

## **Sobering Alternative for Recovery (SAFR) Center Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### **What is the SAFR Center?**

The Pima County Sobering Alternative for Recovery (SAFR) Center will provide stabilization and sobering services supporting access to substance use disorder (SUD) care in a therapeutic environment.

### **What is the SAFR Center's purpose?**

The SAFR Center is designed to provide immediate, 24/7 low-barrier access to SUD stabilization services for adults. It will serve as a deflection point for first responders, reduce unnecessary emergency system utilization, and build a foundation for more effective, person-centered care in Pima County.

### **Who can receive services at the SAFR Center?**

The SAFR Center, operated by Community Bridges, Inc. (CBI), provides SUD stabilization services to individuals 18 years of age and older, regardless of gender, insurance status, and citizenship status.

### **Where is the SAFR Center located?**

250 South Toole Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85701

### **What are the hours of operation?**

The SAFR Center is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### **How do people access services?**

The SAFR Center is a low-barrier facility that accepts:

- Individuals who walk in requesting services, except those meeting exclusion criteria
- Individuals dropped off by first responders, including serving as a drop-off/disposition/deflection center for law enforcement

### **What is meant by “low-barrier” and “no wrong door”?**

The SAFR Center pilot is designed to reduce barriers to care and connect people to appropriate services. The program uses trauma-informed care, peer support, and a “no wrong door” approach – meaning the focus is on meeting individuals where they are, stabilizing them safely, and connecting them to the right next step.

### **What services does the SAFR Center provide?**

The SAFR Center will provide screening, stabilization, treatment support, and connections to ongoing care, including:

Screening and assessment

- Screening and assessment of medical and behavioral health status

- Assessment incorporating standard biopsychosocial elements and social determinants of health
- Use of American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria for assessment of SUD and level-of-care recommendations

#### Crisis stabilization

- Assessment, evaluation, observation, treatment, and stabilization planning

#### On-site treatment and connection to SUD services

- Induction and/or continuation of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder
- Management of substance withdrawal
- Referral and connection to various levels of care (using ASAM criteria)
- Dispensing take-home naloxone upon discharge or request

#### **Does someone need insurance to receive services?**

No. The SAFR Center serves adults regardless of insurance status.

#### **Will the SAFR Center accept everyone?**

The SAFR Center will accept walk-ins and referrals except for individuals meeting exclusion criteria. When someone needs a different or higher level of medical or psychiatric care, staff will help direct them to the appropriate setting.

#### **How does the SAFR Center support first responders and the broader system?**

The SAFR Center is intended to support first responders by providing a safe, therapeutic deflection option meant to help reduce unnecessary emergency department use and supporting more appropriate, person-centered interventions for adults experiencing substance use disorder.

#### **Who operates the SAFR Center?**

The SAFR Center pilot is operated by Community Bridges, Inc. (CBI).

#### **Who are the SAFR Center partners?**

CBI will partner with:

- CODAC Health
- Recovery in Wellness
- University of Arizona School of Nutritional Sciences and Wellness

#### **How is the SAFR Center funded?**

The [Pima County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved creating a medically supported space for individuals experiencing substance use disorder](#). The \$1.8 million

contract, which uses opioid lawsuit settlement funds, was awarded to Community Bridges to establish the Sobering Alternative to Recovery (SAFR) Center at 250 S. Toole Ave. Community Bridges will partner with CODAC Health, Recovery in Wellness, and the University of Arizona School of Nutritional Sciences and Wellness for the project.

**What is the One Arizona Agreement?**

The funds are part of the [One Arizona Agreement](#), which is distributing \$1.215 billion in opioid settlement funds over 18 years to the state, counties, cities, and towns affected by the opioid epidemic. The Pima County Health Department is the lead agency to manage county funds and is tasked with coordinating payments to municipalities. The Pima County region, including its jurisdictional partners, is due to receive \$126.8 million per the One Arizona settlement.