



Hernando County Opioid Prevention Grant Program

The opioid crisis is one of the most significant public health challenges in the United States. Hernando County has not been spared from this epidemic, as the usage of opioids has increased rapidly in recent years. The medical need for Naloxone/Narcan has become imperative in the county, as it serves as a lifesaving medicine that can reverse an opioid overdose. Due to the opioid crisis, there has been an enormous increase with the amount of Naloxone that has been dispensed by our Emergency Medical Service personnel. There are times multiple doses are required to awaken an individual that may have overdosed, and the cost of the drug has steadily increased with the availability becoming increasingly harder to acquire. Hernando County Fire Rescue services a current population of 199,207 and has 262 personnel that are Advanced Life Support (ALS) certified and medically trained to assist. With the limitations of availability and the cost of the drug currently at \$211.00 for a box of 10 doses there is a financial strain placed on the department. The usage of Naloxone/Narcan has surged in Hernando County over the past few years due to the rising opioid usage. In 2020, the county used 374 doses of Narcan, which rose to 542 doses in 2021. For 2022, the number of Narcan doses used was 509 and in the first quarter of 2023 we have used 99 doses- with the peak of the year still to come.

Hernando County Fire Rescue with the aid of our Community Risk Reduction Team assists the community and schools to help educate on drug dependency. Currently there is a budget of \$3,500.00 for promotional activities and printing. With additional funding of \$20,000.00 we would assist in community awareness with billboards and pamphlets on the long-term effects of opioid abuse as well as the purchase of additional doses of naloxone/narcan to combat the increase in doses administered.

