



## **Opioid Remediation Settlement Flex Funds (ORS Flex Funds) Guidelines**

Opioid Remediation Settlement Flex Funds (ORS Flex Funds) have been allocated for consumers residing or seeking services within Region 5 Systems' catchment area. Flex funds may be used for Medicaid enrolled, non-Medicaid enrolled, underinsured, and uninsured individuals for items, resources, or services not otherwise covered by these plans, or other funding mechanisms.

**Purpose:** The purpose of ORS Flex Funds are to obtain items, resources, or services necessary to meet a consumer's identified treatment/rehabilitation goals that cannot be provided through other funding mechanisms or more traditional service provision modalities.

**Payment of Last Resort:** The agency/provider shall use any available alternative funding sources prior to utilizing ORS Flex Funds, including all other sources of flex funding from Region 5 Systems. These efforts shall be documented thoroughly on the request form when requesting approval of ORS Flex Funds from Region 5 Systems. Documentation shall also be maintained in the consumer file and made available upon request by Region 5 Systems.

If the consumer resides outside of Region 5 Systems catchment area, the agency/provider must seek funding from the appropriate Region of residence before submitting an application to Region 5 Systems.

**Allocation and Payment:** ORS Flex Funds cannot exceed \$3,000 per consumer in a 12-month period. The agency/provider may request a waiver to exceed the \$3,000 limit based on unforeseen circumstances and subject to approval by Region 5 Systems.

**A. Allowable use of funds:**

1. Transportation (gas, minor car repair, taxi, bus, handi-van)
2. Housing/Storage (one time deposit on residence, rent, temporary housing, motels, campground fees, storage unit while in residential-level treatment, etc.)
  - Consumers transitioning from treatment or jail to a recovery home, will be eligible for deposit and up to 4 weeks rent.
  - Consumers who are between jobs will be eligible for back rent, deposit, and up to 2 weeks rent.
  - Consumers who are unable to work due to illness/injury are eligible for back rent, deposit, and up to 4 weeks of rent with a doctor's note showing anticipated return to work date.

- If illness/injury is extensive, an additional request for assistant may be placed, however, consumer may be required to provide additional documentation regarding long-term sustainability.

3. Phones (phones, phone card, monthly service plans), provided consumer is not eligible for other free phone programs.
4. Food (while seeking treatment away from home).
5. Legal identification (certified birth certificate, Social Security Card, State ID, etc.)
6. Adaptive equipment (any device or machine to assist with a task of daily living)
7. Hygiene Items needed while in residential treatment
8. Other items may be considered by Region 5 Systems for approval if the request is deemed to be a barrier to treatment/rehabilitation of the consumer.

**B. Prohibited use of funds:**

1. Physical health appointments (dental, eye, hearing, physicals, etc.)
2. Consumer share of cost
3. Memberships (gym memberships)
4. Therapeutic or companion animals (including items to care for animals)
5. Nicotine/tobacco products
6. To provide cash to or for consumers
7. Guardianship expenses
8. Items that are not pertinent to treatment and recovery
9. Cable television or streaming services
10. To pay for items, resources, or services required to be provided by Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCO's) as outlined in the Medicaid State Plan or covered by person's insurance plan.
11. Personal obligations such as court fines, child support, other court required fees, interest fees, etc.

**C. Submission and Documentation:**

1. The agency/provider agrees to bill ORS Flex Funds within 30 days of approval and by providing appropriate documentation.
2. Consumer must be on the waitlist or enrolled in treatment/rehabilitation, drug court or other recovery services.
3. Region 5 Systems will ensure that the flex fund expenditure does not exceed budgeted amount and/or amount per consumer per 12-month period.
4. Flex funds will be monitored by Region 5 Systems to evaluate cost effectiveness and the impact of the flex fund resources on consumer outcomes.
5. Any expense billed through flex funds which is deemed unallowable will not be reimbursed by Region 5 Systems.
6. Completed ORS Flex Funds Request Form, W-9 (if applicable), and Eligibility Worksheet for NBHS Funded Services form must be completed and sent to Trina Janis, Opioid Project Manager, at [opioid@region5systems.net](mailto:opioid@region5systems.net) for review and approval.

- If requesting a car repair, a formal estimate from a car repair shop that has been in business for a minimum of one year is required to verify cost.
- If requesting a storage unit or rent, other than a recovery home, an invoice must be included with the reimbursement request form.

7. Region 5 Systems will review and determine approval of ORS Flex Funds requests within 7 business days of receipt of a complete application. Disbursement of funds may take up to three weeks upon submission of appropriate documentation for payment.
8. Region 5 Systems will make a minimum of two calls and/or emails to the agency/provider contact on submitted ORS Flex Funds Request Form to seek additional information for incomplete applications.
  - Incomplete ORS Flex Funds Request Forms will be removed from consideration after two weeks. Agency/provider may resubmit ORS Flex Funds Request Form once all information is complete for reconsideration.
9. Region 5 Systems will audit recipients of flex funds to ensure proper use of funding and transparency as outlined in John Hopkins Guidelines for the use of Opioid Settlement Funds.