

# The Opioid Settlement Funds

## A Quick Guide

### What are the Opioid Settlements?

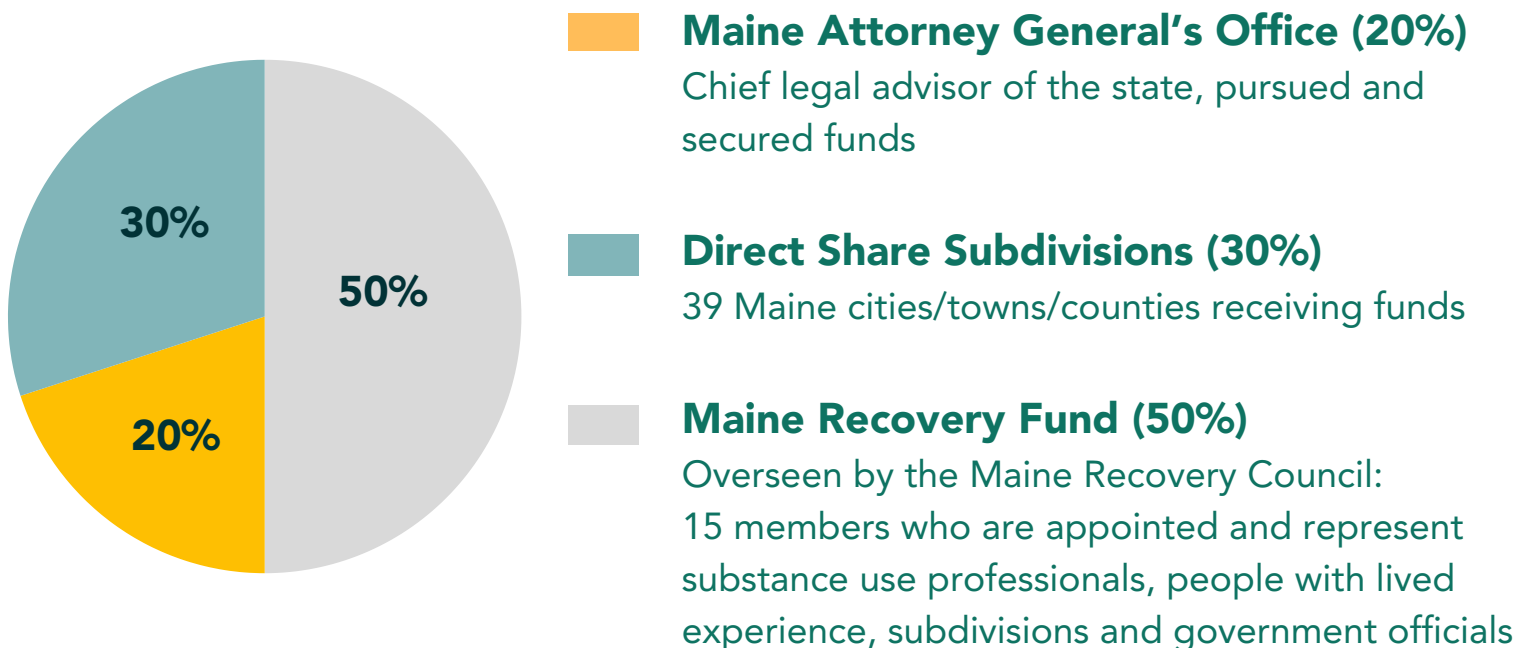
The opioid settlements refer to payments from opioid manufacturers, distributors, and pharmacies to settle various lawsuits against their companies across the US.

**1990's:** Pharmaceutical companies falsely advertised opioids as non-addictive, fueling the opioid crisis.

**2021:** States and local subdivisions across the country sued the major companies that made, distributed, and advertised opioids as non-addictive. The country was able to reach a settlement agreement.

**2022-2038:** Maine is expected to gradually receive \$230 million allocated between the Maine Attorney General's Office, Maine Recovery Council, and local subdivisions to address the opioid crisis throughout communities in Maine.

### Distribution of Settlement Funds



Funding comes with evidence-based guidance to ensure it is used to address opioid misuse and overdose. Efforts to reduce opioid use fall into 4 categories:

**Prevention**

**Harm Reduction**

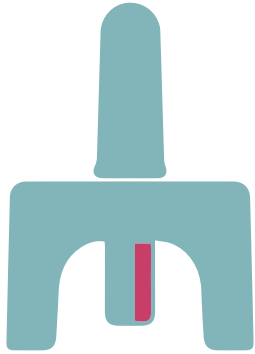
**Treatment**

**Recovery**

## Prevention

Educate | Reduce Risk | Support

Substance use prevention activities are designed to reduce drug misuse and disorders through the education of individuals and communities. Programs can target groups from children to prescribers. Prevention is crucial because it reduces early use (~1/2 of those with substance use disorders started using before age 14), lowers risk of negative outcomes, and provides a positive return on investment for communities.



## Harm Reduction

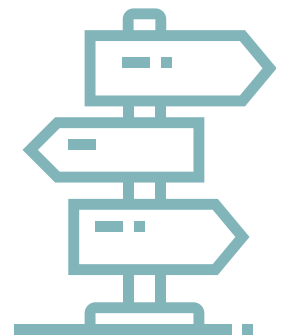
Reduce stigma | Narcan | Link to Care

Harm reduction is an evidence based approach that reduces drug use risks like disease transmission and overdose, by providing stigma-free care tailored to the needs of people who use drugs. Examples include syringe service programs, Narcan distribution, overdose education, and access to low-barrier health care. Harm reduction is key as it reduces stigma, lowers risk, and improves access to treatment for those who may otherwise go without.

## Treatment

Withdrawal Management | Therapy | Medication

Substance use disorder treatment includes withdrawal management and therapy to help individuals stay safe and sober. Options include withdrawal management, residential rehabilitation, outpatient programs, and medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD). Since there is no one size fits all approach, a range of evidence-based treatment programming is essential.



## Recovery

Individualistic | Holistic | Community

Recovery is a holistic journey where people improve their health, live self directed lives, and strive towards full potential. It can involve medication, recovery residencies, faith-based work, peer and family support, and community engagement. Recovery is unique to each person, but a holistic recovery journey focuses on the four key dimensions of recovery: health, home, purpose, and community.

**MOSS**

MAINE OPIOID  
SETTLEMENT  
SUPPORT CENTER

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The MOSS Center is here to help those receiving funds by identifying needs, sharing information, connecting with partners, promoting best practices, and evaluating efforts.

With support from Maine Attorney General Aaron M. Frey's office, our services are no cost.