



Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee

March 26, 2024

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Call to Order, Introductions, and Approval of Minutes

Our Meeting Agenda

Call to Order & Introductions

Discussion—Opioid Settlement Long-Term Sustainability:

- What recommendations does the Committee have for how the State can ensure longer-term sustainability for opioid settlement dollars and the continued funding of settlement investments?

Membership Vote:

- Presentation of OSAC Membership Applications
- Committee Member Vote—One Community and One Expert Member Positions

OSAC/Other Updates:

- Purchasing Resources
- PreventOverdoseRI.org Overview (previewing the OSAC landing page)
- Governor’s Task Force Update

Next Steps:

- Next Meeting (Thursday, May 16, 2024 from 12:30 to 2:30pm at the Virks Building)

Public Comment



Note: EOHHS has developed this meeting agenda and its components to align with our core values of Choice, Voice, and Equity.



Settlement Sustainability Discussion – Part One

Settlement Dollars: FY 23–FY 25

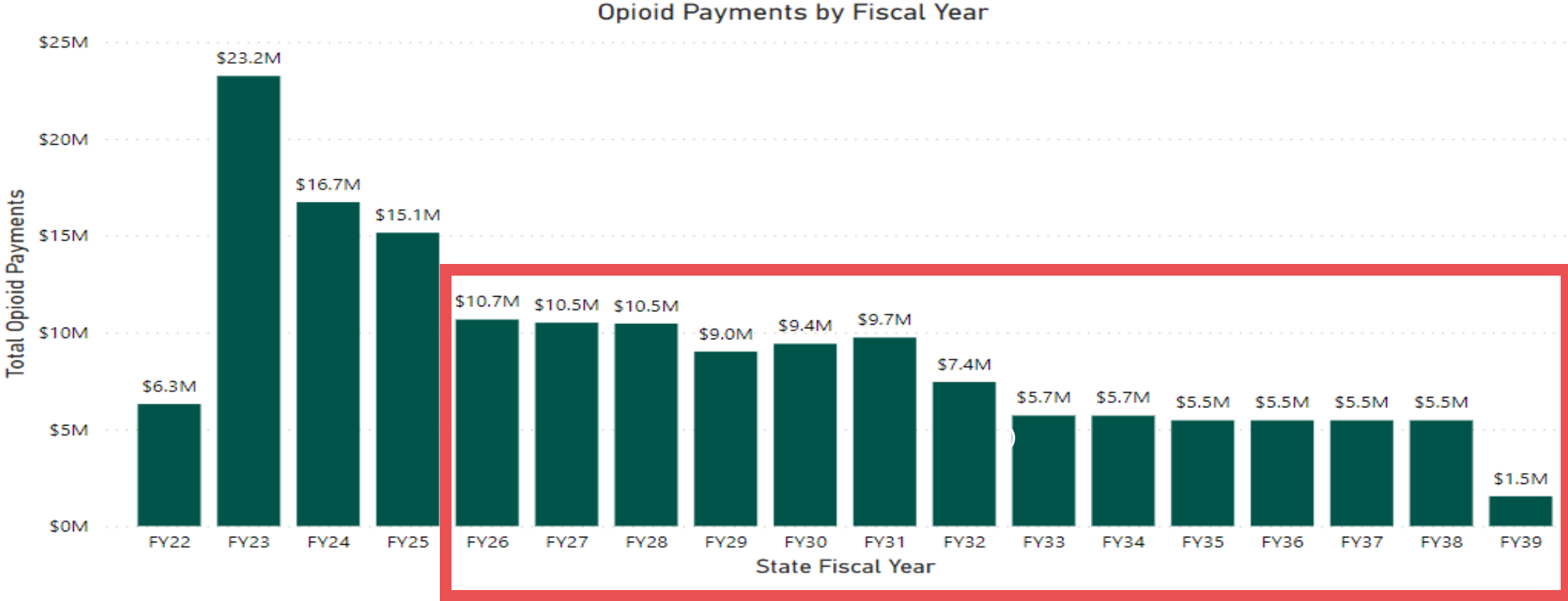
Here are the dollars that have been from allocated by OSAC from FY 23 through FY 25:

- FY 23: \$20,000,000
- FY 24: \$10,270,000
- FY 25: \$18,453,546

Note: There are some additional settlements that have come in over the last couple months totaling \$11M for the state. The Office of Management and Budget will include these in FY25, but as OSAC has only allocated the \$18.4M that was available to us in November, our dollars will remain at that level. We will discuss what to do with the additional settlements over the next months.

Expected Settlement Dollars: FY26 – FY39

Here is the expected settlement dollars by State Fiscal Year that Rhode Island now expects between FY26 and the end of the settlement time periods:



Current Spending: Two Key Areas of Focus

In these first three years, the State has invested in various categories of activities:

- **Examples of investments in ongoing activities for which funding had already been at risk:**
 - Harm reduction outreach (including BIPOC focus) as well as naloxone infrastructure
 - Youth school-based prevention efforts (i.e., RI Student Assistant Program)
 - Recovery supports
- **Examples of investments in new pilot activities:**
 - Overdose Prevention Center
 - Harm reduction technology
 - Community-based prevention (youth)
 - Housing capital, operating, and supportive services (including mobile wound care)
 - Chronic pain treatment and prevention for BIPOC industry workers

Moving Forward: Sustainability Planning Questions

As we move beyond the first three years of funding and look towards a continued decline in available funds over the remaining life cycle of settlement funds, here are some key questions to consider:

- Does the Committee wish to prioritize sustaining existing allocations within the pillars or consider future changes to allocations across pillars? And how shall we do this while continuing to prioritize equity?
- What opportunities exist for the State to seek other revenue sources for pillars, strategies, or activities that need sustainability and are shown to be effective at saving and improving lives?
- What criteria does the Committee believe will be helpful in making decisions about recommendations to sustain existing pillar allocations versus changes to allocations?
- Within the pillars, does the Committee have any recommendations related to sustaining existing programming versus beginning new pilots—including maintaining our ability to respond to emerging issues?
- As the dollars lessen over the years, would the Committee recommend diving deeper into fewer pillars each year or keeping investments broad to ensure each pillar is addressed annually?

Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee Membership Vote

Reminder: Membership Process

Here is the process to fill the open positions of 1 Community Committee Member and 1 Expert Committee Member:

- Application released in February
- Submission deadline was March 11, 2024
- Committee set to vote at the March 26th Meeting
- New Members are to begin at the May 16th Meeting

Reminder: Member Recruitment Application Questions

1. Name and Contact Information
2. Age
3. Gender
4. Self-Described Race/Ethnicity
5. Position Applied for: Community and/or Expert
6. Organizational Affiliation and Job Title (if Applicable)
7. Diversity Characteristics (details on next slide)

Reminder: Member Recruitment Application Questions

7. Diversity Characteristics

- Person of color or ethnic minority
- Speak a language or languages other than English
- Person with Lived Experience
- Veteran
- Person with a disability
- Person from the LGBTQ+ community
- Other (Please elaborate)

Reminder: Member Recruitment Application Questions

8. Essay Questions (600-800 words):

- Please tell us about yourself and your related experience relevant to the overdose epidemic. (And if you chose "Other" in the question above, please describe how you feel you would bring diversity to the Committee.)
- If selected, how do you feel you could contribute to the success of the Opioid Advisory Settlement Committee? What related experience do you have?
- What do you believe are the most significant challenges facing Rhode Islanders in overcoming the overdose epidemic?
- How would your appointment to the committee contribute to equity, and in particular, racial equity, in addressing the overdose epidemic?

9. Short Biography

Review: OSAC Expert Applicants

#	Name		
1	Abdullah Shhipar	10	Madeline Marlow
2	Alexandria Macmadu	11	Brandon Marshall
3	Cecilia Fix	12	Siena Napoleon
4	Ju Park	13	Penny Lee Palazzo
5	Catherine DeOrsey	14	Melissa Pielech
6	Steve Eiland	15	Michael Rizzi
7	Linda Hurley	16	Andrew Stone
8	Thomas Joyce*	17	John Tassoni
9	Jessica Lopes	18	Sandy Valentine*

* Applied for both Expert and Community positions

Review: OSAC Community Applicants

#	Name
1	Meko Lincoln
2	Ernesto Figueroa
3	Michela Serrano
4	Christopher Person
5	Michelle Ahlborg
6	Jaqueline Britto
7	Tom Flanagan
8	Carlene Fonseca

9	Thomas Joyce*
10	James Leach
11	Linda Marzilli
12	Matthew Olerio
13	Bonnie Piekarski
14	Paul Silva
15	Sandy Valentine*
16	Jonathan Whitkin



Update #1: Governor's Overdose Task Force

Cathy Schultz,
Governor's Overdose Task Force Director


Topics: Upcoming Overdose Task Force Meetings

Wednesday, April 10, 2024 via Zoom

- Theme: April is Second Chances Month
- Presentations focused on Re-Entry Policies and Programming

Wednesday, May 8, 2024 venue TBD

- Theme: Community Conversation
- Recommendations for FY 26 to Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee



Update #2: PreventOverdoseRI.org

Brown University

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PreventOverdoseRI

Opioid Settlement webpage

March 26th, 2024

Brandon DL Marshall, PhD, Professor & Chair of Epidemiology*

Maxwell Krieger, Project Director*

*Brown University School of Public Health and the People, Place & Health Collective (PPHC)



people
place &
health
collective

Initial goals of the Opioid Settlement Page

1. Educate the general public about Rhode Island's opioid settlements
2. Describe the settlement process & who is involved
3. Show how settlement funds are being allocated
4. Provide resources for those who want more information

<https://preventoverdoseri.org/opioid-settlement> (not yet public)

Examples from the page:

Rhode Island has a statewide plan

Settlements will fund statewide programs in overdose prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction.

We will use the State's existing Governor's Overdose Task Force Action Plan as a roadmap to distribute these funds throughout the state. We have utilized this plan for millions of dollars in statewide **overdose prevention** and **substance use treatment** investments. **The Action Plan will also help us make sure that funds are equitably distributed, considering the history of structural racism and its impact on health.** This process will be handled by state, municipal, and community representatives. The group is called the **Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee (OSAC)**.



[Download The Action Plan.](#)

[Learn About the Action Plan](#)

[Learn about the OSAC](#)

Examples from the page:

How does the settlement process work?

The OSAC first convened in April 2022. Each year, OSAC recommends areas to focus on and creates a funding budget. Next, they present the budget to the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. The Secretary can accept the budget or talk with OSAC to make changes to it. Lastly, the Secretary presents the final budget to the Governor. The Governor puts it in their budget to be considered by the General Assembly. You can [learn more about the settlement process here](#).

In Rhode Island, 80% of all settlement funds will follow this process. The other 20% will be distributed to our cities and towns based on another formula. Learn more about the [settlement process for cities and towns in Rhode Island](#).

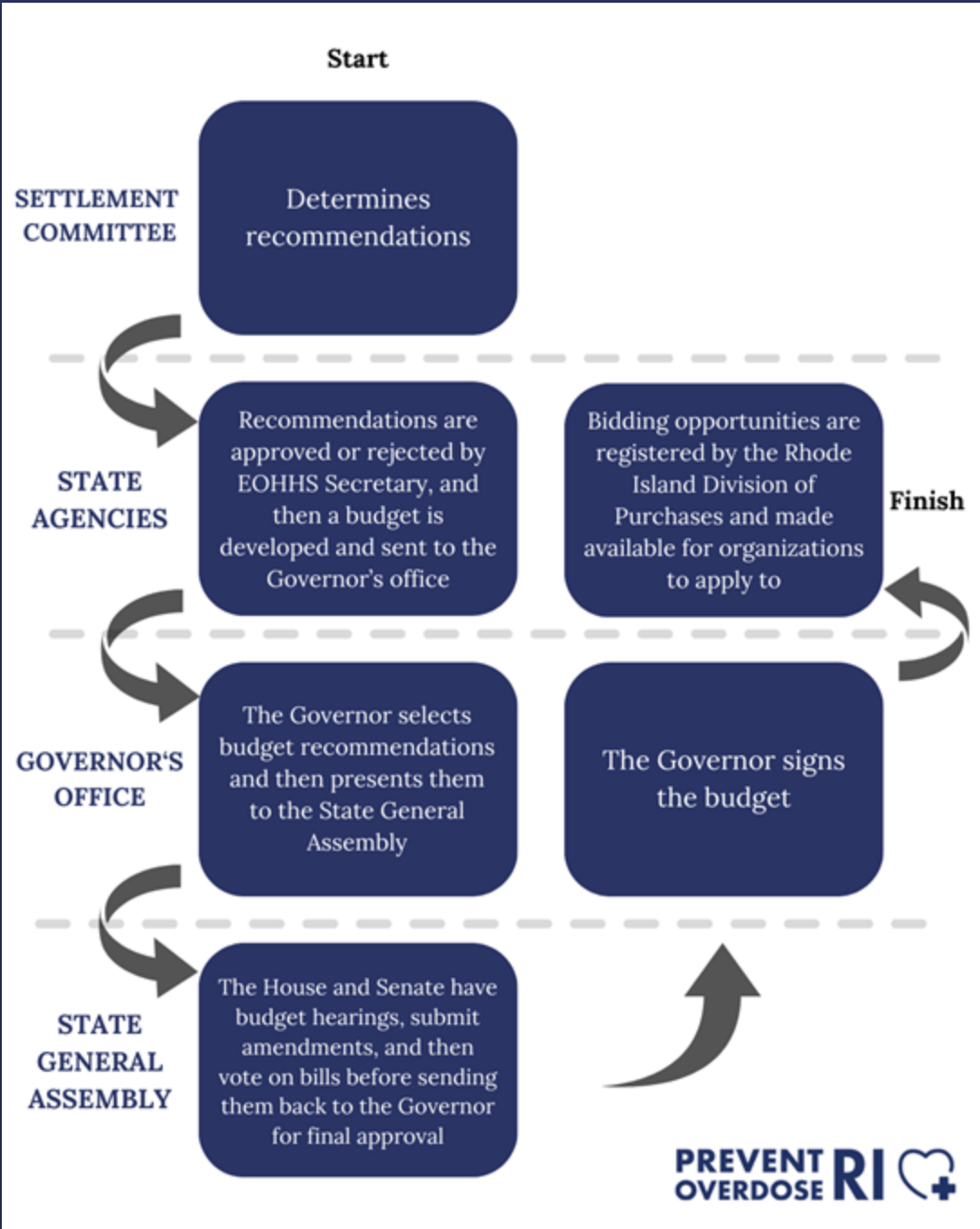
If you are an organization looking to bid on open procurement opportunities, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) has put together [resources and guidance for the bidding and solicitation process](#). There are also other ways to [get involved in the procurement process](#).

[Learn About the Settlement Process](#)

[Learn About Settlements for Towns & Cities](#)

Examples from the page

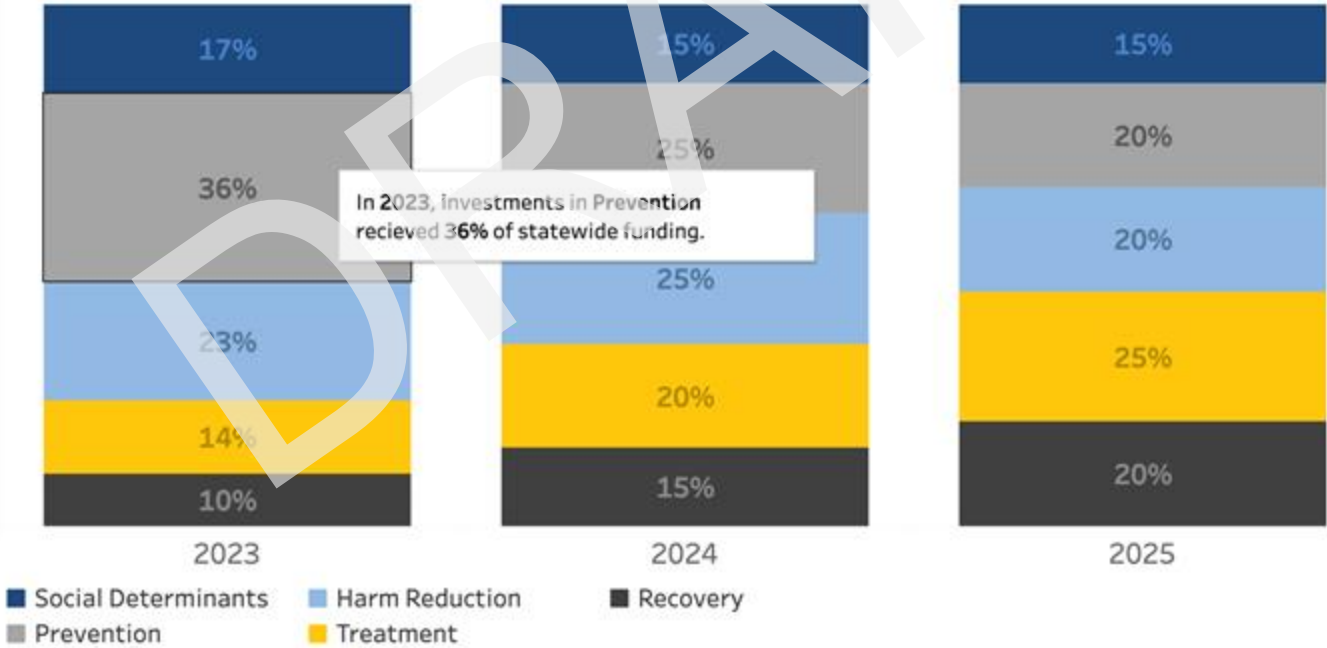
(DRAFT - subject to change):



How have we spent settlement funds?

Settlement funds have already been used to fund things like evidence-based prevention programs in schools, mental health and treatment services, and harm reduction programs. The chart below shows how funding priorities change each year. Further below, you can learn more about specific programs being funded.

Opioid Settlement Investments by Pillar and Year



Examples from the page:

– Rescue & Harm Reduction



Funding for Rescue and Harm Reduction focuses on using tools to help people be safer when using drugs, including:

- Supporting syringe service and other evidence-informed harm reduction programs, including Rhode Island's first **Overdose Prevention Center**
- Distribution of naloxone to first responders and peer outreach organizations
- Education and training for first responders on naloxone and other drugs treating overdoses
- Maximize access to harm reduction resources by investing in **community outreach organizations**

[Harm Reduction Data](#)

[Naloxone Data](#)

The Opioid Settlement page will be continually updated with new information and data

Phase 2 focus areas:

- Evaluation and impact of settlement funds
- Vignettes of programs who have received funding
- Additional interactive visualizations & reports to explore funded programs
- Others?

Update #3: Purchasing Resources



Marti Rosenberg, EOHHS

Public Comment

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THANK YOU

Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee Chairperson:

Carrie Bridges Feliz, MPH

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