

City of Middletown Opioid Settlement Funding

Kevin Elak, MPH
Director of Health



Background

- On July 21, 2021, a bipartisan group of seven state attorneys general announced a proposed settlement agreement with the three largest opioid distributors and manufacturer Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) over the lawsuits filed against them regarding their role in the opioid epidemic.
- The settlement could provide up to \$24 billion over the next 18 years

Background

- Connecticut will receive approximately \$600M over 18 years
 - \$300M will go to Connecticut towns and cities
- The City Middletown is expected to receive **\$904,946.60** over 18 years
 - **\$409,020.60** received so far

Background

- A critical question is whether funds from opioid litigation will be used wisely!
 - A vast majority of the funding received by states as a result of the 1998 Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement was diverted to states' general funds, and not used to help tobacco cessation or prevention efforts.
 - To prevent this from happening again, a set of Core Strategies was created in the Distributor Agreement Settlement with a list of opioid remediation used:
 - “Exhibit E” – Schedule A & B

SCHEDULE B – Approved uses of settlement funds

1. TREATMENT

- Improve access to treatment programs (e.g. transportation)
- Support mobile intervention, treatment and recovery services
- “Warm hand-off” services to transition to recovery services
- Counseling, peer-support, recovery coaching

SCHEDULE B – Approved uses of settlement funds

2. PREVENTION

- Medical provider education – safe and responsible opioid dispensing
- Media campaigns to prevent opioid misuse
- Drug take back disposal programs
- Community anti-drug and youth coalitions
- Evidence-based prevention programs in schools
- Increase availability of naloxone

SCHEDULE B – Approved uses of settlement funds

3. OTHER STRATEGIES

- First responder education regarding appropriate practices and precautions when dealing with harmful substances such as fentanyl
- Community education – stigma

CONNECTICUT OPIOID SETTLEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (OSAC)

- Public Act 22-48 establishes a new Advisory Committee, co-chaired by DHMAS and a representative from the municipalities to ensure the proceeds received by the state as part of the opioid litigation settlement agreements are allocated appropriately.
 - Co-Chair: Nancy Navaretta – DHMAS Commissioner
 - Co-Chair: Neil O’Leary – Mayor, City of Waterbury

Principles for the Use of Funds From the Opioid Litigation

- **PRINCIPLE 1** – Spend the Money to Save Lives
- **PRINCIPLE 2** – Use Evidence to Guide Spending
- **PRINCIPLE 3** – Invest in Youth Prevention
- **PRINCIPLE 4** – Focus on Racial Equity
- **PRINCIPLE 5** – Develop a Fair and Transparent Process for Deciding where to Spend the Funding

Strategies to help people affected by opioid use disorder in the Middletown community

- February 2022 – Greater Middletown Opioid Task Force founded by Kevin Elak, Robyn Anderson (Cross Street AME Zion Church) and Catherine Rees (Middlesex Health)
- February 2024 – Middletown Opioid Settlement Funds Ad Hoc Subcommittee created.
 - Develop a fair and transparent process for deciding how to spend funding.



Strategies to help people affected by opioid use disorder in the Middletown community

Middletown Opioid Settlement Funds Ad Hoc Subcommittee

1. Use funding to assemble naloxone leave behind kits
2. Use funding to assemble fentanyl test kits
3. Developed a community needs survey
4. Developed a grant application and review process to offer community grants to organizations who provide services to Middletown residents

Middletown Opioid Settlement Funding Grant Process Timeline

- **November 6th** – Press Release
- **November 12th** - Grant application process opens
- **December 12th** – Grant application closes
- **December 2024 – January 2025** – Applications reviewed and scored by grant review team
- **January/February 2025** – Grant awardees notified
- Grant allocation resolution presented to Common Council