



Talking Points for Municipalities

About Massachusetts Statewide Opioid Settlement Funds:

- Massachusetts Statewide Opioid Settlement Funds are the result of national settlement agreements between the Commonwealth and companies from the opioid industry whose actions contributed to the overdose crisis. Investigations conducted by the MA Attorney General's Office brought to light the egregious actions that these companies committed by knowingly misleading patients and doctors about the addictive nature of opioids, filling suspicious drug orders due to a lack of diversion controls, negligently dispensing opioids, and deploying deceptive marketing campaigns designed to influence providers to prescribe more opioids, to more patients, for longer periods of time.
- In total, Massachusetts is expected to receive over \$990 million through the year 2036, of which 40% will be allocated to participating municipalities, and 60% to the statewide Opioid Recovery and Remediation Trust Fund (ORRF)

About the Massachusetts State Subdivision Agreement:

- The Massachusetts State Subdivision Agreement (SSA) is a legal document between the MA Attorney General Office and participating municipalities that are receiving opioid settlement funds. The SSA dictates how the settlement funds are to be allocated, outlines the strategies that municipalities are allowed to fund, and specifies the reporting requirements at the state and local levels.
- Full details of the State Subdivision Agreement (SSA) can be found [here](#).

About Allowable Uses of Opioid Abatement Funds:

- It is the Commonwealth's, and its municipalities shared commitment to use opioid abatement funds solely to supplement and strengthen rather than supplant existing resources for SUD prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery in a manner that is informed by evidence and community input, supports health equity, addresses systemic disparities, and leverages existing resources.

Municipalities are able to fund the following strategies:

- Enhance opioid use disorder treatment
- Support people in treatment and recovery
- Facilitate connections to care
- Promote harm reduction
- Address the needs of criminal-justice-involved persons



- Support pregnant or parenting individuals and their families, including babies with
- neonatal abstinence syndrome
- Prevent misuse of opioids and implement prevention education

Guidance on how to select strategies and spend funds in a way that aligns with the SSA can be sought from Care Massachusetts at caremass.org

About Care Massachusetts: The Opioid Abatement Partnership:

- JSI was contracted by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's (MDPH) Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) to launch Care Massachusetts: The Opioid Abatement Partnership. Care Mass provides guidance, support, technical assistance and training to municipalities receiving opioid settlement funds to aid them in upholding the terms of the State Subdivision Agreement. Care Mass offers a range of support, from one-on-one sessions to office hours, webinars, statewide trainings, and toolkits. To learn more about how CareMass can help your municipality, visit www.caremass.org or email abate@jsi.com.

About Reporting and Transparency:

- Municipalities that individually receive or pool funds in the amount of \$35,000 or more are required to submit an annual expenditure report on an annual basis to the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services through the Care Massachusetts Expenditure Reporting System. The data collected in this report is available to the public at CareMass.org/data-dashboard. To learn more about reporting requirements and how to submit a report, visit www.caremass.org/expenditure-reporting/.

About Opioid Abatement Collaboratives (OACs):

- An Opioid Abatement Collaborative (OAC) is a group of two or more municipalities that have agreed to pool some or all of their opioid settlement funds. Smaller municipalities and those receiving relatively small amounts of funding are strongly encouraged to pool their resources and efforts together in order to maximize their investment and the level of impact of their collective dollars. To learn more about existing OACs or how to establish one email abate@jsi.com, call 617-385-3655, or visit caremass.org/get-help.

About Community Input:

- To spend funds in a way that is impactful and equitable, municipalities must have a deep understanding of the needs of their communities. Funding decisions should be driven by data and reflect the input of those most affected by the opioid epidemic, especially people who use or have used drugs (PWUD). All community input is valuable.