

Opioid Abatement Funding and Uses



What is the opioid abatement funding and where did it come from?

- Many states sued opioid manufacturers, distributors, and pharmacies for their roles in the opioid epidemic and in 2021 nationwide settlements were reached to resolve all litigation against these entities
- Funding disbursement began in June 2022 and will continue through 2038
- Massachusetts will receive over \$500 million in total from all settlements
- 60% of the funding allocated to the Commonwealth goes to the statewide Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund which supplements prevention, harm recovery, treatment, and recovery programs across the state
- Other portion of funds allocated to municipalities to best serve those communities

What can opioid settlement funding be used for?

- MA State Subdivision Agreement for Statewide Opioid Settlements determine what municipalities can use their funding towards
 - OUD treatment access
 - Support people in treatment and recovery
 - Connections to care
 - Harm reduction
 - Address the needs of criminal-justice-involved persons
 - Support pregnant or parenting individuals and their families, including babies with neonatal abstinence syndrome
 - Prevent misuse of opioids and implement prevention education

Focuses of the funding use

- Reflect the input of the community, those with lived experience, experts in treatment and prevention, and those carrying out the abatement work
- Address disparities in existing services and outcomes and improve equity
- Address mental health conditions, substance use disorders, and other behavioral health needs that co-occur with opioid use disorder
- Leverage programs and services already reimbursed by state agencies, including direct services
- Encourage innovation, fill gaps in existing services, includes evidence-based and evidence-informed programs

What have other Massachusetts towns and cities done?

- Primary state data available for fiscal year 2023, with larger communities providing some updates on municipal websites
- Reporting requirement - must report if received annual funding over \$35,000, can still choose to report and many communities have
- As of FY23, only 5% of disbursed funds had been spent in the state overall
- Overall trend was that most municipalities were in the planning stages at that time
 - Collecting community input, primarily through surveys, task forces

Boston

- Currently have some of the best reporting data
- Started with a community engagement survey then partnered with community organizations to hold listening sessions, focused on hearing from those most directly impacted by the opioid epidemic
- Two main projects undertaken so far:
 - Family Overdose Support Fund - annual fund that provides financial support to Boston families who have lost a loved one to an overdose, starting with \$250,000
 - Community Overdose Response Grants - \$1 million in grants to community-based organizations to prevent overdose deaths and provide treatment options in neighborhoods with highest overdose rates, focused on Black and Latino communities

Worcester

- Spent all their money so far, about \$850,000
- Over half of that used to pay for a mobile crisis team to respond to mental health and substance use emergencies
- Remainder used to provide outreach to those experiencing homelessness and substance use
- Worcester is also part of the Central MA Regional Public Health Alliance, along with the towns of Shrewsbury, Grafton, and West Boylston
 - Current proposal to form a regional opioid partnership to pool their resources and develop community-specific strategies for combating the opioid epidemic in this area

Regional Partnerships

- The state encourages municipalities receiving smaller sums to combine their funds and make larger, regional change
- Berkshires - some small communities have allocated their full funding to the Berkshire Overdose Addiction Prevention Collaborative to support the work the organization does in the region (Hancock, Cheshire
- Martha's Vineyard - Island Wide Substance Use Coalition has helped towns plan, with money from Oak Bluffs going to fund island-wide initiatives through existing programs

Smaller-Scale Efforts

- Longmeadow - installed a sharps kiosk for safe disposal (~\$3,000)
- Uxbridge - installed Naloxboxes to increase naloxone availability (~\$1,900)
- Lakeville - supported local prescription return (~\$1,300)
- Numerous communities, including Wakefield and Leominster, used at least a portion of their funds to increase current services like their recovery center, recovery coaches, and mental health professionals

What are other states doing?

New York eligible expenditures:

- Treat opioid use disorder (OUD)
- Support people in treatment and recovery
- Connections to care
- Address the needs of criminal justice involved persons
- Address the needs of pregnant or parenting women and their families, including babies with neonatal abstinence syndrome
- Prevent over-prescribing and ensure appropriate prescribing and dispensing of opioids
- Prevent misuse of opioids
- Prevent overdose deaths and other harms (harm reduction)
- Several other strategies including support services for first responders, training, and research

Other states continued

Vermont eligible expenditures:

- Preventing overdose deaths and other harms
- Treatment of opioid use disorder
- Support for individuals in treatment and recovery and their families
- Connecting individuals who need help to the help needed
- Addressing the needs of criminal justice-involved persons
- Addressing the needs of pregnant or parenting individuals and their families, including babies with neonatal abstinence syndrome
- Preventing overprescribing and ensuring appropriate prescribing and dispensing of opioids
- Preventing the misuse of opioids
- Other strategies including support services for first responders, training, and research
- Implementing other evidence-based or evidence-informed programs or strategies that support prevention, harm reduction, treatment, or recovery of opioid use disorder and any co-occurring substance use or mental health disorder
- The cost of the administrative, technical, and legal assistance provided to the Advisory Committee by the Department of Health.

Resources for learning more

- The Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative (PAARI) has compiled a state-by-state guide with funding details and links to state specific resources

Massachusetts



Details

Agreements/ Information:

- [Massachusetts Agreement](#)
- [Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund](#)

Controlling Entities:

- Fund: Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund (ORRF) Advisory Council
- Local: Cities, Towns, and Counties

Contact Information:

- ORRF Advisory Council:
OpioidRecoveryandRemediationFund@mass.gov
- General Inquiries: MAOpioidSettlements@mass.gov

Important Resources:

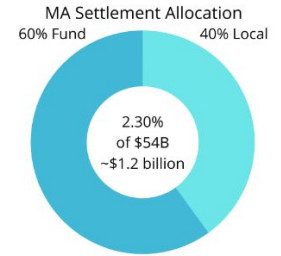
- [Guidance for Municipalities Utilizing Opioid Settlement Abatement Payments](#)
- [AG's Opioid Settlement Funds Website](#)
- Funding Opportunities:
[RISE Grant](#) from ORRF Community-Led Grants
Due: June 14, 2024
- [Municipal Abatement Payments](#)
- [MA Opioid Settlement Funds FAQs](#)
- [ORRF Advisory Council, ORRF Meeting Materials](#)
- [March 2023 AG Webinar on OSF](#)

Meetings:

ORRF: [ORRF Advisory Council](#), Next meeting: TBA

Notes:

PAARI programs are specifically mentioned as approved uses for funding



References

Massachusetts state dashboard for FY23 reports: <http://caremass.org/data-dashboard/>

Massachusetts state site for opioid settlement funds:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/learn-about-the-ags-statewide-opioid-settlements-with-opioid-industry-defendants>

New York State Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Board site:

<https://oasas.ny.gov/opioid-settlement-fund-advisory-board>

H.711 No. 118 Vermont's Opioid Settlement Act: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2022/H.711>

PAARI State-by-State Guide: <https://paarius.org/opioid-settlement-funds/>

Contact us

For more information, contact Emily Kirby at ekirby@townofware.com

Slides put together by UMass Amherst MPH students Emma Berthiaume and Rachel Taylor for QHSUA summer internship, 2024