Opioid Settlement Fund Process Map

The purpose of this map is to visualize an Opioid Settlement Fund planning process that aids subdivisions in utilizing best practices, following the John's Hopkins Principles for the Use of Funds From the Opioid Litigation, and ensure spending follows Maine's Exhibit E: List of Opioid Remediation Uses. Any underlined text is a link to a resource intended to further aid Opioid Settlement Fund spending processes.

Maine receives funding from opioid litigation

Political Subdivisions **receive funds**
Funds will pay out until 2038

Assess Current Local Capacity
Counties, cities, and towns (i.e., political subdivisions) assess current substance use burdens and resources, community needs assessments, and current governing body capacity to determine a mechanism for allocating funds

Leverage an existing Council (e.g., an existing task force, commission)

Establish a Settlement Council: an entity that works with subdivision decision makers to decide how best to use dollars from Opioid Settlements
- The Principles Quick Guide to Creating a Settlement Council
- Keys to a Successful Community Health Advisory Council

Town/City Officials make spending decisions

Decide on the council's roles and responsibilities

Council directly allocates funding

Council takes on an advisory role and provides advice or feedback to the subdivision on the best use of the dollars; craft recommendations

Invite Representatives to the council.
Council should include a diverse mix of government officials, members of communities most affected by the opioid epidemic, and organizations that specialize in opioid abatement

Develop a memo or policy demonstrating why funding can be directly allocated without a commission or council

Develop a policy on how spending decisions will be made

Understand the Needs of the Community

Conduct a Needs Assessment
- A Quick Guide to Conducting a Needs Assessment
- Conducting a Community Needs Assessment
- Developing a Plan for Assessing Local Needs and Resources

Set up a mechanism for public engagement
- Expanding Community Connections
- Rural Community Engagement Resource Guide
- Inclusive Public Engagement
- Useful Concepts for the Practice of Community Engagement
- Community Engagement: An Essential Component of an Effective and Equitable Substance Use Prevention System

Utilize a recent, existing public assessment of substance use services and needs

Gather input from a wide network of people who work with youth and people who use drugs
- Engaging with People with Lived Experience in Opioid Settlement Decision Making

Community Surveys

Written comments from the public

Public input at meetings

Identify spending priorities and decide process for allocating the funds
- Principles for the Use of Funds from the Opioid Litigation
- Opioid-Overdose Reduction Continuum of Care Approach
- Strategies for Effectively Allocating Opioid Settlement Funds

Competitive grant application

Direct allocation of funds

Create grant application

Issue request for proposals

Council scores applications and allocates funding/makes recommendations for spending

Ensure spending supports the Core Opioid Abatement Strategies and is based in Evidence-Based strategies and programs
- Broaden access to naloxone and increase use of medications to treat opioid use disorder
- Provide treatment and supports during pregnancy and postpartum periods
- Expand services for neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome
- Fund warm hand-off programs and recovery services
- Improve treatment in jails and prisons
- Enrich prevention strategies
- Expand harm reduction programs
- Support data collection and research

Additional resources to support evidence-based spending
- Equity Considerations for Local Health Departments on Opioid Settlement Funds
- SAMHSA Evidence-Based Practice Resource Center
- National Overdose Prevention Network Resource Library
- Supporting Local Decision Makers Managing Opioid Settlement Funds: A Public Health Approach

Select and implement application/project/initiative that best fits Settlement Fund guidelines and community needs

Implement reporting mechanism to monitor spending, track progress, and assess impact of selected spending
- The Principles Quick Guide to Monitoring Opioid Settlement Fund Spending

Regular evaluation of funds on how they have supported evidence-based care, community priorities, youth prevention, and equity
- Data Collection and Sharing for Program Evaluation and Performance Measurement
- Supporting Decision Makers Using Opioid Settlement Funds: How to Monitor, Evaluate, and Track the Impact of Opioid Settlement Fund Initiatives

Promote Transparency
Public dashboards or annual reports
- Navigating Settlement Fund Decision-Making with Integrity, Transparency, and Accountability
- Best Practices for Promoting Transparency at the Local Level
- Starting an Open Data Initiative

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