Opioid Grant Implementation: Innovative Strategies for Rural Communities

Area 1 Best Practices
May 7, 2020
“It used to be conventional wisdom that drug problems were confined to the big cities and urban areas. No more.”

*Drug Crisis Comes to Rural Ohio*, Ohio Farm Bureau, Kelli Milligan Stammen, June, 2017

**Typical Rural Area Service Obstacles**

- Limited public transportation options
- Lack of Internet connectivity
- Fewer ancillary resources
- Higher unemployment
Unique Aspects of Area 1’s Service Model

• Direct ties to the local justice system

• Services that address rural needs

• Interest and participation from employers

• Strategic fiscal policies
Direct Ties to the Local Justice System

• **OhioMeansJobs Staff Work With**
  - Drug Court
  - Common Pleas Court
  - Probation Hearings

• **Customers Referred to OhioMeansJobs Centers**
  - Assess for education, employment, and training needs
  - Identify supportive service needs, including transportation
  - Make connections with other partner services
Services that Address Rural Needs

• **Transportation**
  o Van service
  o Ride share bus

• **Connectivity**
  o OhioMeansJobs Center locations
  o Wifi in county offices, libraries, and schools
  o Smart school buses

• **Direction to Community Resources**
  o Family Navigator
  o Community Coordinator
  o Workforce and Development Case Manager

• **Employment**
  o Direct business engagement via Business Resource Network

Covid-19 Update: Area 1 is reaching out to customers via telephone and video conferencing tools.
Interest and Participation from Employers

• **Business Resource Network Surveys**
  - Specific questions related to Opioid grants
  - 10 – 15 percent response rate
  - Majority wanted more information on what it means to become recovery-friendly

• **Business Expo**
  - Presenters included workforce, justice system, and recovery centers
  - Discussion included opioid grants, second chance efforts, employee bonding, WOTC, etc.

• **Work Experience**
  - Temporary jobs and certifications – OSHA, Bobcat, chainsaw, tractor, mechanical and maintenance
Strategic Fiscal Policies

- Transferred Dislocated Worker Formula Funds to Adult
- Changed Adult Eligibility to 300 Percent of Poverty Level

Area’s entire population is impacted by opioid misuse; however Opioid Grants target only dislocated workers.
Summary: Pro Tips

• **Meet with justice system partners to explain services and embed staff into court activities.** Area 1 has personnel that attend court sessions and probation hearings each week.

• **Secure expertise to help customers with any ancillary services they may need.** Area 1 uses Family Navigators, Community Coordinators, and Workforce and Development Case Managers to help individuals and their families remain on track and avoid triggers for relapse.

• **Develop strategies to maximize resources.** Area 1 has transferred formula funds between Dislocated Worker and Adult; and then loosened Adult income requirements to increase access to services.
Questions

What questions do you have for Area 1?
Contacts

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