

Polk County Opioid Settlement Funds

Gabbie Ruggiero, Program Planner



**How did we
get here?**



Money, money, money...

- Iowa projected to receive \$316 million+ through FY40
- 50% of Iowa's opioid settlement funds are controlled by the Legislature, 50% are for the "local share"

What can we spend it on?

- Opioid abatement strategies to prevent further opioid misuse and address the effects of those “injured” by the opioid epidemic*
- HF1038 passed last week by the Iowa House and Senate → Governor for signature
 - \$29 million to Iowa organizations
 - \$27 million to District Behavioral Health Advisory Council recommendations


Allowable Expenditures:

Exhibit 1-E Core Strategies

- Naloxone
- Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)/opioid-related treatment *\$7 mil. to expand treatment*
- Services for pregnant/postpartum women *\$1.5 mil. for recovery respite that focus on women/families*
- Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome treatment
- Warm handoff and recovery programs *\$18 mil. for recovery housing/centers/cafes and OD response*
- Treatment for incarcerated populations *\$1.5 mil. for jail-based screening and treatment*
- Prevention
- ~~Expanding syringe services~~ → harm reduction services
- Data collection and research

Polk County's Guiding Principles



1. Prioritize *people* harmed by the opioid epidemic.
2. Involve and integrate peers.
3. Sustainability.  settlement funds should not be the sole funding stream; prioritize start-up costs
4. Use evidence to guide spending.
5. Focus on racial equity.

(Continuous) Strategic Planning

- Roughly \$30 million for Polk County
- Initial strategic plan based on SAMHSA Strategic Intercept Model Workshop results
 - Prearrest Deflection and Diversion
 - Recovery Housing
 - Reentry from Incarceration

SIM Priority Area Projects

- Reentry Kiosk partnership with St. Vincent de Paul
- Medication Assisted Treatment expansion in the jail
- Rental assistance program
- Prearrest deflection and diversion: FY26

What about the other Core Strategies?



- Two-year \$200k grants for community organizations to help people with lived experience of substance use
 - First cycle funded peer supports, treatment outreach, expansion of integrated MAT
- \$50k harm reduction supplies grants
- \$100k youth substance misuse prevention grants that include technical assistance

What about the other Core Strategies?

- “Planning initiatives”
 - Pivoting...and more pivoting
 - Data collection
 - Community meetings
 - Pilots

What about the other Core Strategies?

- Addressing barriers to OUD treatment → Des Moines Fire Department and Full Circle Recovery Community Center Targeted Overdose Response Team
- Neonatal abstinence syndrome → educating providers on behaviors as a result of in utero substance exposure

Keys to Success

- Action-focused, cross-sector provider gatherings
 - Have you talked to _____?
- Meet educational needs
 - Peer Roundtable and Medicaid billing
 - Connection to technical assistance
- Bring systemic change to front burner when you can

Questions?

gabbie.ruggiero@polkcountyiowa.gov

