# **Policy Title: Grant Application Process**

# 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.

This proposal includes the establishment of a committee composed of individuals (describe), and sets (SUBDIVISION’S) priorities for funding. INSERT HIGH LEVEL EXPLANTION OF GRANT PROCESS. The committee would then provide scores and recommendations to the full (entity) for final approval.

# Section II. Proposal

A community-centered approach is crucial to ensure opioid settlement monies are used effectively and meaningfully. By involving individuals with lived experience in the decision-making process, the committee can leverage their unique insights and firsthand knowledge to make informed decisions that genuinely reflect the needs of the community. This inclusive strategy fosters a sense of ownership and empowerment among community members, which is critical for the success of any intervention. The grant applications will be evaluated under four key pillars – Prevention, Harm Reduction, Treatment, and Recovery - with priorities under those pillars set by the (ENTITY).

Addressing the opioid crisis responsibly requires a multifaceted approach, encompassing prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery. 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.

This holistic approach ensures that opioid settlement monies are used to increase community capacity and build critical services across the full continuum of care and address the opioid crisis at all stages, from prevention through recovery. By prioritizing these speciﬁc areas, we can ensure that the settlement monies are directed towards targeted, impactful initiatives.

APPROACH (OPTIONAL) Due to (ENTITY’S) limited resources and funding, to ensure sustainability of the funding we do have, INSERT STATEMENT ABOUT GRANT PROCESS, i.e., it is essential to focus on one-time startup funding rather than ongoing programmatic funding. While programmatic funding can create dependencies and unsustainable financial commitments, one-time startup funding empowers organizations and initiatives to become self-sufficient. By providing the necessary resources to establish robust, independent programs, we can ensure these projects continue to thrive without relying on continuous funding from the city. This approach allows us to maximize the impact of the settlement monies and ensures that the benefits of these initiatives extend well beyond the initial funding period.

Under this proposal each pillar will receive ($$ AMOUNT) in one-time startup funding grants to be distributed either to one project or multiple, depending on the applications received. This targeted approach not only addresses immediate needs but also lays the groundwork for sustainable, long-term solutions.

# Section III. Pillars and Priorities

(SUBDIVISION) is prioritizing the following areas under each of the four spending pillars and the intended objective:

Prevention Priority:

Objective:

Harm Reduction Priority:

Objective:

Treatment Priority:

Objective:

Recovery Priority:

Objective:

# Section IV. Committee Composition

The committee will be made up of individuals that will represent the diverse needs, strengths, and experiences of the SUBDIVISION community related to substance use. This ensures that the allocation of funds is guided by firsthand knowledge and insights. It is recommended that anyone serving on the committee be prohibited from submitting a grant application on behalf of any organization they work for or serve on the board of, to ensure there are no conflicts of interest.

The committee should include: (ADD/SUBTRACT MEMBERS; CUSTOMIZE AS NEEDED)

* A Member of the (ENTITY; i.e., city council, town council, steering committee, etc.), who serves as the Chair of the Committee;
* A person who identities as someone with personal experience of opioid use disorder;
* A person who has lost a partner, spouse, or other close family member from opioid overdose death;
* A medical professional with experience working in substance use disorder treatment;
* A person who actively holds a role as a liaison (who is not a law enforcement officer) between local law enforcement and residents living in recovery or with active opioid use disorder;
* A person with expertise in recovery housing;
* A person with experience in the field of primary prevention and/or expertise in youth programming;
* A person working in the field of harm reduction;

* The (City Manager/Town Manager/County Official) or their designee (ex officio).

**Responsibilities:** The committee will be responsible for receiving, scoring grant applications and making funding recommendations to (ENTITY) based on the outlined priorities under each pillar.

# Section V. Grant Application Process

The (SUBDIVISION) will distribute opioid settlement monies through a competitive grant application process.

To ensure an efficient and timely process for the allocation of the opioid settlement funds, it is recommended that we follow best practices for distribution of opioid settlement funds put forth by Johns Hopkins[[2]](#footnote-3) as well as guidance from the Maine Opioid Settlement Support (MOSS) Center. We can utilize the MOSS Center’s template for grant applications, with any necessary edits tailored to our specific needs, which will expedite the review and scoring process, saving us time and resources. These applications would then be given to the committee to score and provide recommendations to the (ENTITY) for final approval.

# Section VI. Action Requested

Approval of the proposal to allocate the opioid settlement monies according to the outlined pillars and priorities, and the establishment of a committee of individuals with lived experience to oversee the grant application process.

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)
2. *Ibid.* [↑](#footnote-ref-3)