# **Policy Title: Spending Priorities Process Explanation**

# Section I. Background

States, cities, counties and tribes are receiving funds from opioid manufacturers, pharmaceutical distributors, and pharmacies as a result of litigation brought against these companies for their role in the opioid epidemic that has claimed more than half a million lives over the past two decades.[[1]](#footnote-2)

This (memo/ policy brief/document) outlines a proposal for the use of the opioid settlement monies received by the (SUBDIVISION NAME). Currently, [subdivision] has received $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from these settlements, part of the $238 million Maine will receive by 2038. Funding amounts will change annually, but [subdivision] is expected to receive an average of $ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ per year.

Specific to the J&J, Distributor, CVS, Teva, Allergan and Walmart settlements, funds must be spent on opioid remediation. Opioid Remediation is defined as:

*Care, treatment, and other programs and expenditures (including reimbursement for past such programs or expenditures except where this Agreement restricts the use of funds solely to future Opioid Remediation) designed to address the misuse and abuse of opioid products, treat or mitigate opioid use or related disorders, or mitigate other alleged effects of, including on those injured as a result of, the opioid epidemic.*

This proposal explains (SUBDIVISION’S) priorities for funding and the process established to determine how funds will be spent.

# Section II. Spending Priorities

(SUBDIVISION NAME) aims to prioritize opioid settlement funds for activities that meet the definition of opioid remediation, are evidence-based strategies or promising practices, and align with allowable uses per [Exhibit E](chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https:/www.maine.gov/ag/docs/Distributors%20MOU.pdf), which outlines nationally-approved opioid abatement strategies guiding opioid settlement fund spending.

We aim to prioritize funding initiatives under four pillars that offer a multifaceted approach: Prevention, Harm Reduction, Treatment, and Recovery. (YOU MAY PICK ONE/ALL/SOME) Each pillar targets a different aspect of the crisis, creating a comprehensive strategy that increases the likelihood of long-term success.

**Prevention** refers to activities and programs that work to educate and support communities and individuals to prevent the use and misuse of drugs and the development of substance use disorders.

**Harm Reduction** is an evidence-based approach that refers to policies, programs, and practices that aim to minimize the negative effects of drug use.

**Treatment** issafe withdrawal management from substances, and therapy to develop skills for staying safe and sober.

**Recovery** is a holistic journey where people improve their health and wellness, live self-directed lives, and strive towards full potential.

# III. Process

(SUBDIVISION NAME) used a collaborative process to determine the use of opioid settlement funds, ensuring that the funds will be directed towards targeted, impactful activities.

Provide a brief explanation of the process used to determine spending priorities. Consider including:

* + Who determined how funds will be spent
  + Who was consulted on how to spend funds
  + How public messaging and input was included in the process

IV. Funding Decision(s)

After careful consideration, it was determined that (INITIAL/ONGOING) opioid settlement funds for (SUBDIVISION NAME) will be used for (ACTIVITY or ACTIVITIES) over a period of (TIME FRAME).

INSERT DESCRIPTION OF FUNDED ACTIVITY/ACTIVITIES.

(SUBDIVISION NAME) plans to monitor and revisit the opioid settlement fund activities (TIME FRAME- ANNUALLY/WHEN NEW FUNDING IS ALLOCATED etc.) using the process outlined above to ensure that the funds continue to be used effectively and in accordance with the guidance given.

1. [https://www.maine.gov/ag/docs/Principles for the use of Funds from the Opioid Litigation.pdf](https://www.maine.gov/ag/docs/Principles%20for%20the%20use%20of%20Funds%20from%20the%20Opioid%20Litigation.pdf) accessed 10.31.2024 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)