

A Quick Guide to the Massachusetts Opioid Abatement Funds

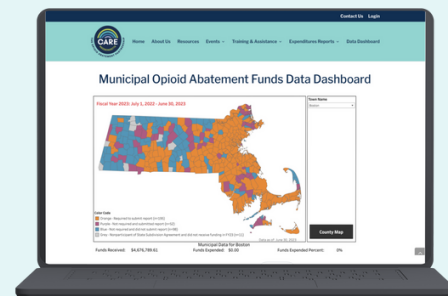


Q: What are Opioid Abatement Funds? Where did they come from?

A: Massachusetts has participated in nationwide financial settlements with several companies as part of the historic efforts to demand abatement of the harms caused by the opioid epidemic. These settlements bring over **\$1 billion** into Massachusetts for substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery support. Forty percent of the Massachusetts funds are allocated to municipalities, while 60% are allocated to the statewide Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund.

Q: How can a member of the public see what funds have been received or spent in their municipality? How can I get in touch with those managing this spending in my community?

A: Anyone can view their municipality's Data Dashboard, which includes detailed reporting and contact information, at: CareMass.org/data-dashboard



Q: How are Opioid Abatement Funds meant to be spent?

The State Subdivision Agreement's shared commitment between the Commonwealth and municipalities states that Opioid Abatement Funds must be used to supplement and strengthen, rather than supplant, resources for **prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery**. The funds must be implemented in a manner that:

- Reflects the input of community members, especially those with personal experience with the overdose epidemic, experts in treatment and prevention, and staff and organizations carrying out abatement work;
- Addresses disparities in existing services and outcomes and improves equity and the health of communities disadvantaged by race, wealth, and stigma, including through efforts to increase diversity among service providers;
- Addresses mental health conditions, substance use disorders, and other behavioral health needs that occur with opioid use disorder;
- Leverages programs and services already reimbursed by state agencies and programs, including direct care reimbursed by MassHealth and BSAS;
- Encourages innovation, fills gaps, and fixes the shortcomings of existing approaches, and includes evidence-based, evidence-informed, and promising programs, and takes advantage of the flexibility that is allowed for these funds.

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*View the
full State
Subdivision
Agreement*

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Further, the State Subdivision Agreement presents the following seven general strategies that municipalities may implement with abatement funds:

- 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

For detailed information on each of these strategies, see “Municipal Use of Abatement Funds” in the State Subdivision Agreement.



*More info and
support:
[CareMass.org](https://www.caremass.org)*

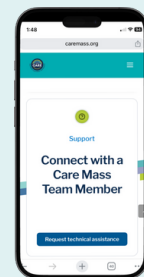
Q: What are the requirements for reporting on Opioid Abatement Funds?

Municipalities that receive annual opioid settlement funds of \$35,000 or more, whether individually or pooled through shared service agreements, are required to submit an annual report on their planning processes, strategies selected, and funds expended. All municipalities are encouraged to submit a report, regardless of the amount of funding received. This data is made available by Care Massachusetts in the Municipal Opioid Abatement Funds Data Dashboard ([caremass.org/data-dashboard](https://www.caremass.org/data-dashboard)).

Further guidance and the reporting portal can be found at [CareMass.org](https://www.CareMass.org).

Q: Where can municipalities get guidance or ask questions related to Opioid Abatement Fund spending?

Care Massachusetts provides guidance, support, technical assistance and training to municipalities carrying out abatement-funded activities. Please visit [CareMass.org](https://www.CareMass.org) to browse resources and events or to request help.



Q: Where can I find answers to legal and state finance questions?

Please refer to the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General and to “Frequently Asked Questions About the AG’s Statewide Opioid Settlements” ([mass.gov/info-details/frequently-asked-questions-about-the-ag-s-statewide-opioid-settlements](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/frequently-asked-questions-about-the-ag-s-statewide-opioid-settlements)). To speak with someone on the Attorney General’s opioids team, email MAOpioidSettlements@mass.gov.