



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES

DHS Opioid Settlement Funds

WCA Opioid Abatement Summit
August 22, 2022
Stevens Point

Opioid Settlements

Overview

- Act 57 allocates 30 percent of settlement proceeds to DHS. The remaining 70 percent of the settlement proceeds will be provided to local governments that were party to the litigation.
- Act 57 requires DHS to submit a plan to JCF for expending opioid settlement funds by April 1st annually.
- On February 25th, DOJ learned that agreements had been reached in two settlements with a group of major pharmaceutical distributors (Cardinal, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen) and Johnson & Johnson.

Overview

- DHS received an initial payment of \$6 million from these settlements on July 29th.
- DHS expects to receive a total of \$31 million in payments this calendar year.
- These settlements will make annual payments through 2038.
- Several additional settlements remain in litigation.

DHS Listening Sessions

Purpose

The purpose of the Opioid Settlement Listening Sessions was to gather big-picture input from a broad group of stakeholders to inform the Department of Health Services' use of future opioid settlement funds.

What We Did

- 12 sessions held between Jan 12-28
 - 2 in each region
 - 2 evening sessions
- Survey link available for written feedback



By the Numbers

518
attendees

113
speakers

326
surveys
submitted

897
Comments

Initial Themes

- Prevent proactively
- Enhance harm reduction
- Expand treatment options
- Support recovery
- Address root causes
- Ensure supportive policies and systems

Post-listening sessions

- Analyzed listening session input and survey responses
- Developed a list of recommendations
- Released report summarizing what we heard
- Input from listening sessions used as guidance for DHS opioid settlement plan.

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p03211.pdf>

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT of HEALTH SERVICES P-03211 (03/2022)

The Opioid Epidemic: You Spoke, We Listened

In January 2022, we listened to Wisconsinites explain the profound impact of the opioid epidemic and potential strategies to save lives. Our goal was to gather big-picture input from a broad group of stakeholders to inform our use of future opioid settlement funds. Here's an overview of who we heard from and the powerful messages they shared.

How We Collected Input		Participants*
Listening Sessions	Survey	269 Providers and stakeholders
518 Attendees	326 Respondents	172 Families/friends of individuals with substance use disorder
113 Speakers	897 Comments	71 Individuals with lived experience

*Participants may have identified with more than one group, or no group.

Summary: Invest across the continuum, from prevention to recovery.

ADDRESS ROOT CAUSES	ENHANCE HARM REDUCTION	SUPPORT RECOVERY
Address the social determinants of health. Improve access to mental health services. Bolster family stability. Reduce trauma.	Maintain and expand harm reduction strategies, including needle exchange, safe use sites, increased access and use of naloxone/NARCAN, and fentanyl test strips.	Support individuals in recovery with targeted wraparound services. Provide direct support to families with a loved one with substance use disorder.

PREVENT PROACTIVELY	EXPAND TREATMENT OPTIONS
Provide evidence-based education, especially in K-12 schools, as well as in communities. Consider including the voices of those with lived experience to reduce stigma in communities.	Increase the accessibility and availability of all forms of treatment that follow best practices. Ensure equity in the location and delivery of treatment options.

Essential: Support policies and systems change.

DHS Settlement Funds Plan

DHS Settlement Plan Overview

- DHS submitted an updated proposal to JCF on July 28th.
- Three-phase approach:
 - 1) Immediate Needs and Harm Reduction (\$6 million)
 - 2) One-time Capital Projects & Priority Needs/Communities (\$17 million)
 - 3) Long-term Investment Projects (\$8 million)
- Report: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p03288.pdf>

DHS Opioid Plan Investments

- Increasing the availability of NARCAN® and fentanyl test strips around the state. (\$5 million)
- Addressing root causes (\$1 million)
- Expanding access via new and updated treatment facilities. (\$11 million)
- Funding for tribal nations to address the dramatic increase in opioid overdose deaths. (\$6 million)

DHS Opioid Plan Investments (cont.)

- Enhancing data collection and surveillance (\$500K)
- Prevention efforts in schools and communities (\$2 million)
- Expanding treatment (MAT and Room & Board) (\$3.5 million)
- Family Support Centers (\$2 million)

DHS Settlement Plan Timeline

- DHS submitted first plan to JFC on April 1, 2022, in accordance with 2021 Act 57.
- JFC raised an objection on April 21, 2022, asking DHS to submit an amended plan with final payment amounts once known, along with amounts to be allocated to each investment.
- DHS submitted revised plan to JFC on July 28, 2022, per JFC directions.
- JFC objected to revised plan on August 17, 2022.

Next Steps