



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 3, 2023

Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee Opens Portal to Collect Public Input on Funding of Initiatives to Combat the Opioid Crisis

Public Comment Portal is Open from October 17, 2023, through November 17, 2023

(HARTFORD, CT) – The Connecticut Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee (OSAC) today announced the upcoming launch of an online portal to collect input from diverse stakeholders regarding recommendations for funding of initiatives to combat the opioid crisis that are evidence-based or a promising practice. Connecticut is amid an opioid overdose crisis; there were 1,464 deaths in 2022 alone. The state has an unprecedented opportunity to use funds received from the settlement of opioid-related litigation to address this crisis and reduce overdose deaths and opioid-related adverse personal and public health effects in the immediate, near, and long-term.

The link to submit a funding recommendation, entitled “How to Make a Funding Request to OSAC,” is located at <https://portal.ct.gov/COSAC>. **This link will be active for a 30-day period from October 17, 2023, through November 17, 2023.** Any member of the public (e.g., subject matter experts, individuals with lived experience, preventionists, academics, service providers, municipalities, policy makers, researchers, etc.) may submit an idea on how these funds could be used to help those most impacted by the opioid crisis. After submitting a recommendation, the user will receive confirmation via email acknowledging receipt of submitted recommendations. Due to the expected large number of submissions, the OSAC is asking that users do not submit multiple submissions for the same recommendation, and do not use the link for inquiries on the status of their submission. The OSAC and its related subcommittees will organize and review submissions and follow the approved guidelines for processing recommendations. Please note that submitting a recommendation does not guarantee funding. The OSAC Committee will review and make determinations on all recommendations.

“Public participation is not just a crucial element in addressing the opioid crisis, it is the compass that guides our efforts,” said Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) Commissioner Nancy Navarretta. “Only by actively involving the community can we truly understand the nuanced challenges and perspectives surrounding opioid use and overdose deaths in our state. In the collective wisdom of our citizens and experts lies the path to effective, compassionate, and enduring solutions.”

The OSAC is a [legislatively mandated](#) body co-chaired by Commissioner Navarretta and supported by DMHAS staff. Legal settlements with prescription opioid manufacturers and distributors resulted in large payments to be transferred to the state for the intended use of addressing the public health consequences of the prior decade’s increase in opioid prescribing. This Opioid Settlement Fund has provided the State

of Connecticut with the means to implement initiatives and interventions to reduce overdose deaths in the state.

For additional background, please refer to the [OSAC webpage](#). All documents related to the settlement dollars, the responsibility and scope of the OSAC, as well as permitted uses of the funding (i.e., Exhibit E) are posted. If you require a special accommodation to participate in this public input process, please contact Katie Ramos by email at Katherine.Ramos@ct.gov or by phone (860) 418-6935 no later than October 30, 2023.

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