



Maryland's Office of Overdose Response

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Opioid Settlement Spending: Recommendations for Local Governments (with references to [Exhibit E](#))

Under the [State Subdivision Agreement of 2022](#), the Special Secretary of Overdose Response is required annually to “provide nonbinding recommendations for County and Municipal Subdivision expenditure of Settlement Proceeds that, in the Secretary’s judgment, will serve an efficient and effective program of Future Opioid Remediation across Maryland.”

To meet this requirement, recommendations are provided below, beginning with general recommendations and followed by recommendations that align with each of Maryland’s five strategic policy priority pillars for reducing overdoses (as outlined in the state’s [Overdose Response Strategy](#)), *Prevention, Meeting People Where They Are, Treatment, Recovery, and Public Safety*.

General Recommendations:

- Subdivisions should work closely with local legal counsel on decisions related to opioid settlement spending to ensure requirements of the settlement and state statute are abided by
- Collaborate with local health departments, Overdose Prevention Teams, providers, community based organizations and the public in spending priority decisions
- Engage with local health departments and local behavioral health authorities to ensure local governments are aware of any funding changes related to substance use
- Prioritize funding organizations who have demonstrated experience working in the overdose prevention field and the region

Note: [Exhibit E](#) citations below are in the format as follows, page number, letter of heading: corresponding number under the heading



Prevention

Interrupt Pathways to Substance Use Disorders

Recommendations:

- Support programs focused on supporting families dealing with substance use ^{p12, G:10}
- Focus funding on prevention initiatives that are evidence-based and address upstream factors such as ACEs and resiliency ^{p11, G:6-9}



Meeting People Where They Are

Improve Health And Safety for People Who Use Drugs

Recommendations:

- Increase accessibility of Opioid–Associated Disease Prevention and Outreach Programs (OADPOPs) ^{p13, H:9}
- Expand no barrier, street based outreach efforts that meet people where they are ^{p13, H:11}
- Expand access to community based drug checking services, tools and information sharing ^{p13, H:9}
- Increase naloxone distribution to those most likely to witness an overdose ^{p12, H:1}
- Increase naloxone access/awareness in schools, universities, and public places ^{p12, H:1}



Treatment

Make Evidence-Based Treatment Accessible for People with Substance Use Disorders

Recommendations:

- Improve access to MOUD and low-barrier treatment models, including access to MOUD in carceral settings ^{p4, A:1,3,5}
- Expand offerings and/or linkages to care in SUD treatment to account for other health needs (wound care, HCV/HIV/STD testing and treatment, etc) ^{p4, A:2; p13, H:10}
- Expand access to treatment by providing support for common barriers: transportation, ability to pay for services, childcare, etc. ^{p5, B:2}



Recovery

Build and Sustain Community Infrastructure that Promotes Recovery Capital

Recommendations:

- Support the expansion of Maryland's Recovery Friendly Workplaces model p5, B:1
- Increase opportunities for people in recovery to access workforce development training and resources p5, B:1
- Increase access to certified recovery housing for individuals on MOUD p5, B:4
- Increase access to long-term housing for individuals in recovery p5, B:2
- Support educational campaigns to address stigma against people who use drugs or are in recovery from SUD p11, G:6



Public Safety

Improve Outcomes for People Who Use Drugs Who Encounter the Criminal Legal System

Recommendations:

- Promote alternatives to incarceration, including diversion and deflection p8, D:1,4
- Expand awareness of existing Good Samaritan Law protections in substance-related emergencies p13, H:7
- Expand re-entry programs in carceral settings p9, D:5
- Expand peer services in criminal legal settings p6, B:3