

Michigan Opioid Settlement Funds Toolkit

A Guide for Local Spending

January 2023

Michigan lost more than 3,000 individuals to overdose and had approximately 31,000 non-fatal emergency department visits due to overdose in 2021.¹ The impact of the opioid overdose crisis, and the broader overdose epidemic, extends beyond the statistics of overdoses into personal, social, economic, medical and community-based factors and outcomes. The [Michigan Opioid Settlement Funds Toolkit: A Guide for Local Spending](#) is a roadmap for local governments to assist with planning for, and utilization of, opioid settlement funds. The toolkit is intended to provide direction on process and linkage to existing resources provided by local and national entities and to assist with creation of targeted efforts from any starting place.

- **Purpose** - The toolkit begins with the purpose of the document, highlighting the intention to assist with planning for, and utilization of, opioid settlement funds.
- **Settlements overview** - The next section provides an overview of the opioid settlements, including information on the state and local agreement, estimated funds per county, future funds and tribal settlements.
- **Statistical overview and local data** - The toolkit describes the scope of the overdose crisis, providing state-level data and where to access local data.
- **Spending principles** – This section provides an overview of the spending principles laid out by Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and FXB Center for Health and Human Rights, as well as indicators for spending readiness from Johns Hopkins.
- **Steps for spending** – This section is the core component of the toolkit and provides a framework for where jurisdictions can begin their process and general steps to follow, including stakeholder engagement, gathering information, determining the process moving forward and monitoring and accountability.

¹ <https://www.michigan.gov/opioids/category-data>

- **Strategies for spending** - In the strategies for spending section, information is outlined providing key strategies from the State of Michigan, Exhibit E of the current settlements and Johns Hopkins.

Recommended Steps for Spending

The recommended steps outlined aid with understanding of where to start when planning for and use of opioid settlement dollars. Steps take into account the various stages of jurisdictions across the state of Michigan

Stakeholder engagement

- Utilize existing community resources to ensure that those with expertise are represented when planning for spending (health departments, prevention coalitions, harm reduction providers, behavioral health provider agencies, recovery support providers, people with lived experience, etc.)
- Consider additional collaborators, such as surrounding counties and regional entities
- Ensure an equity lens, consider who is not at the table
- Ensure those with lived experience with substance use disorder and people who use drugs are engaged in the process

Gather information

- Review needs assessments, landscape analyses, gap inventories, reports, plans and other information from stakeholders
- Identify if additional information on community priorities needs to be gathered
- Determine the specific needs of your community, consider new and existing programming
- Utilize the [MAC Opioid Settlement Resource Center's Resource Library](#) to explore principles and tracking, evidence-based and promising practices, statewide tools, local government tools, legal resources, equity resources, other toolkits and reports and additional opportunities for funding

Determine process moving forward

- Identify where to start (multi-sector strategic planning, strategy selection, spending plan development, etc.)

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- Determine where capacity to support spending is present and sustainability of funding and strategies, including braiding activities and funding
- Choose strategies that are allowable and align with the needs of your community
- Sustainability planning should account for polysubstance use and the need to adapt strategies to address the changing drug use and overdose environment
- Ensure equity and lived experience with substance use disorder and people who use drugs are at the core of planning and design

Monitoring and accountability

- There are no comprehensive reporting requirements for the Distributors and J&J settlements; while such reporting is not legally required, it is essential to provide transparency and accountability for the spending process
- It is recommended that local governments create annual financial and impact reports; these reports may include the amount of funds spent, strategies and programs funded, impact of programs funded, process of strategy selection and dollar amount determinations and other relevant information
- Accountability and evaluation associated with the outcomes and effectiveness of funding and programming should also be considered

Local governments sit at the forefront of the crisis and have the greatest ability to impart change. MAC is able to provide technical assistance and support to local governments, at no charge, in strategic planning, policy analysis, strategy determination, spending plan development, monitoring and evaluation as well as linkage to resources. To request technical assistance through MAC, local governments can complete the [Opioid Settlement Subdivision Support Request Form](#).

For additional information visit MAC's [Opioid Settlement Resource Center](#) or contact Amy Dolinky, Technical Adviser Opioid Settlement Funds Planning and Capacity Building, at dolinky@micounties.org.