OPIOID SETTLEMENT Which is a series of the series of the

November 2025

Thank you for taking the time to review the 2nd edition of our Municipal Briefing!

This briefing will focus on:

- An update on a new state-wide funding initiative
- Overview of the Municipal Settlement Proceeds Report
- Resources to support municipal spending decisions

DID YOU KNOW?

We are in this together! The state and municipalities each share a percentage of opioid settlement funding. It's critically important that the funding is utilized on opioid abatement. If not, it's not just your funding at risk; the entire state can be impacted.

STATE SETTLEMENT UPDATES

Helping Youth and Parents Enter (HYPE) Recovery

In September 2025, the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee (OSAC) voted to approve the HYPE Recovery recommendation. This project will expand access to opioid treatment for adolescents and transitional age youth up to age 21 in Connecticut through statewide expansion of Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) for opioid use disorders, known locally as HYPE Recovery. Currently, there are 6 HYPE teams in CT; this expansion increases the trained teams to 14 teams, resulting in statewide access. In addition to providing evidence-based therapeutic services, the HYPE model includes MDFT Therapist Assistants to deliver post-treatment recovery supports using the evidence-based Recovery Monitoring and Support (RMS) model. More information on the HYPE program can be found HERE.

To learn more about OSAC funding and previously approved projects, visit our newly launched dashboard at:

https://portal.ct.gov/cosac

Municipal Settlement Proceeds Report

Thank you for everyone's participation in this year's reporting survey! Upon conclusion of the reporting period, all 169 of Connecticut's cities and towns submitted their information.

While less funds were received during this reporting period than last year and many municipalities are still building funds for future meaningful impact, the overall spending nearly doubled.

The full report is available <u>HERE</u>. Trends of items and activities purchased and implemented and planning processes reported by the municipalities include:

Naloxone and Overdose Prevention Kits

Plans covering multiple abatement categories

Training on Naloxone and for First Responders

Committee development to guide spending

Outreach,
Prevention,
and Navigation
specialist
positions

Evidence-based practices and data-based decision making

Prevention and education activities for youth

Collaboration across towns and departments

Provision of Opioid Treatment



RESOURCE CENTER



The most common question we receive is whether something is an allowable use. Your municipality is responsible for interpreting the available guidance to determine if spending is in alignment with the settlement agreement and likely to make an impact on opioid abatement. Here are some key questions to consider:

Is this opioid abatement?

Funds should be utilized to reduce or fix the harm caused by the opioid crisis and spent on substance use disorder abatement infrastructure, programs, services, supports, and resources for prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction. Will this initiative help those impacted by opioids?

Are the necessary people involved in the decision making?

Don't forget those with first-hand knowledge of what's needed in your community, including those with lived and living experience and/or those who work in the prevention or substance use field.

<u>Is this a data-driven</u> decision?

Consider whether an initiative is evidence-based or evidence-informed, also sometimes called best practice or promising practices. It's important to select practices rooted in recent research. Best practices change with the culture, drug supply, and as new resources and research becomes available.

<u>Is this supplantation?</u>

Supplantation is the use of new funds to replace existing funding streams.

To maximize the impact on opioid abatement, settlement funds are meant to supplement and strengthen existing resources, not supplant, and should be used on new projects or projects with expiring funding and no ongoing revenue source.

What resources are available to guide decision making?

Check out the settlement administration list of opioid remediation uses, known as Exhibit E, and the CORE Report, for CT-specific guidance. Your Local Prevention

Council or Regional Behavioral Health

Action (RBHAO) may also be a valuable resource.

<u>Does this project fall on</u> a Do Not Fund list?

The CT CORE Report lists Strategies that Should Not Receive Expanded Funding on page 45 of the report. A guidance document shared by Rize Massachusetts that lists Non-Recommended Activities and alternative recommendations can be found on page 8 here. Neither are an exhaustive list.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

How are things going? We want to hear what is working well, what has been challenging, lessons learned, and what you need to be successful with managing your opioid settlement funds. Contact us at osac@ct.gov

Sincerely, The Opioid Settlement Administration Team at CT Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)

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