

# FY21 RCORP Psychostimulant Support 1

**Grantee Name: Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE)**

**Grant Number: H7NRH42563**

## Instructions:

Please provide 1-2 success stories that showcases an achievement/accomplishment during the entire 3 year project period.

- i. The success story must be tangible, align with a core activity (prevention, treatment, recovery, workforce, capacity building), and include quantitative data.
- ii. If you have a success story that received media attention or is in a newsletter, please attach the press clip to the Electronic Handbook submission.

RCORP-PS Grant H7NRH42563 included two funded communities, Sandusky and Seneca Counties, Ohio. The narrative below includes success stores from both communities.

Sandusky County (RCORP-PS CA P1/Supplemental Activity 1): At the time of application and throughout the RCORP-PS grant period, Sandusky County, Ohio, faced a growing crisis with rising psychostimulant abuse, particularly methamphetamine and cocaine in combination with opiates. To address this challenge, Sandusky County Public Health (SCPH) sought innovative solutions through the PIRE Psychostimulant Grant. To address Core Activity Prevention 1, SCPH, a Project Dawn Site, distributed Narcan (naloxone) kits throughout the community through an online training and distribution site and at various community events and health fairs. The RCORP-PS grant funding helped SCPH achieve their biggest accomplishment: purchasing and placing 85 Naloxboxes, including 5 outdoor Naloxboxes installed in public locations throughout the county to provide immediate access to naloxone in overdose emergencies. Notably, SCPH was able to place Naloxboxes at two area Speedway gas stations (which had been the most difficult in-county locations to engage).

Seneca County (RCORP-PS CA P1): Seneca County has proactively tackled psychostimulant misuse over the past three years through the HRSA's RCORP Psychostimulant Grant, allowing a shift from opioid-focused resources to early education and prevention of psychostimulant use, specifically methamphetamines and cocaine. This funding proved timely, enabling public awareness campaigns and targeted education efforts before significant increases in psychostimulant misuse and overdose cases were observed. In Sandusky County, for example, overdose deaths involving psychostimulants rose from 7 out of 21 in 2022 to 8 out of 11 in 2023, while Seneca County has noted anecdotal increases but has not had detailed death toxicology data.

The grant funding facilitated a Substance Use Stigma Survey, which engaged 515 participants across Seneca and Sandusky counties. The survey's insights on community perceptions toward addiction helped shape strategies to reduce stigma and foster empathy, making it easier for individuals to seek help and normalizing help-seeking behaviors. By proactively addressing both misuse prevention and stigma, the RCORP-PS grand has helped Seneca County has built a resilient community ready to face the evolving challenges of psychostimulant use.

Seneca County (RCORP-PS CA T1): Over the past three years, with the HRSA RCORP Psychostimulant Grant in Seneca County, we have successfully implemented Contingency Management (CM) within Intensive Outpatient Programs (IOP) to address psychostimulant use as part of our work on Treatment Core Activity 1. Initially, we partnered with one local treatment agency, which, while enthusiastic, faced challenges in client engagement. Over time, however, we refined our CM approach, gaining valuable insights into individualized incentives and creating a foundation that gradually boosted participation. In the latter half of the grant, we expanded by engaging a second agency, using the original framework to streamline CM implementation.

This collaborative effort between the two agencies allowed us to offer CM support to a broader population, creating a scalable model that fostered shared training, resources, and goals.

In the grant's final year, the dual-agency approach resulted in 1,278, or an average of around 106 clients per month (some duplicated) receiving CM interventions, underscoring the initiative's reach and effectiveness. The structure developed through the grant has created a replicable model that encourages treatment participation and completion, and which continues to benefit Seneca County. The program's success demonstrates the impact of strategic collaboration and innovation in behavioral health treatment, leaving a legacy of enhanced community health resources and support for those with psychostimulant use disorders.

Please provide feedback on your grantee experience during the grant period ( ie. NOFO, core activities, deliverables, consortium, etc.)

Sandusky County: Collaborating with PIRE and Ohio University on the HRSA RCORP Psychostimulant Grant has been invaluable for Sandusky County. Their expertise has enhanced our consortium's effectiveness, and working with similar rural counties has provided valuable opportunities for learning and strengthening efforts to address psychostimulant misuse in rural Ohio. Clear guidelines within our core activities have provided focused direction and supported our progress.

Seneca County: Working with PIRE and Ohio University as backbone organizations on the HRSA RCORP Psychostimulant Grant has been invaluable. Their guidance has enhanced the knowledge and effectiveness of our larger consortium. Collaborating with other rural counties comparable in size to Seneca County has provided unique opportunities to learn from one another, to innovate, and to collectively strengthen our impact on addressing psychostimulant misuse across rural Ohio. The structured guidelines within our core activities have provided clear direction, significantly supporting the focus and progress of our work.