

Bridges of Iowa Opioid Settlement Fund Grant Public Statement

In the wake of the destruction that opioids continue to wreak in our communities, Bridges of Iowa will seek to improve the services it offers in an effort to curb the epidemic. To this end, our organization will hire two full-time Peer Support Professionals who have past experience with addiction and are now clean and sober. They will demonstrate to our clients and community that happiness and hope exist on the other side of addiction.

The Peer Support Professionals will assist all Bridges of Iowa clients in improving their support structure and their sense of self through positive reinforcement, motivation, coaching, and resource development. This project will improve client satisfaction, and will also improve the connection of clients and staff to external providers and agencies through increased utilization of resources and referrals. The increased awareness of resources within the community will improve the connection between organizations and decrease the “compartmentalization” of care.

By the end of a client’s stay in treatment, they will be able to identify support within their community and family, demonstrate a greater satisfaction with life and sobriety, and be more prepared to give back to the community in the form of financial stability and steady employment. All of these elements have been shown to provide substantial protection against returning to substance use.

This will be a wide-ranging project, and we expect that over 500 clients will be positively impacted by it over the next two years. Furthermore, we expect to see numerous indirect benefits to our community in all those who encounter our clients.

We are currently determining how to include the public in any project updates, but any general information pertaining to Bridges of Iowa can be found at our website - www.thebridgesofiowa.org. You can also reach out to the Project Manager, Patrick Johnson, at 515-777-1121 or pjohnson@bridgesofia.org for any further information.