECOVER is to continue to bridge the gap between first responders, including emergency medical services ("EMS"), law enforcement ("LE") and hospital emergency departments ("ED"), and treatment and recovery communities in Central Virginia and thereby create a continuum of services to members of the community suffering with substance use disorder ("SUD") following initial contact with EMS, LE and/or EDs.

The overall goal of PROJECT RECOVER is to connect individuals with SUD with recovery and treatment services to: (a) reduce the demand for illegal substances, the number of overdoses, and the number of overdose deaths; and, (b) through the use of certified Peer Recovery Specialists ("PRs"), reduce the stigma associated with SUD in the aftermath of emergency response.

Peer support workers are people who have been successful in the recovery process who help others experiencing similar situations. Through shared understanding, respect, and mutual empowerment, peer support workers help people become and stay engaged in the recovery process and reduce the likelihood of relapse.

<https://www.samhsa.gov/brss-tacs/recovery-support-tools/peers>

### d. How was the need determined and how does that need relate to abatement?

In 2022 there was a total of 4,097 drug overdoses in the the largest four localities of metro-Richmond, including 2,289 opioid overdoses (Va Dept. of Health). Based on preliminary projections, 536 of these will be fatalities (472 opioid deaths). The number of opioid overdoses increased slightly from the prior year (2,249).

According to Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), the National Drug Control Strategy uses the latest evidence and research to promote public health and public safety approaches that address SUD, reduce the consequences associated with it, and help Americans recover from SUD. PROJECT RECOVER parallels this strategy with stakeholders in EMS, LE, EDs, public health, SUD recovery and SUD treatment. PROJECT RECOVER addresses an identified gap in the drug crisis response, namely the need to immediately connect individuals suffering with SUD identified through EMS, LE and EDs with ongoing recovery services. Often, while these individuals are working with law enforcement, they ask for help with their SUD. Without help, some of these individuals return to substance abuse. PROJECT RECOVER also helps bridge the gap for those individuals, through the support of PRs, who can help them navigate treatment and recovery services.

Additionally, many people suffering with SUD do not trust law enforcement. PRs are better able to communicate with such individuals and help to bridge the gap between LE and citizens suffering with SUD. The PRs can also participate in ongoing prevention efforts in the Central Virginia area, including working with Silent No More, which conducts presentations for middle and high school students, their parents, and the community about the dangers of substance use and abuse and help stop these problems before they start.

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- e. Who are the targeted beneficiaries, and how many persons are expected to participate per year?

For the current year to date (November 2022 to April 2023), PROJECT RECOVER has served 549 people (Chesterfield 99, Richmond Ambulance Authority 145, Richmond Police 95, Hanover Sheriff 48, Bon Secours 162). Peer follow-up contacts at 30 days and 90 days has been 317. From November 2022 to April 2023, 1/3 of the initial contacts were engaged at 30 days. Only 2 people during this timeframe were rearrested. 581 people have been engaged through outreach, community meetings and trainings. 516 Naloxone kits have been distributed.

The average current caseload per Certified Peer Recovery Specialist is approximately 20/week. It is anticipated that the addition of one working Program Supervisor and two Certified Peer Recovery Specialists would allow PROJECT RECOVER to serve approximately 300 more individuals directly per year and 300 more individuals indirectly. The additional staff would allow for more timely contact and follow up, and will also allow the program to expand to hospital emergency rooms at nine additional Bon Secours emergency rooms (there are currently two).

- f. Briefly describe (name or organization, description of role, budget, etc.) the organization(s), including any sub-recipients or contractors (if known) that will be involved in this project. Attach any contracts and/or memoranda of understanding/agreement. If not fully executed, a draft or a narrative describing the scope of services may suffice.

PROJECT RECOVER is a program component of Imagine the Freedom Recovery Foundation. The mission of Imagine The Freedom Foundation is to reduce the negative impact of substance use disorder on the individual, the family, and the community through advocacy, stigma reduction, and authentic peer and recovery support services.

PROJECT RECOVER currently has a memorandum of understanding with Henrico County. Additional MOUs will be executed by the other three localities in the near future and before expending any funds from the grant.

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g. Is the project classified as evidence-based?

Yes

No

*If yes, attach supporting information to this application.*

h. Is the project classified as evidence-informed?

Yes

No

*If yes, attach supporting information to this application.*

i. Has this project been certified or credentialed by a state/federal government agency, or other organization/non-profit?

Yes

No

*If yes, attach supporting information to this application.*

j. Has this project received any awards or recognition?

Yes

No

*If yes, attach supporting information to this application.*

k. Does this project have components other than opioid-related treatment as defined?

No, it is 100% related to opioid treatment

Yes, there are other substances involved

*If yes, what is the approximate percentage of the project that covers opioid-related abatement (i.e., 20% of the patients who seek services have opioid-related disorders)?*

Estimated 90% opioid related disorders

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- l. Attach a budget for that minimally includes FY2024 with line-item details for the project. If carry-over of OAA funds from FY2024 into FY2025 is expected, include this in the line-item budget. If there is intention to renew the funding (maximum of 4 renewals), include the projected budget for each subsequent fiscal year.
  - i. If a city or county in the cooperative partnership is allocating any of its Direct Distributions and/ or any of its Individual Distributions from the OAA to this cooperative project, include line items for each as funding sources for the project.
- m. Complete and attach the project timeline workbook for the project minimally for FY2024. If there is intention to renew the funding (maximum of 4 renewals), complete the timeline for each subsequent fiscal year.
- n. Complete and attach the performance measurement workbook for the project minimally for FY2024. If there is intention to renew the funding (maximum of 4 renewals), include the complete the performance measures for each subsequent fiscal year.
- o. *(Optional)* Attach any additional narrative materials explaining the project, along with any research, data, plans, letters of support, articles, or other items that may assist the OAA Board of Directors in making an award decision for this project.

# Chesterfield County, Hanover County, and City of Richmond

## Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority Cooperative Agreement - 2023

It is agreed, the mission of the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) is to abate and remediate the opioid epidemic in the Commonwealth through financial support in the form of grants, donations, or other assistance; and

It is agreed, the OAA operates a financial assistance program to support certain cooperative partnerships of cities and/or counties in Virginia that implement regional efforts to treat, prevent, and reduce opioid use disorder and the misuse of opioids; and


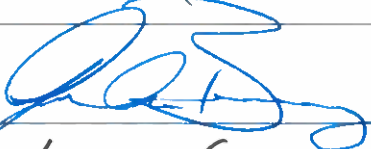
It is agreed, the jurisdictions listed below have committed to work together to develop and jointly apply for regional cooperative planning funding from the OAA; and

It is agreed, at least two of the counties listed below are located within the same region of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services; and

It is agreed, the counties listed below will work together to present a legally binding agreement formalizing the cooperating partnership to their respective governing bodies, should the application for financial assistance be approved; and

It is agreed, the counties listed below agree that Hanover County will serve as the fiscal agent to (1) execute the cooperative partnership grant application, (2) handle all financial matters related to implementation should funding be awarded, and (3) execute all documents in connection therewith.

It is agreed, the counties listed below seek a total of \$214,257 in funding, \$192,831 from the OAA for Fiscal Year 2024, with each locality contributing \$7,142 for a collective financial match of \$21,426 (10% of total cost).

Name of City, County, or Organization	Printed Name of Authorized Signor	Title of Authorized Signor	Signature
Chesterfield	Joseph P. Casey, Ph.D.	County Administrator	
Hanover	John A. Budesky	County Administrator	
Richmond City	J.E. Lincoln Saunders	Chief Admin. Officer	