

FY20 RCORP Implementation II Grantee Name: Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care (AFMC)

Grant Number: #GA1RH39534

## I. Success Stories | AFMC's Impact Under the HRSA RCORP-Implementation II 2020 Grant

In 2020, AFMC was awarded the HRSA Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP-I) II grant, and since then, it has successfully executed a range of initiatives focused on prevention, treatment,



and recovery within the Arkansas rural communities of Independence, Izard, Randolph, Lawrence, and Sharp counties. AFMC formed the [Arkansas Rural Task Force for Opioid Response \(ARTOR\)](#) to expand access and strengthen the quality of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) or Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). The ARTOR Consortium members included AFMC, ARcare, Midsouth Health Systems/ARISA Health, Unity Health, White River Health System (WRHS), and Northeast Arkansas Divine Intervention (NEADI). Provided below are our successes for each of our initiatives.

### Prevention: Expanding Access to Overdose Reversal Tools

Over the course of RCORP-I II, AFMC project staff distributed a variety of prevention materials and resources to individuals and business across the catchment area. In the beginning of our award, COVID-19 restrictions created a barrier for AFMC. AFMC shifted focus from schools to faith-based programs, hotels/motels, court houses, and the community. AFMC significantly enhanced prevention efforts by distributing life-saving tools, including Naloxboxes, ONEboxes, and Narcan. These efforts helped equip at-risk populations with overdose reversal medications, directly reducing the risk of opioid-related fatalities in our rural communities. Additionally, AFMC distributed harm reduction supplies, Dispose RX and Detera Bags, to provide the community with an ecofriendly, biodegradable option for destroying their medications. Through our No Cost Extension (NCE), AFMC achieved great success by distributing 57 ONEbox, 116 NARCAN, 255 Dispose RX, and 215 Detera Bags. These were distributed to rural school districts (Midland, Cedar Ridge, Calico Rock, Izard County Consolidated, Melbourne, Izard County, Batesville, Tuckerman, and Newport School Districts) and other businesses.

Prevention Tools	# Distributed
Naloxboxes	21
Oneboxes	57
Narcan	184 units
Detera Bags	215
Dispose Rx	255

### Treatment: Increasing Access to Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)

AFMC made a substantial impact on improving access to treatment services. Through targeted efforts, AFMC succeeded in increasing the availability and use of Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT). By collaborating

ARTOR Consortium member	Individuals who received MAT
ARcare	174
White River	1,600

with ARTOR Consortium members, local healthcare providers, and creating new partnerships, AFMC expanded access to MAT services, helping individuals receive the comprehensive care they needed for long-term recovery.

Notable Treatment successes include:

- ARTOR Consortium member, ARcare provided MAT services to **174** individuals. AFMC was able to provide RCORP funding to ARcare to employ a nurse practitioner to provide MAT services within their rural clinic in Batesville, AR.
- ARTOR Consortium member, White River Medical Center opened a one-day-a-week clinic to provide OUD services to address the barrier to treatment. As a result of our work, over **1,600** individuals received MAT for SUD.

**Recovery: Establishing a New Recovery Community Organization**

One of AFMC’s most notable successes in recovery efforts was supporting Shalinda Woolbright in founding a new Recovery Community Organization (RCO). This RCO, Northeast Arkansas Divine

Intervention (NEADI), has become a vital hub for individuals seeking recovery support, offering a safe space, peer counseling, and connections to essential resources and services like housing, transitional living, treatment, and employment assistance. By adding this RCO to the community, AFMC strengthened the local recovery infrastructure and ensured ongoing support for individuals in various stages of recovery.



AFMC provided RCORP funding to NEADI to provide recovery support services. NEADI’s RCORP Peer Recovery Specialist, Nicole Hanner, was hired to provide recovery services and documented **307** individuals received recovery support services.

Notable NEADI Success Stories:

- NEADI assisted an individual who successfully graduated from *Project New Start*. *Project New Start* is a Christian nonprofit organization located in Newport, Arkansas that offers a variety of services for homeless people and people with substance use disorders. These services include residential addiction treatment, transitional living, and a jail ministry. They also have sober living apartments for families. This individual has since returned to become their House Manager.

ARTOR Consortium Member	# of Individuals who received Recovery Support Services
NEADI	307

- NEADI facilitated peer groups at White River Health Systems (WRHS). NEADI presented WRHS with a grant opportunity from the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) that would allow WRHS to hire a Peer Recovery Specialist to provide recovery support and services within their

Emergency Room. WRHS applied and was awarded the grant.

- NEADI assisted a Veteran who was admitted into the detox program at WRHS. The Veteran decided to try a faith-based program rather than going to the VA. He participated in the program until transitioning to a part-time job at a senior citizen's center. He is now living on his own and reaches out to NEADI for occasional support.

In conclusion, through these combined efforts in prevention, treatment, and recovery, AFMC's work under the HRSA RCORP-I II 2020 grant has had a lasting and meaningful impact on the community, helping to curb the opioid epidemic and providing much-needed support to individuals and families affected by substance use disorder (SUD) and opioid use disorder (OUD).

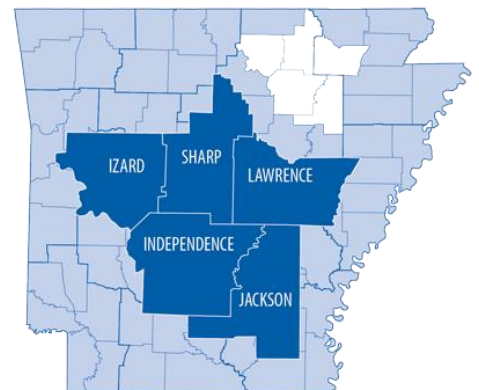
HRSA has empowered AFMC to make significant strides in serving our rural communities. We appreciate the partnership and trust you've placed in us and look forward to carrying forward the impact of this grant in our continued work.

## II. Please provide feedback on your grantee experience during the grant period

AFMC thoroughly enjoyed working with JBS and Susan Gadacz. They were instrumental in providing resources previously unknown to help the Consortium move forward after the effects of the COVID Pandemic took hold. Gadacz assisted AFMC with the guidance provided to our consortium on how to understand and collect the data required for PIMS. Additionally, our HRSA Project Officer was key to our success during a very challenging time and provided needed leadership as a driving force to keep us on task.

AFMC's Consortium members were committed during the pandemic to make the grant successful even as they were pulled into varying directions.

Part of our experience was convincing stakeholders what best practices were about harm reduction, recovery, treatment, and prevention. Onboarding the right Peer Recovery Specialist was paramount to our success. In making that connection, we were able to more effectively and quickly implement our workplan and vision.



# AFMC RCORP-I II 2020

