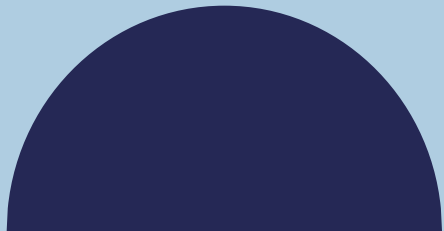


# Making Recommendation Implementation Work for Your Jurisdiction: Collaboration, Community, and NaloxBoxes

Heather Coia, MSW, LICSW, Rhode Island Department of Health



# Rhode Island: The Ocean State

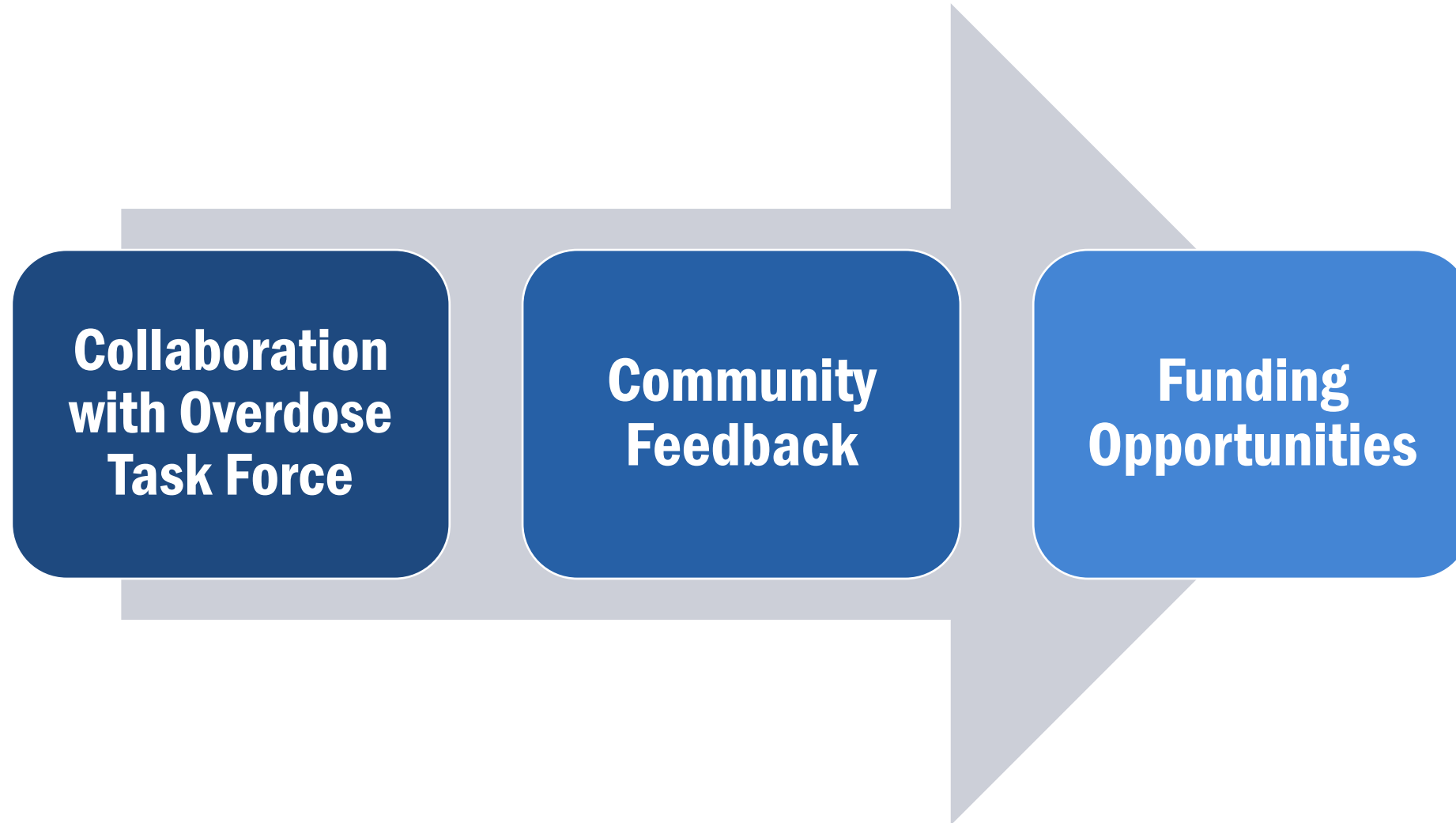


- Size: 37 miles wide x 48 miles long
- 400 miles of coastline
- 39 municipalities: 8 cities and 31 towns
- Five counties
- Population: ~1.1 million people

# Overdose Fatality Review in Rhode Island

- Statewide team only
- Year OFR started: 2016
- Legislation enacted: 2018
- Number of active members: 30
- Funding source: Opioid settlements
- Number of fatal overdose deaths in 2023: 404

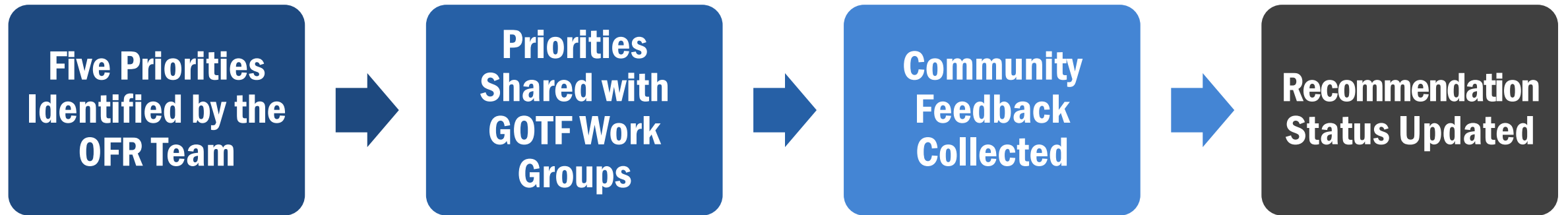
# A Three-Pronged Approach to OFR Recommendations in 2024



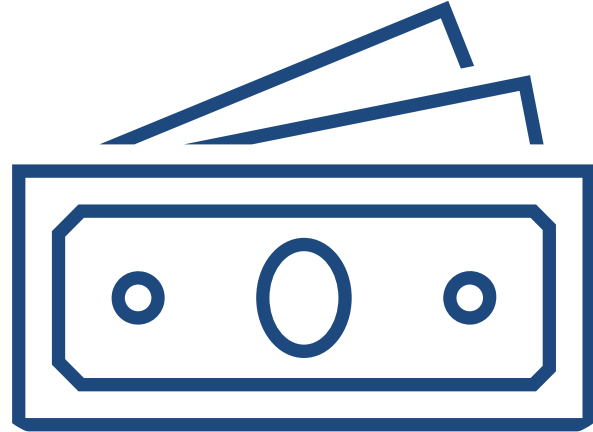
# Strategy #1: Collaboration with the Overdose Task Force

The Governor's Overdose Task Force (GOTF) is a statewide coalition with a strategic plan to respond to the overdose crisis in Rhode Island.

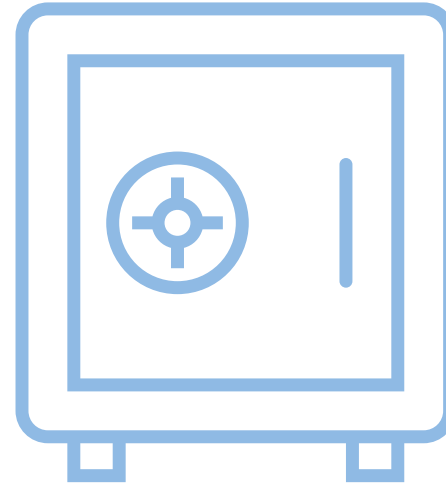
# Strategy #2: Community Feedback



# Strategy #3: Funding Opportunities



**OFR Mini-Grants**



**Federal Grants**

# OFR Mini-Grant: The Opioid Safe Community Project



- West Greenwich, RI
- Rural community
- Implementation by the town's emergency medical services (EMS) agency
- 13 NaloxBoxes installed along with training



# The Opioid Safe Community Project

**Recommendation:** Increase access to and saturation of naloxone by promoting the utilization of auto renewal naloxone prescriptions, over-the-counter naloxone (as it becomes available), NaloxBoxes, and harm reduction vending machines in overdose hotspots.

**Buy-In**

**Requests for  
More**

**17 Locations**

**137 Staff  
Members  
Trained**

**A Life Saved**

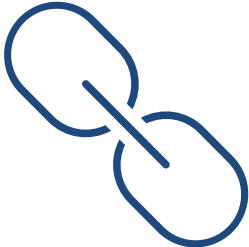


# NaloxBoxes

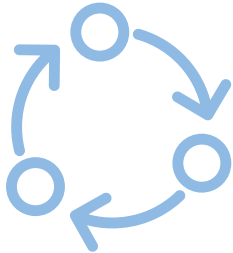


# Recommendations: Successes and Challenges in 2024

## Successes



Real-time Connections

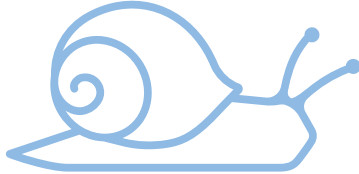


Improved Processes

## Challenges



Time-Consuming



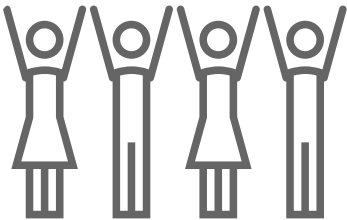
Slow



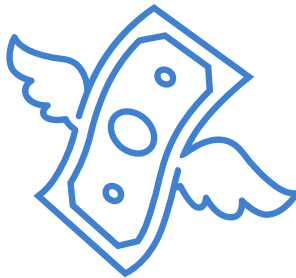
Increased Presence



Requests for Data



Mini-Grant Projects



Funding

# Increasing Impact of OFR Recommendations in 2025

**Quality Versus Quantity**

**New OFR Webpage**

**Revised Version of Quarterly Report**

**Expand Involvement at the Municipal and Legislative Levels**

**Statewide Evaluation**

# In Summary

- Implementing recommendations is not always smooth or perfect—be creative and find what works for your jurisdiction!
- The installation of NaloxBoxes paired with overdose response education in rural communities can be an effective way to make lifesaving naloxone more accessible in areas where resources are scarcer.



## Contact Information

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**Thank You**