



Colorado Opioid Abatement Council

2024 Recommendations and Guiding Principles for the Use & Management of Opioid Settlement Funds from COAC

The following recommendations provided are adapted from the Principles to provide further guidance on how to maximize the impact of opioid settlement funds.

Spend the Money to Save Lives

- Invest in forward-looking opioid abatement strategies
- Add to or expand effective programming rather than supplanting existing funds
- Identify appropriate staffing and operational tools for management of funds

Use Evidence for Overdose Prevention & Improved Health Outcomes

- Utilize community needs assessments to develop a cohesive strategic plan
- Implement evidence-based, evidence-informed or practice-based approaches
- Invest in community-led and community-based efforts
- Partner with local and state-initiated data efforts

Invest in Cost-Effective Interventions Along Substance Use Continuum

- Invest in categories of prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery
- Review core strategies as identified by national settlements
- Utilize available technical assistance programming and expertise from COAC

Focus on Equity

- Incorporate the voice of affected individuals into opioid fund decision making and management
- Address structural inequities to improve outcomes and reduce stigma for those impacted by the opioid crisis
- Incorporate an intersectional approach to health equity

Develop A Fair & Transparent Process for Spending Funding

- Establish strong controls for accounting of opioid settlement funds
- Adopt records management & retention policies
- Establish transparent council operating policies, procedures, & practices
- Use accrued interest on opioid funds for Approved Purposes