



BJA's
Comprehensive
Opioid, Stimulant,
and Substance Abuse
Program



Arkansas
Pulaski County Sheriff's Office
Pulaski County Sheriff's Office Comprehensive Opioid Abuse
Site-Based Program

10/01/19 Grant Start → 09/30/22 Grant End

Overview

Pulaski County, Arkansas, with a population of 393,956 citizens in a geographic area of 808 square miles, has been disproportionately impacted by the abuse of illicit opioids and prescription drugs. Of the 75 counties in Arkansas, Pulaski County ranks seventh regarding risk factors associated with substance abuse. In 2017, Arkansas ranked second in the nation for opioid prescribing. In Pulaski County, there were 98.3 prescriptions for opioids for every 100 residents. In 2017, the Arkansas Department of Health recorded 65 overdose deaths in Pulaski County, ranking it tenth in the state. Adults who have experienced four or more of ten adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are more likely to engage in substance abuse. Approximately 16 percent of adults in Pulaski County were at that ACE level.

Grant Focus

- Expand jail-based treatment and effective reentry programs.

- Expand peer support services and recovery housing.
- Support children and youth affected by the opioid epidemic.

Program Approach

The Pulaski County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-Based Program will implement a pre-sentencing diversion program for offenders. The project will expand the PCSO's current crisis intervention team (CIT) to embed trained substance use disorder counselors and a licensed social worker to offer rapid responses to opioid crisis situations and overdoses where children and addicts are co-affected. The CIT will provide a proper law enforcement response, along with medical, mental health, and addiction screenings, assessments, and referrals to human services, treatment centers, or mental health/drug courts. The CIT program expansion also will include regular in-house training for both law enforcement

and mental health professionals, who would serve as co-responders. This enhanced training will prepare both professions to better serve the communities.

In addition, the project will address post-arrest recidivism diversion by providing transitional housing and partnering with community organizations with a proven record of success.

Lastly, the PCSO will install tamper-proof drug collection receptacles at two precincts in the outermost parts of the county to allow for more localized collection of unused and expired medications from those citizens who reside in those sections of the county.

Project Partners

- OK Program
- Passion Unlimited Counseling
- Hidden Creek Reentry
- CSA Program
- Union Rescue Mission Recovery Center

Contact Information

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Visit the COSSAP Resource Center at www.cossapresources.org.

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