

May 5, 2026

## Burlington OPC Project Update

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an update on behalf of the City of Burlington on the Overdose Prevention Center (OPC) project. This update covers project progress, financial spenddown, and key milestones.

### Funding & Spenddown Overview

The total award for the City's OPC contract is \$2.2 million. As of Quarter 3 FY26, \$1,000,000 has been invoiced under the prospective payment schedule, leaving \$1.2M remaining to be advanced. Actual expenditures total \$328,519.60, leaving \$1,871,480.40 unspent.

In July 2025 the City received a 24-month planning and capacity building grant to begin the implementation work required to open an OPC. The Operations Phase of the project will require a new contract with the state and is when FY27 funding will be needed and allocated.

Spending to date aligns with major deliverables including Service Assessment completion, implementation staffing, and siting exploration.

### Key Milestones Completed

- Staffing VCJR OPC Director, Implementation Manager, OPC consultant, and financial consultants, legal services all to support organizational capacity building related to building better financial systems, policies and procedures.
- Service Assessment completed; public report released this week.

### [Completed Service Assessment](#)

- Extensive community engagement across all required sectors that informed the Service Assessment and are the building blocks for ongoing partnerships and collaborative work to effectively integrate the OPC services into the larger treatment and recovery framework.
- Preliminary results shared with NPAs and DSU providers in Feb. & March.
- Public presentations planned for June to share the final Service Assessment Findings Report.
- VCJR and a commercial broker completed a comprehensive real estate analysis and site acquisition planning work.

### Site Acquisition Update:

VCJR, in collaboration with their broker, identified a potential site for Phase One activities in the winter of 2026. They also worked closely with the Special Assistant and the Mayor's Office during initial exploratory discussions. As part of early feasibility work, the Special Assistant

engaged key city councilors to support continued conversations with the potential property owner. Throughout this process, discussions remained internal and exploratory in nature, and no final siting decisions were made.

After receiving initial support from the City and State to further explore this potential site for Phase One activities with requirements for a communication plan that met OPC guidelines and City requirements, VCJR gained approval to enter into a confidential, nonbinding agreement allowing for a due diligence period to determine feasibility.

VCJR entered into that agreement on February 11th. By the morning of February 12th, VCJR's broker and the City were notified of a significant issue that ultimately rendered the site nonviable. Additional concerns also emerged regarding the procurement and purchase method for the building. The agreement was dissolved a few days thereafter.

The City of Burlington is working with VCJR to develop a revised plan regarding site procurement after the discovery of issues with the initial purchase approach that meets the needs of the City, State and VCJR. This work is ongoing and will resume with City Attorney's office and VCJR's legal team.

#### Clarifications:

- No site has been selected, and none has fallen through, the potential site identified did not meet the initial requirements to move it forward to the required steps for proposing a location to next steps.
- Early site reviews are normal feasibility work and are not commitments.
- The City will only bring forward a site to City Council, Zoning & Ordinance and public comment after it has been determined that it meets baseline required parameters and feasibility.
  
- Siting remains complex and requires careful analysis.
- Criteria include public health data, safety, ADA access, zoning, transportation, feasibility, and merchant impacts.
- Only sites meeting all criteria advance to the next steps.

#### If a Site Meets All Parameters

Public engagement begins, including:

- Engaging City Council & Zoning
  
- Public Comment
- Listening sessions
- Merchant outreach
- Door-to-door engagement

\* When a potential location is identified this will also trigger the start of a robust Neighborhood Impact Study done in collaboration with PIRE as part of the baseline and ongoing evaluation work required of this project.

#### Next Steps

- Release final Service Assessment Online May 2026
- Hold June 2026 community presentation to share the Service Assessment findings report & launch additional community engagement opportunities
- Continue siting explorations while remaining nimble. Ongoing work with VCJR's real estate broker and City officials.
- VCJR continue advancing policy and procedure development, hiring & training new staff.
- City recruiting/hiring OPC Grant Manager.
- May visits to OPC sites in Montreal Mobile and fixed sites, Kingston, Toronto, RI, and NYC. (This travel was not expensed to the grant and was paid for out of pocket, personally by the OPC Special Assistant to better inform herself and the City on OPC best practices and real time experiences)
- Goal: Location identified by end of calendar year 2026 and OPC stood up and consumption services offered in FY27.

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to sharing updates as work progresses.